

Address and Question to Lancaster City Council from Mr George Smith – 12 April 2017

I am Lancaster born and bred and have been a resident of the Lancaster district all my life. I have longstanding concerns about the seemingly never ending blight on the local environment and consequent considerable cost to the council caused by fly-tips. Ten years ago I was encouraged by the content of the final report of the 'Fly tipping Task Group' which was adopted by the council 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Among a number of recommendations in this report were **3b 'To address the issue of rural fly tipping by agreeing protocols with local councils** and **3c 'CCTV surveillance of hotspots'**. Also, under Recommendation 4 **'That consideration be given to more effective prevention of fly tipping together with more effective enforcement with regard to fly tipping: This should include 4a Consideration of the use of mobile surveillance cameras at hotspots'**. Although I am aware that city council suffers mainly urban fly-tipping my personal experience and focus is rural fly-tipping and particularly in my own village locality of Nether Kellet. Over a five year period during these last ten years, we have suffered over 60 fly-tips, an average of one per month. 75% of these fly-tips have been removed by the parish council using our own resources and the remainder by city council. Local residents are continually disgusted by these fly-tips some of which are toxic and even hazardous and I am sure they will all be disappointed to learn that during all of the 10 years since the adoption of this report and despite its recommendations there has been no approach to the parish council to agree a 'protocol', no consultation on identifying hotspots and no local use of CCTV cameras of any description, and I believe neighbouring parish councils have a similar experience. As a proud resident and council tax payer it makes me wonder if the council is serious about enforcement or content to simply 'clean up'. Catching fly-tippers in the act is almost impossible because they operate at times when they are unlikely to be seen. I therefore hold the view that the only way to reduce the frequency of this offence and, importantly, to reduce the cost to the council and its tax payers is to be pro-active and use modern technology with the intention of catching and prosecuting offenders. Having adopted the 2007 report and I assume the recommendations were intended to be acted upon, my question is -

***'Can the council tell me how many mobile CCTV cameras which are capable of providing satisfactory evidence to prosecute offenders do the council have use of?***

(Supplementary question) ***How many fly tip offenders have the Lancaster City Council successfully prosecuted in the last ten years?***

Thank you for the opportunity to address the council.