

CONSULTATION OUTCOME



Reducing crime at sites handling waste, and introducing fixed penalties for waste duty of care

Following a consultation held between 15th January and 26th March 2018 a summary has been published by Defra and the Welsh Government containing an outline of responses to the consultation on “Proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector & introduce a new fixed penalty for the waste duty of care”.

The consultation sought views on:

- Raising the standard of operator competence across all permitted waste sites by strengthening the regulator’s assessment and enforcement abilities.
- Reforming the exemptions element within the waste permitting regime.
- Introducing a Fixed Penalty Notice for household Duty of Care offences for fly-tipping.

To read the summary please [click here](#)

OPEN CONSULTATION

Household waste duty of care: updating the guidance, seeking views on the updated guidance for householders and new guidance for local authorities on meeting and enforcing the duty of care for waste.

This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 28 August 2018

To have your say please [click here](#)

REGIONAL CALL FOR FUNDING CERTAINTY



Council leaders have called for local areas to be given post-Brexit regional aid funding allocations by the time the UK formally leaves the European Union. The Local Government Association made the call as it set out an urgent timetable for government to follow to clarify the future of what it described as vital funding after Brexit. Uncertainty around the future of funding into the next decade risked damaging job creation, employment

support and business development, it warned. Any financial loss if funding was stopped, paused or was of less value, would have a significant impact on businesses, employment and skills, said the LGA. The government has pledged that communities will continue to benefit from EU regeneration funds until the end of the current programmes in 2020.

It has promised to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) after Brexit to replace the regional aid funding local areas currently receive from the EU from 2021 onwards. But the LGA says little detail has been shared on what the UKSPF will look like and the government has only committed to hold a consultation by the end of 2018.

Council leaders say this would provide insufficient time for local areas to design and deliver new UKSPF funded schemes in time.

Kevin Bentley, chairman of the LGA's Brexit Taskforce, said: "Brexit cannot leave local areas facing huge financial uncertainty as a result of lost regional aid funding.

Councillor Bentley added: "The clock is ticking for the Government to set out a firm plan to replace this funding into the next decade and beyond."

The LGA, which represents 370 councils in England and Wales, is also calling for a firm commitment from the Government that EU funding to local areas is fully replaced from 2021.

To view the full article please [click here](#)

COMMITTEE ASKS FOR VIEWS ON THE RURAL ECONOMY



The Select Committee on the Rural Economy has published its call for evidence and invites submissions from all interested individuals and organisations. Submissions must be received by **4pm on Monday 10 September 2018**.

Areas of interest, the focus of the Committee's inquiry will include:

- How the Government is performing on the rural economy
- Improving and maintaining provision for essential services such as healthcare, education and banking
- Helping rural business to thrive, and supporting investment and new industries
- Tackling deprivation and inequality in rural areas
- Supporting shops, pubs and other local amenities

To have your say please [click here](#)

NFU AND CRIMESTOPPERS LAUNCH NEW RURAL CRIME REPORTING LINE



The NFU has launched a new service for farmers and the public to give information anonymously about rural crime, in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers.

The "Rural Crime Reporting Line" is part of the NFU's ongoing work to tackle the serious issues surrounding criminal behaviour on farms and in the wider countryside.

By ringing 0800 783 0137 or visiting www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk, farmers, rural businesses and the public can anonymously give information about crime relating to:

- large-scale, industrial fly-tipping
- hare coursing
- machinery theft; or
- livestock theft

The service, supported by the police, was unveiled to MPs at a launch event in Westminster where they were being urged to encourage their constituents to use the service and give information about these crimes in their area.

NFU Deputy President Guy Smith said: "Rural crime can be devastating for farmers and their businesses and it is something that many experience all too often. With suspected links to organised crime, these crimes often go under-reported and its true extent remains unknown.

"The NFU has teamed up with the charity Crimestoppers to provide a service for farmers and the public to give information anonymously about these crimes. With relevant information being passed to the police, this service could help to provide key leads in the pursuit of these criminals.

“I want to encourage anyone who has experienced, witnessed or has any information about these rural crimes to come forward and call the line - your information could be extremely valuable.

“The NFU has been consistently leading on engaging with MPs, government and police to help begin to put a stop to these destructive crimes. Nearly a year on from releasing our Rural Crime Report, the NFU has brought this issue to the forefront of its activity and we continue to call on the Government to form a cross-departmental task force to focus on rural crime and address the failures in dealing with it.

“It is time that we saw some considerable action being taken by government and police to curb increasing levels of crime in the countryside, and allow farmers to do what they do best – producing food for the nation.”

Crimestoppers’ Director of Business Development Rodger Holden said: “The NFU should be applauded for launching the Rural Crime Reporting Line in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers, on behalf of all farmers and their communities. This is a joined up initiative, supported by law enforcement, that strives to reduce and detect crimes that directly threaten people’s livelihoods, their peace of mind, and are a real cost to us all. We all have a responsibility to support the countryside by working together to combat criminal activity.”

AGM – Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Churchyard winners announced



The winners were announced at RCCE’s AGM on Thursday 11th July at Chelmsford City Racecourse.

Congratulations to Messing and Doddinghurst.



Messing, a village in the Borough of Colchester with a population of just 250, was announced as outright winner of the Essex Village of the Year competition for 2018. Representatives from Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council received a cheque for £500 and the Essex & Suffolk Water shield on behalf of the village. Coggeshall were placed second and received £200, with Helions Bumpstead and Gosfield in joint third place, each receiving £150.

This year the competition, organised by RCCE and sponsored by Essex & Suffolk Water and Inkpen Downie Architecture & Design Ltd, was open to villages in Essex with a population of up to 5,000 and, as usual, competition was fierce, with 24 villages vying for the title. The focus of the competition is on the work of communities and the efforts of local people to strengthen and sustain community life. When entering, villages were required to answer just one question: ‘What makes your village special?’

All shortlisted villages were visited by volunteer judges who met with community representatives and assessed them according to the five judging categories: Community facilities and activities; Businesses and services; Environment and sustainability; Community information and New initiatives and future plans.

RCCE Executive Director, Nick Shuttleworth said:

“Essex Village of the Year highlights the very best of rural Essex. We saw some outstanding examples of community initiative and enterprise in all of the prize winning villages.”

Best Kept Churchyard Winners

1st All Saints' Church, Doddinghurst

2nd St Andrew's Church, Wormingford

3rd St John the Baptist Church, Mount Bures

NATIONAL COUNTRYSIDE WEEK 2018



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

National Countryside Week is The Prince's Countryside Fund's annual awareness week and will take place from Monday 30th July to Sunday 5th August. Every year the campaign aims to raise awareness and celebrate the values of the countryside.

In previous years activity has included Walk a Country Mile and encouraging

members of the public to pack a picnic in support of the countryside.

The campaign objectives are to:

- Celebrate the countryside and the people who live and work there.
- Highlight the importance of family farms and our rural communities.
- Encourage people to get out and about and enjoy the countryside.
- Promote the work of the Fund and the impact it has had on the lives of people who have benefited from its grant programme, emergency fund and projects.

For full details please [click here](#)

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO SAVE THIS NATIONAL TREASURE...

people's
trust for
endangered
species

The people's trust for endangered species speaks out about the sad state of the nation's favourite our hedgehogs. Revealed by their [mammal surveys](#) and supported by other wildlife organisations survey [State of British hedgehogs 2018](#).

[Hedgehog Street](#) is a joint campaign with the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.



It is aimed at ensuring the hedgehog, the UK's only spiny mammal, remains a common and familiar part of British life. We know hedgehogs are in trouble. We have lost a third of all our hedgehogs in ten years!

Food for thought “The delicately balanced ecosystem that we all depend on is under threat. Alarming, in the UK, almost two-thirds of species have declined in the last 50 years. Globally, around a quarter of mammals face extinction in the next three decades”.

Source: the people's trust for endangered species



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