# Crosland Moor residents push for CCTV to tackle surge in fly-tipping



Residents of Crosland Moor are rallying against the pervasive issue of fly-tipping, a problem that has increasingly tarnished their community spaces, especially playgrounds and parks. The local play area on Yew Hills Road, once a beacon of childhood joy, has become marred by illegal dumping, prompting ward councillor Jo Lawson to voice her concerns in a recent meeting with Kirklees Council’s Cabinet. Lawson, representing the Community Independents, highlighted her distress over the growing piles of refuse, which she reported in March, noting that the situation has only worsened since.

Cllr Imran Safdar, another of the area's ward councillors, echoed these sentiments, sharing his nostalgia for the local playgrounds he enjoyed as a child. He stated, “Now, as a parent, I want the same for my children,” reflecting a recurring theme in community discussions about safety and aesthetics in public spaces. This sentiment has prompted all three ward councillors—including Alex Vickers from the Green Party—to launch a petition aiming to install CCTV cameras in notorious fly-tipping hotspots. They believe that these measures could not only deter potential offenders but also provide vital evidence for prosecution.

The environmental impact of fly-tipping is a major concern. Councillors warn that such illegal dumping not only generates unsightly messes but also poses significant public health risks. The presence of waste can attract vermin, as well as lead to soil and water contamination, jeopardising the safety of areas where children play. According to a study by Keep Britain Tidy, local councils across the country spend nearly £50 million each year addressing the issue.

In the broader context of Kirklees, the statistics surrounding fly-tipping are alarming. During the 2021/22 fiscal year, the council recorded a staggering 6,436 incidents, averaging 18 cases daily, yet only 49 fines were issued. Despite the council’s claimed commitment to a 'zero-tolerance approach' against fly-tipping, many residents feel that the enforcement has been lacking. The recent trend suggests worsening conditions, with reports indicating that between August 2023 and July 2024, the council received 8,002 reports—up from 6,243 the previous year.

This situation is not confined to Crosland Moor. An investigation revealed that Batley experienced the highest number of fly-tipping incidents in the district, with 128 cases reported in just one year. Other areas, including Birkby, Fartown, and Dewsbury, have also seen notable upticks in illegal dumping. The council has responded by exploring the use of covert cameras—a strategy deemed necessary to bolster deterrents against the rising tide of waste dumping.

Despite the grim statistics, local officials remain committed to addressing the issue. Kirklees Council has leveraged evidence from fly-tipping incidents to initiate legal action, with fines exceeding £5,000 imposed on offenders. Nevertheless, there remains a sense of frustration among residents who feel that more robust measures are required. This frustration is compounded by the financial implications of clearing these areas, severe costs that are not publicly detailed but undoubtedly strain local resources.

Councillor Lawson has urged community members to actively report instances of fly-tipping and to refrain from using unregistered waste disposal services, which often contribute to the problem. Her call to action reflects a collective desire among residents to restore their neighbourhoods to the safe, clean spaces they once enjoyed.

As the petition gains momentum, it represents not only a local reaction to a pressing issue but also a reflection of a broader societal challenge—balancing community enjoyment of shared spaces with the responsibility to maintain them free from waste and neglect. The road ahead remains fraught with obstacles, but for the residents of Crosland Moor, change is not merely desired; it is essential for the future of their community.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraph 4
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/our-children-deserve-better-crosland-31629857> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/six-thousand-flytippers-caught-kirklees-26832688> - In 2021/22, Kirklees Council recorded 6,436 incidents of fly-tipping, averaging 18 cases daily. Despite this, only 49 fines were issued. The council emphasizes its zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and is committed to investigating every report to take appropriate action against offenders.
3. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/examiner-investigation-worst-flytipping-kirklees-14965953> - An investigation revealed that Batley had the highest number of fly-tipping incidents in Kirklees, with 128 cases in 12 months. Other areas like Birkby, Fartown, and Dewsbury also reported significant numbers. The council is considering the use of covert cameras to deter offenders and has issued fixed penalty notices to several individuals.
4. <https://www.dewsburyreporter.co.uk/news/environment/over-8000-fly-tipping-incidents-reported-to-kirklees-council-over-the-last-12-months-4771164> - Between August 2023 and July 2024, Kirklees Council received 8,002 reports of fly-tipping, up from 6,243 the previous year. The council issued 51 Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecuted 31 individuals during this period. The financial impact of clearing these incidents is substantial, though exact costs are not specified.
5. <https://huddersfieldhub.co.uk/fly-tippers-warned-by-kirklees-council-we-will-find-you-and-make-you-pay/> - Kirklees Council has taken legal action against fly-tippers, resulting in fines exceeding £5,000. Offenders were identified through evidence found in dumped waste. The council emphasizes its commitment to prosecuting those responsible and recovering costs associated with the clean-up efforts.
6. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/whopping-38-piles-rubbish-dumped-28883354> - In a single month, 38 instances of fly-tipping were reported in Crosland Moor and Thornton Lodge, Huddersfield. Councillor Jo Lawson highlighted the severity of the issue and urged residents to report such incidents to the council. She also advised against using unregistered waste disposal services.
7. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/fly-tippers-dump-rubbish-yorkshire-26671055> - In 2021/22, Yorkshire experienced 81,952 fly-tipping incidents, averaging nine per hour. The Labour Party has proposed establishing 'clean-up squads' to address the issue, emphasizing the need for more effective measures to combat fly-tipping in the region.