# Fly-tipping mars Springwater Park’s wildlife haven despite community efforts



In a picturesque setting just a stone's throw from Manchester city centre, Springwater Park in Whitefield has become a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. Joyful sightings of sand martins returning from Africa to nest in the ochre banks of the River Irwell have encapsulated the seasonal spirit of the park, which is now officially designated as a nature reserve. The air is alive with the metallic twittering of these agile birds, while the river hosts the elegant Goosander duck and her seven ducklings, adding vibrancy to the scenic landscape.

However, this tranquil haven has recently been marred by the unfortunate scourge of fly-tipping. A distressing incident revealed an array of discarded items, including black bin bags, a colourful but unwanted fireplace, and even a music speaker, strewn across the park's car park. The local community's anger was palpable when the litter was discovered, sparking much debate online about the culprits responsible for such reckless behaviour. One resident expressed their frustration on social media, lamenting that while many cherish the park's beauty, "there is always someone wanting to spoil things."

Bury Council quickly mobilised to tackle the situation, with Councillor Alan Quinn, responsible for the borough's environmental efforts, acknowledging the community's investment in keeping the park clean. Quinn highlighted the efforts of the Friends of Springwater Park group, comprising dedicated volunteers who not only maintain the park but also test its water quality. He expressed exasperation over the actions of those who carelessly disregard public spaces, stating, “You have people who go over and above… Then you get these bastards who don’t care.” He assured residents that a team would be dispatched to clean up the mess and investigate the source of the debris, emphasising the gravity of fly-tipping as a criminal offence.

This incident reflects a broader trend across the region, where fly-tipping poses significant challenges for local authorities. Quinn revealed that Bury Council spends around £100,000 annually addressing environmental offences like fly-tipping, a staggering statistic that highlights the burden placed on public resources. Across Greater Manchester, councils are rallying against this issue, employing different strategies to deter offenders. For instance, Salford Council has implemented a highly publicised policy of naming and shaming, often using video footage to show offenders in the act—creating a deterrent that goes beyond monetary penalties.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's recent social media statement reinforces the urgency of the matter, declaring a commitment to combat fly-tipping with advanced technologies, including drones, which could help identify offenders and streamline the prosecution process. This declaration has garnered widespread support, with many calling for dramatic measures to be taken against those who defile public spaces.

While legal repercussions for fly-tipping remain significant—recently, several fines of £400 were issued in Bury—there is growing consensus that the ease of waste disposal needs addressing. Residents lament that unless convenient options for legitimate waste disposal are made more accessible, some may resort to illegal methods out of frustration. This sentiment was echoed by constituents who shared their experiences on the local Love Springwater Facebook page, expressing collective disappointment over recurrent incidents of fly-tipping and the detrimental impact on community pride.

The proactive steps taken by local councillors and the community reflect a shared responsibility in preserving Springwater Park's natural beauty. As discussions continue about enforcement and waste management policies, there lies hope that a concerted effort will curb the menace of fly-tipping and restore the park to its former glory. Efforts to engage the public in reporting fly-tipping incidents are paramount, signalling that while the problem may have deep roots, community vigilance can be instrumental in driving change.

Ultimately, the future of Springwater Park and similar public spaces hinges upon a collective commitment to uphold their integrity. With engaged citizens and responsive councils working in tandem, there is optimism that environmental stewardship will triumph over vandalism, ensuring that places like Springwater Park remain sanctuaries for wildlife and enjoyment for all.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
2. Paragraphs 4, 8
3. Paragraphs 7, 8
4. Paragraph 8
5. Paragraph 8

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/you-people-who-go-over-31583745> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bury.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning/fly-tipping> - Bury Council's official page detailing fly-tipping, its legal implications, and how residents can report incidents. It emphasizes that fly-tipping is a crime and provides guidance on managing household waste responsibly to prevent such offenses.
3. <https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/bury-council/pressreleases/four-more-fined-for-fly-tipping-and-littering-3371081> - A press release from Bury Council announcing that four individuals were fined £400 each for fly-tipping and one person fined £75 for littering in Bury. The release highlights the council's commitment to tackling environmental offenses and encourages residents to report such incidents.
4. <https://www.bury.gov.uk/pay/fixed-penalty-notices-for-environmental-offences/fly-tipping-fixed-penalty-notice> - Bury Council's page explaining the process and penalties associated with fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping. It outlines the fines, payment methods, and the consequences of non-payment, emphasizing the council's efforts to deter environmental offenses.
5. <https://www.bury.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning/report-a-litter-issue> - Bury Council's platform for reporting litter issues, including fly-tipping. It provides an online form for residents to report incidents, details the council's street cleansing services, and encourages community involvement in maintaining clean public spaces.
6. <https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/bury-council/pressreleases/more-people-fined-for-fly-tipping-by-new-enforcement-officers-3125230> - A press release from Bury Council announcing that four individuals were fined £400 each for fly-tipping and one for littering. The release discusses the council's increased enforcement efforts and the introduction of new officers to tackle environmental offenses.
7. <https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/bury-council/pressreleases/on-the-spot-fines-of-400-pounds-for-fly-tippers-3116886> - Bury Council's announcement of increased fixed penalty notices of £400 for fly-tipping. The release details the council's strategy to combat environmental offenses, including the hiring of additional enforcement officers and the introduction of on-the-spot fines.