

Sudbury litterbug £245 out of pocket

Babergh District Council has applauded the decision to order a Sudbury woman to pay £245 fine for littering.

Cheryl Simms, of Nelson Road, Sudbury was witnessed by Babergh Environmental Protection Officers throwing a cigarette butt onto the pavement in North Street Sudbury on October 17 last year.

Ms Simms was spoken to by the officers, who gave her the opportunity of paying a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fine of £80 – reduced to £60 if paid within ten days – as an alternative to prosecution.

However, Ms Simms failed to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice and did not respond to reminders which the Council sent her.

As a result of her appearance at St Edmundsbury Magistrates' Court in March, Ms Simms received a fine of £80 and was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £15 and a contribution to costs of £150.

Last year Babergh joined up with Sudbury Town Council to spend approximately £10,000 on installing 22 new litter bins – all fitted with cigarette ashtrays – in the town centre. During the morning when Ms Simms was caught littering, six other people were also spotted dropping cigarette ends within a 90 minute period - all of whom paid the fines. The money raised from the Fixed Penalties goes directly back into ensuring our streets are kept clean. In light of the high incidence of littering of this type, Babergh officers plan to periodically return to Sudbury town centre to conduct similar campaigns against litterers, as well as at other "hotspots" in the district. Anyone witnessing someone littering should contact Babergh on (01473) 826622.



Don't just bin it!

Did you know businesses are not allowed to just chuck their rubbish away and are strictly governed on what they can and can't do?

For example, businesses are not allowed to take their waste home and dispose of it in domestic bins or take it to Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

As the local authority, Babergh is responsible for making sure all businesses in the district comply with this and ensure businesses have the correct paperwork and storage arrangements.

Inspections are being carried out to ensure compliance with Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

A variety of small and medium-sized rural businesses have already been inspected but there are now plans to step up these inspections to include the primary retail areas of Hadleigh and Sudbury.

Matthew Bullock, Babergh's Environmental Protection Officer, said:

"Business waste is treated differently to normal householder rubbish and businesses have a duty to dispose of their waste responsibly - and have the correct paperwork on hand to back this up.

"Babergh's duty is to make sure that all businesses in the district are operating within the guidelines."

Businesses consistently ignoring advice from Babergh - or refusing to work within these guidelines - could be faced with a Fixed Penalty Notice costing the business up to a £300 fine - or a court appearance.

Matthew added: "Babergh always uses Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions as an absolute last resort - preferring to work with owners to sort problems and issues out."

For further information on Commercial Waste Inspections – or advice on how to make sure your business is operating within the waste guidelines – please visit www.babergh.gov.uk, alternatively email: matthew.bullock@babbergh.gov.uk or call (01473) 826622.

Noise - it is everyone's responsibility

Residents and businesses are being urged to think about the level of noise they make. During Noise Action Week, which was held from May 18th to 22nd, Babergh District Council officers aimed to promote practical solutions to everyday noise problems. Last year Babergh District Council

responded to over 300 noise complaints. These range from the most common complaints such as loud music and barking dogs, to the less common such as bird scarers and early morning noise from cockerels. Throughout the week at Babergh's Hadleigh office, members of the

Council's Environmental Protection Team were available to give advice on dealing with noise nuisance and how the Council can help.

For further information please contact Babergh District Council's Environmental Protection Team on 01473 822801.