

## Operation Stop It transcript

### Pictures of County Durham:

Narrator – We live in a beautiful county. We have a world heritage site and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Millions of people come here every year to enjoy the stunning natural landscapes, the rural charm and scenic coastline.

Sadly though there are a minority of people who don't seem to care and spoil it for everyone.

### CCTV footage:

Narrator - This shocking footage shows various flytippers dumping their rubbish without a second thought for the environment. However they didn't bargain on our covert cameras which is strategically placed in hotspots around the county to catch the culprits in the act.

All of these clips and many more have been used successfully to prosecute dozens of offenders, hitting them hard in the pocket and leaving them with a criminal record.

Ian Hoult, Neighbourhood Protection Manager – We investigate absolutely every fly-tip. So what we're doing is we're going through the waste, we're looking to find evidence of the person or the business, or whoever is doing it. And that can range from whole different types of information that helps us lead to them.

We're also looking around the local environment, so we're looking to see whether or not it was CCTV in the area, are there other residents or other businesses who might have seen something, because we're trying to piece the jigsaw together so we find out who's done it and take them, ultimately, through to court.

In November 2014 we launched Operation Stop It, so we've been working with the police, we've worked with the environment agency, we've worked with crimestoppers, we've worked with local towns and parishes and our councillors as well as the local community.

Firstly it was about helping to educate people how to get rid of their waste, the second part is actually how we use the information we get to have better results and actually having a tougher stance around the enforcement side. And we're really pleased to report that over the last year, since the last November, we've had a 31% reduction in the number of incidents that we've dealt with, we've had a massive increase in the number of prosecutions and hopefully we've educated residents and businesses in a really good way that helps them understand actually the impact that this sort of thing can have, how to get rid of their waste and to stop it.

Andy Doughty, Neighbourhood Warden – We'll try and get this removed as quickly as possible for a number of different reasons basically, one because it looks unsightly, it has a major impact on the environment and also as well it's to prevent other members of the public coming along thinking it's okay to actually fly tip in this area and to prevent them adding extra rubbish to the original fly tip itself.

Ian Hoult – So here at one of our household waste recycling centres, the tip, where actually people can bring all sorts of their items and we'll look to try and recycle that as much as possible.

Firstly should be asking is there another use for it, do they want to take it to a furniture recycling centres and secondly, you can come to a place like a tip, you can arrange a bulky household collection, really simple, low cost, we'll come and collect it from your house. But ultimately, if you're going to get someone to come and take it away, ask them where they're going to take it, have they got the right permits to transport it, because ultimately we want to make sure that we stand by fly tipping.

Narrator – This is clearly a serious matter but unlike some of the criminals you've seen, this bird brain actually found the cameras. Still no harm no foul.