

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

May 13, 2018



[Wow! 1,071 notices issued in six months](#)

Thanet Council is dishing out tough medicine during its litter clampdown. In the past six months a record 1,071 fixed penalty notices (FPN) have been handed out for littering, spitting and dog fouling. Ignoring the FPN and failing to pay the prescribed fine summoned 13 people to court. In total, £4,518 in fines were dispensed, including to nine persons who failed to appear. They were found guilty in absentia. Four others entered guilty pleas. They were ordered to pay a fine of £147 with £120 costs and the £30 victim surcharge. Names of the guilty were published in The Isle of Thanet News except for one juvenile offender whose identity is protected by law.

Fish cans spawning goodwill

Above, a project of FNA, [Fishtown Neighbors Association](#), decorative fibreglass fish heads created by local artists for Philadelphia street bins, appear hungry to receive trash from the hand before it becomes litter on the ground. A community partner - a business, resident or school - provides bags and maintains each bin in this aptly named Feed The Fish collaborative. FNA launched the initiative because organized community cleanups were too infrequent, trash cans in the neighbourhood filled up too quickly and were insufficient in number and something needed to be done to respond to neighbourhood litter complaints.

[Judge says paper off the hook](#)

A Queensbury, New York judge ruled this week that the First Amendment shields a local newspaper from being deemed as "refuse, trash or litter". A residents group objecting to the paper's content and delivery methods had attempted to stop delivery of Post-Star publication *This Week* by filing littering complaints with the sheriff's office. Town Justice Michael Muller dismissed the matter and cited the American Constitution.

DID YOU KNOW?

San Francisco's [new team](#) of used needle pickers will begin in June to gather up littered syringes from the streets. Of the 400,000 syringes given away each month, 246,000 are returned to dedicated collection bins after use.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 6 - 13)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Bank holiday brings out the worst in people (5/8)

A Bank Holiday Weekend in the UK was no vacation for cleanup crews or next-day visitors to places like Cannon Hill Park in south Birmingham. Joe Lycett took to Twitter to vent on May 8. His rant was retweeted more than 6,600 times. "Hate to sound like your mother but if you enjoyed the beauty of Cannon Hill Park yesterday then the least you can do is respect it and the safety of the animals that live in it by putting your rubbish in a bin. Here's a [selfie](#) I took with your mess!!!"

Calls come for crackdown in Dublin (5/8)

Dublin too was hard hit by bank holiday littering. Saying she's no killjoy, Labour Party Councillor Mary Freehill has called for increased police patrols to curb "out of hand" littering along the Portobello Bridge area canals.

Another flaming good reason not to litter (5/9)

The Dublin Fire Brigade issued a special warning after blaming littering for a fire in Tolka Valley in Fingas South. "Waste and litter can be a target for arson, take yours home," a firefighters' spokesperson said.

Resident is singing the blue bristle blues (5/7)

Snow-sweeping machines spewing bucket loads of plastic broom bristles in Edmonton, Alberta have prompted a litter complaint. Theresa Wynn picked up five kilograms of the broken blue bristles herself, then blasted the city for adding to its own litter problem.

New French law would ban dumping apparel (5/10)

In 2019 France will propose a law requiring retailers to donate unsold clothing to charity instead of dumping it.