

# 40 fined for littering

**By Cormac Campbell**  
**In the battle against littering council enforcement officers issued 40 fixed penalty notices in April.**

Efforts to tackle the problem have been stepped up in recent weeks after it was revealed that in 2008/2009 the council had to spend nearly £1.75m cleaning rubbish from our streets. The problem has also been discussed at length in the council chamber with many councillors calling for a zero tolerance approach to littering – whether this be dog fouling, fly tipping or simply throwing rubbish from a car window.

Many councillors have advocated the use of CCTV and other forms of surveillance.

And according to director of Environmental Health John Farrell, these measures have been put into place and are reaping dividends.

“The use of modern technology, surveillance cameras and targeting of specific areas by enforcement officers has resulted in 40 persons being caught in April alone,” he said in a statement

“The council has adopted a zero tolerance towards anyone caught littering, fly-tipping or not cleaning up after their dog. Those detected will receive a fixed penalty notice of £50 or face prosecution with a fine of up to £2,500.”

Mayor John Feehan (SDLP) added that the community is losing out because of the inconsiderate few who continue to litter.

“This is money that could be used to curb rate increases and be put towards projects that could make a real difference to our community,” he said.

Despite such measures, the latest incident of fly tipping could be seen this week near the Curvekeaney Road between Newry and Camlough. Fews councillor Pat McGinn (SF) told the Newry Reporter that the public should report those responsible.

“Many like myself believe that it is time to crack down on fly tipping and to make people think twice about dumping rubbish illegally and to encourage people to report it, if they see anyone breaking the law,” he said.

“Any person who illegally dumps refuse is very clearly telling the community that they couldn't care less about them.”



The latest incident of illegal dumping in South Armagh. 10W18N110

## Special thanks

**Northern Ireland Special Olympics would like to extend a huge word of thanks to the people of Newry and Mourne for their support of the recent Collection Day.**

Hundreds of volunteers took to the streets and roads of to raise much needed funding for Special Olympics.

All the money raised will help Special Olympics realise its promise of changing the lives of people with an intellectual disability through participation in sport.

Special Olympics' annual collection day was proudly supported by Eircom who this year celebrates 25 years of partnership with Special Olympics Ireland.

In addition this year is particularly significant for Special Olympics with the 2010 Special Olympics Ireland Games taking place in Limerick from June 9-13. This will be one of the biggest and most prestigious events of the summer with 1,900 athletes competing in 13 sports in venues throughout Limerick and Clare. They will be accompanied by a team of 650 coaches and official delegates, 4,000 family members and supported by a team of 3,000 volunteers.

## Mayor's charity cycle

**The Mayor's Charity Cycle takes place from April 27 until May 1 and sees 10 cyclists and three support personnel travel from Newry to London.**

The team includes Gary Stokes, Eddy Curtis, Noel Pepper, Paul Braham, Paddy Duffy, Tom Magill, Anna Ovchinnikova, Svetlana Ovchinnikova, Darren Feenan, Stephen Boyle, Andy Coleman, Sam Corder and Hugh Murray.

To date the cycle has donated approximately £75,000 to various charities including Red Cross, various cancer charities, Crossfire and Newry Gateway Club.



Police are keen to speak to this man who they believe may be able to assist them with their enquiries. 10W18N119

## Petrol theft appeal

**Police in Newry are appealing for information following two incidents of petrol theft in the Forkhill Road area of Newry and the Millvale Road area of Bessbrook.**

On Wednesday, April 14, at 9.20am, the male driver of a silver VW Golf car, believed to have a Republic of Ireland registration, obtained petrol at a business on the Forkhill Road and drove off without payment.

In a second incident the male driver of

a silver VW Golf car, also believed to have a Republic of Ireland registration, stopped at a filling station on the Millvale Road, Bessbrook around 10am on Thursday, 15 April, and obtained petrol before driving off without payment.

Police are appealing to anyone who has information in relation to these incidents to contact them. Police are also keen to hear from the man pictured who they believe may be able to assist them with their enquiries.

The number to call is 0845 600 8000. Information about crime can also be passed anonymously to the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

## Career paths must be open to all

**People with mental health issues or learning disabilities who have undergone training to enhance their employment prospects were praised at a celebratory event in Newry.**

A certificate presentation day was held at the Canal Court Hotel where Action Mental Health - New Horizons presented certificates to 107 people who had completed training courses.

The Newry organisation assist hundreds of people from the south Down and south Armagh area who have experienced mild to moderate mental health issues or who have learning disabilities. Their mission is to enhance their employability by providing training and support.

AMH enable clients to partake in NVQ courses and similar developmental initiatives that add to their existing capabilities and arrange for a period of work experience in a host company where their acquired skills may be put to good use.

Guest speak Dr Conor Patterson, President of Newry Chamber of Trade and Commerce, said, “In my own case, I saw people whom I loved endure deteriorating mental health as they first became unemployed and then as progressively their options to be economically independent ran out – until they were trapped in a self-reinforcing cycle of physical and mental suffering – then there was no means of changing the game for them – no interventions to help them take a new direction – those that cared for them had no connections, no resources and frankly no experience of what to do.

“That is where Action Mental Health



Back row:- Peter Fitzsimmons, AMH's Employers' Forum, Patrick Milligan, Brian Hughes, Manager – AMH Newry, John Graham, Dr Conor Patterson, President, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Eugene Gallagher, Ian Walters, Chief Executive Action Mental Health and Sam Little. Front row: Gareth Boyle, Jacqueline O'Hanlon, Bridie Hughes, Renee Hughes, Peter Mallon, Paul Fitzpatrick. 10W18N112

has been so important – an initiative that is all about action addressing the challenges faced by individuals in an individual way and crucially making links for them into the world of employment.”

The Chief Executive of Co-operative and Enterprise Agency believes in promoting employers to collaborate to offer more opportunities.

“Opportunities have to be open to all – there cannot be discrimination – apart from the fact that people who are isolated will feel resentful and that can undermine communities – everyone I believe has something to offer.

I urge Action Mental Health not to wait

for invitations to participate in the community, but to be proactive in engaging in all those spheres in which people with mental health problems feel marginalised: employment, education, leisure and recreation and to put forward initiatives to break down misconceptions about mental illness.”

Peter Fitzsimmons, who works with a voluntary group of local employers to assist AMH - New Horizons achieve their objectives, described the work being carried out by the organisation as invaluable in assisting those who might otherwise find difficulty in gaining entry to the world of work.

“AMH - New Horizons has a very good understanding of what personal development might be best suited to the needs of their clients” he said. “It is very heartening to see the range of courses has been completed during the past year - and this follows many years of similarly impressive work. The success of these efforts by clients needs to be recognised through the offer of good quality work experience from local employers. We have been very pleased with the reaction when help has been requested and would encourage even more companies to support AMH when approached.”