

Litterers pay the penalty for ignoring fines

Litter louts who failed to pay their £80 fine have been hit by costs five times as high after East Hampshire District Council brought legal action against them.

Fifteen people were issued Fixed Penalty Notices by East Hampshire's litter enforcement officers but chose not to pay.

EHDC pursued prosecutions through the legal system and successfully secured convictions for all 15 individuals.

Each was ordered to pay an increased fine of £220, a victim surcharge of £30 and costs of £155. A total expense of £405. As well as the added cost, each individual now has a criminal record.

EHDC Leader Richard Millard, said: "Litter is an important issue for our residents who expect us to take action against those too lazy to pick up after themselves.

"It is a blight on our landscape and a pollutant for our environment and costs the taxpayer tens of thousands of pounds a year to clear up.

"EHDC takes a zero tolerance approach to littering and our litter enforcement officers patrol town centres and hot spots to help stop this issue at source.

"Our message is clear, if you drop litter you can expect to be fined. These individuals ignored that fine and now have been ordered to pay a much heavier penalty."

The prosecutions were brought about using a new legal mechanism called the Single Justice Procedure (SJP). The SJP allows cases of low-level crime, such as speeding or TV licence evasion to be dealt with by a single magistrate without attending court, freeing up valuable court time.

Media Contact: Will Parsons, EHDC Communications Officer, 01730 234030