



**Press Release**

**17 March 2011**

## **Crushing consequence for Swansea fly-tipper**

Fly-tipping Action Wales has taken a tough approach to fly-tipping in The Valleys by crushing a vehicle used by a local business to illegally dump waste, following an official order from Swansea Magistrates Court.

Davide Castanho from Pontarddulais, who operated the garden maintenance business 'All Tree Services', was captured on a surveillance camera set up by Environment Agency Wales, dumping garden clearance waste on five separate occasions over a three-week period on a beautiful area of woodland in the village of Fforest in Carmarthenshire

The vehicles were traced to Davide Castanho and one was seized through a joint investigation with partner agencies of the Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative, Fly-tipping Action Wales. Representatives included Wildlife Crime Officers from Dyfed Powys Police and Forestry Commission and officers from the Environmental Crime Team at Environment Agency Wales.

Mr. Castanho was later charged for Fly-tipping offences at Swansea Magistrates Court and given a custodial sentence of 28 days. His vehicle was forfeited to Environment Agency Wales for secure storage before being demolished at Bayliss Recovery in Bridgend.

Fly-tipping Action Wales has received grant support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to carry out work specifically in nine Local Authority areas within the Valleys Regional Park, including Carmarthenshire where this incident occurred.

Gary Evans, Valleys Regional Park Manager for Fly-tipping Action Wales, said: "By removing Mr. Castanho's vehicle, which he requires to operate his business, it will make it more difficult for him to fly-tip. And this tough approach to fly-tippers should act as a reminder that the crime won't be tolerated. Not only does it blight our communities, it is harmful to the environment.

“Carmarthenshire is an area rich in heritage and beauty and with investment from The Valleys Regional Park Programme to help attract tourists to The Valleys it is vital that we maintain its natural beauty to bring long-term economic benefits to the area.

“Fly-tippers like Castanho are burdening Welsh tax payers with a £2.8 million clean-up cost each year, which could be better spent on developing and supporting hospitals, schools and other essential community services.

“If you’re using a landscape gardener or any other tradesperson, please make sure that they’re a registered waste carrier with the Environment Agency. If your waste is found fly-tipped, you will be responsible, and you could face a hefty fine.”

Adrian Ward, Wildlife Crime Officer for Dyfed Powys Police, said: “Fly-tipping is anti-social behaviour affecting all of us. Our joint enforcement activity highlighted this and sends a strong message to those who wilfully break the law and pollute our environment and threaten our wildlife.”

In Swansea the Council reported a total of 4,042 cases of fly-tipping in the city during 2009/10 which resulted in a total clean-up cost of over £224k. In Wales, there were a total of 48,179 fly-tipping incidents in the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. The annual clean-up costs to tax-payers in Wales is over £2.7m\*\*\*.

To report an incident of fly-tipped waste, contact Swansea Council on 01792 635600 or email [evh@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:evh@swansea.gov.uk). Alternatively the public can call the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506.

For more information on fly-tipping and how you can help play a part in tackling the issue in Wales, visit [www.flytippingactionwales.org](http://www.flytippingactionwales.org).

**Ends.**

**Notes to editors**

**Captions:**

Press Picture 1: (L-R) Gary Evans, VRP Manager for Fly-tipping Action Wales, Lyn Richards, Environment Agency Wales and PC Adrian Ward, Dyfed Powys Police.

Press Picture 2: Castanho’s car is crushed

**\*Fly-tipping Action Wales** is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative. The partnership includes a range of key organisations including the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, Environment Agency Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, The Countryside Council for Wales, the three National Park Authorities, The Forestry Commission, Network Rail, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Fire Service and South Wales, North Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police Forces. The initiative includes business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.

\*\*In The Valleys of South Wales the programme is being delivered as part of The **Valleys Regional Park (VRP)** project. VRP is an exciting, dynamic initiative to plan, co-ordinate and deliver activities related to the environment, heritage and tourism across The Valleys of south Wales, working in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government's Heads of the Valleys and Western Valleys Regeneration Programmes to change the reality and perceptions of The Valleys, and through The Valleys Heart and Soul Campaign to promote the region as a highly-desirable place to live, work and visit. [www.thevalleys.co.uk](http://www.thevalleys.co.uk)

\*\*\* Further statistics available via:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=6805>

#### **About fly-tipping:**

- Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. In fly-tipping hot spots it can even reduce property prices, and local businesses may suffer as people stay away.
- One of the best ways the public can help in the fight against fly-tipping is to use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier and ask where your waste is going.
- You can find the registered carriers in your area by visiting [www.flytippingactionwales.org](http://www.flytippingactionwales.org) or calling 08708 506 506.

For further information please contact Catrin Millar or Helen Newton at Equinox Communications on 02920 764 100 or email [ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk](mailto:ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk)