

Fly tipper convicted in multi-agency covert operation

A fly tipper has avoided a prison sentence after being filmed dumping over 650 tyres at a mountain beauty spot between the Afan Valley and Nantymoel. David Ian James from the Bonymaen area of Swansea was found guilty after admitting to dumping over 650 tyres in the Afan Valley.

In June 2007 a joint covert operation between Environment Agency Wales Enforcement Team (South West Wales) and PC Andrew Scourfield seconded to Forestry Commission Wales from South Wales Police was initiated following an increase in the unlawful depositing of hundreds of tyres in and around the Afan Valley.

PC Scourfield said, "Hundreds of tyres were being dumped on Forestry Commission land near the Bwlch Mountain in the Afan Valley, there were also more being dumped over a nearby lay by and view point."

"We soon realised that the incidents were likely to be connected and commenced a phase of intelligence gathering and information sharing with our partners in the Environment Agency's Enforcement Team and Neath Port Talbot's Waste Enforcement Team".

In the late hours of Saturday June 23rd 2007 following a number of nights of surveillance PC Scourfield along with Environment Agency officers struck when they saw James' transit van parked at the lay by on the A4107. When the van was searched it was found to contain around 90 tyres ready to be thrown over the side of the lay by.

James was arrested and taken into custody, his vehicle and tyres were also seized as evidence. The following morning during interview James admitted to making several trips to the area where he unlawfully disposed of over 650 tyres over a three-month period.

PC Scourfield said, "This particular operation clearly demonstrates the benefits and effectiveness of multi-agency enforcement work and should send out a strong message to those involved in this type of criminal activity that we are all working together to identify and apprehend these offenders."

Lyn Richards team leader of the enforcement team said, "Recent changes in legislation have meant that it is harder to hide from the consequences of this type of offending.

“The growing support offered to the Environment Agency by South Wales Police also means that more and more offenders are being caught and brought to book.

“This case forms part of a concerted campaign by Environment Agency Wales and its partners to stamp out this type of anti-social behaviour”.

James received a four-month prison sentence suspended for eighteen months, he was also ordered to pay £1000 in costs by Neath Magistrates and the vehicle used to commit the offence was seized.

James was also found guilty of dumping tyres on the A465 between Resolven and Glyn Neath. He received a four-month sentence for the Neath Valley offence to run concurrently with the first sentence. He was ordered to pay £350 contribution to the council’s costs.