**BULKY WASTE UPDATE**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have reopened their paid-for bulky waste collection service for large household items and are also issuing a warning about fly-tipping while other outlets for domestic waste remain closed.

The bulky waste collection service was temporarily stopped to allow the councils’ waste contractor, Biffa, to prioritise the important kerbside household collections while members of their waste collection crews were off sick or self-isolating. Biffa has now built up sufficient resilience in its workforce and can now provide the paid-for service again. The situation is being regularly monitored and residents should be aware that if staffing levels fall the service may need to be suspended again.

With household waste recycling centres still closed, along with charity shops and their donation banks, there are fewer places to dispose of unwanted items that do not fit into kerbside collections.

The councils have issued a warning to anybody tempted to fly-tip -  this includes leaving rubbish next to litter bins – that they will investigate and prosecute anyone found to be responsible.

South Oxfordshire District Council cabinet member for housing and the environment, Cllr David Rouane said: “Residents should remember that we can recycle up to 80 per cent of household waste using the green recycling bin. We would also ask people to think about using a composter in the garden if they can. We’d like to reassure residents that the environmental protection team is continuing to investigate incidents of fly-tipping and anyone found to have dumped waste could face a fine or prosecution.”

Vale of White Horse District Council cabinet member for housing and the environment, Cllr Jenny Hannaby said: “We would urge people to store their waste if possible and it can be safely disposed of when the household waste recycling centres and donation banks reopen. We understand this is difficult for some, which is why we are pleased to be able to offer the bulky household waste collection service again.”