

## NEWS

# A bucket of sand? that's £339, please

Brothers left ruing the cost of their honesty in reporting an oil spillage cleared up in ten minutes by TTS

TWO brothers who reported a fuel spill from their tractor were shocked to be charged £339 for a ten-minute clear-up they could have done themselves.

They now face an 'excessive' bill to the Transport and Technical Services department for two men covering the spillage on La Pulente Hill with 'a shovel of sand'.

Gary and Richard Le Moignan say that they no longer believe honesty is the best policy. Had they phoned and said they had noticed oil on the road then they would not now be forced to pay up.

And an appeal to Transport Minister Mike Jackson failed. He wrote to say that the standard weekday out-of-hours charge was a minimum of four hours for two staff and a vehicle regardless of how long it takes to deal with the incident.

In late July, the brothers,

By Harry McRandle

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who are keen recreational fishermen, were towing their boat on La Pulente Hill. There was a problem with the tractor which resulted in oil spilling on to the road.

As they were right next to the beach, Gary (42) said they thought the best option would have been for one of them to fetch a bucket of sand to put on the oil.

## Danger

'That could have been done within ten minutes and reduced the time of potential accidents,' he said.

However, he said that they were concerned that oil may have presented a danger elsewhere on the hill to motorcyclists in particular, so they contacted the police

and told them of their intentions.

'The police said that they would attend the scene and when they arrived they stated they would need to call out TTS to put sand on the oil patch,' he said.

Mr Le Moignan, a postman, said that two men in a TTS pick-up truck arrived about an hour later.

'It had about a half a ton of sand on board and they just shovelled some sand onto the flat part of the road,' he said.

The brothers were told that they would get a bill, but no one could tell them how much it would be. They expected it to be around the £100 mark and were shocked to be charged £339.

'We feel that the fee was an excessive charge. It certainly seems like easy money to us,' said Mr Le Moignan. He said that the moral of the story was that anyone who has any



Gary and Richard Le Moignan, pictured at La Pulente with the tractor which leaked hydraulic oil  
PICTURE: TONY PIKE (00800855)

kind of oil spillage caused by their vehicle should not admit responsibility.

'We should have just said that we had noticed oil on the

hill and TTS would have had to come out to clear it up anyway, but we would not have been charged,' he said.

He added that this was a

case of where honesty was not the best policy.

'Another lesson learnt and I pose the question what do we pay our taxes for?' he said.

## Oil Care Group turns its attention to the industry

PLUMBERS and fuel companies are being advised how to combat the thousands of litres of oil that pollute the Island each year.

The Planning and Environment Department's Oil Care Group has produced a leaflet giving practical advice for people who work with domestic oil tanks and boilers.

Following last year's campaign to raise awareness among oil tank owners, the Oil Care Group now want to target the fuel industry.

About 150 leaflets have been given to plumbers and fuel distributors, detailing how to prevent oil pollution and how to deal with leaks.

Environmental protection officer Shelley Hawkins said that they wanted to reduce the amount of oil that pollutes the Island each year and to encourage best practice.

'It's very important, because the more pollution prevention we do,

By Ramsay Cudlipp

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the less cost there is to the customer,' she said. 'Last year, domestic oil tank owners were targeted through our sticker campaign. Now we are moving on to the fuel industry.'

She said that the £5,000 scheme was not expensive. 'It has not cost that much, because it's all done in-house,' she said.

The leaflet, which lists the top ten causes of oil loss from tanks, including split tanks and leaking pipe work, is freely available from the Planning and Environment Department's offices, from plumbing wholesalers or on the States website at [www.gov.je/pollutionprevention](http://www.gov.je/pollutionprevention).

To report an oil leak, or for more information, Islanders can call the water pollution hotline on 709535.

### OIL FACTS

● In 2008 there were 111 pollution incidents reported to Environmental Protection, 56 of which involved leaking oil.

● The main causes of leakage are down to split tanks or broken pipe work. Other causes are rusty tanks and leaky bunds or bunds full of rubbish or waste.

● Last year, the total quantity of oil lost was 14,700 litres, an average of 250 litres per incident.

● There have been 25,000 oil care stickers issued to tank owners and every new tank sold in Jersey has a sticker attached.

## Litter campaigners target smokers

SMOKERS who throw their cigarette butts onto the street are being targeted by campaigners trying to keep the Island rubbish free.

The latest initiative by the Stop the Drop group involves getting smokers to buy a 99p ButtsOut personal ashtray.

The portable boxes, that slip into a pocket or clip onto a belt, have been introduced by councils across the UK.

The Stop the Drop campaign was launched in July by St Aubin resident Margaret Holland Prior, who was inspired by a similar campaign launched by Bill Bryson to keep rural parts of the UK clean.

A recent Beachwatch survey, carried out by the UK Environ-

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ment Department, listed smoking debris as the most littered item created by people visiting the beach.

Mrs Holland Prior said: 'Since the smoking ban, the amount of cigarette litter has rocketed.

### Retailers

'We strongly believe that we need to work together to alter people's thinking regarding packaging and smokers' debris.

'We need to be working with Island retailers to tackle this problem, and combine education and disposal alternatives, and ensure that littering in any form is met

with zero tolerance.' Guernsey is also getting on board and will be launching the ButtsOut boxes on Friday.

Currently, a million pounds is spent each year on cleaning up litter in the Island and £60,000 just on cleaning the chewing gum off the streets of St Helier.

The latest development in the Stop the Drop campaign is supported by town centre manager Richard MacKenzie, who said: 'We are delighted to be introducing ButtsOut into Jersey.'

'We are eager to work with retailers and consumers in promoting the responsible disposal of cigarette butts.

'We want to contribute towards making Jersey a cleaner and tidier island.'

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