



Media Release

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OTHER PEOPLE’S RUBBISH IS RAISING MONEY FOR PARKS’ STAFF

ANYONE over the age of 50 will remember the rag and bone man who used to come around on a horse and cart collecting people’s rubbish to the cry of ‘any old iron’. Depending on what you gave him you either got a sixpence or a balloon and then he turned your rubbish into hard cash.

Harrogate Council’s Parks’ staff have become the modern day equivalent except their ‘any old iron’ comes from illegally dumped material which they are turning into money to buy new gardening tools.

In fact, the well-known phrase ‘money for any old iron’ comes from rag and bone men and the most famous of them all must be Steptoe and Son who epitomised what the job was all about in the well-known comedy series.

Today, of course, they would be called ‘recyclers’.

Harrogate’s parks’ team regularly have to fish out old bikes, swings or oil drums which have been fly-tipped in our parks open spaces. It was one of the parks’ operational staff who suggested that, rather than just dispose of them in the proper manner at a tip, they could be sent to a scrap metal dealer for recycling as a way of raising cash.

Alan Taylor, Principal Parks Officer, explains: “We have robust environmental management processes which were readily embraced by my team as we worked towards gaining ISO 14001 for our environmental management system. And, whilst we are happy to make money from this rubbish, we cannot condone fly-tipping which is an illegal offence. However, while the council works to reduce incidences of fly-tipping, we can still cash in and we are already building up our next pile of rubbish.

“The first pile raised over £500 which was enough for us to buy an extendable chainsaw and hedge trimmer.” ENDS

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Photos can be set up but attached is a photo of the pile of junk, which raised £500.

FURTHER INFORMATION: is available from Mr Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces on 01423 556704.