

Councillors Briefing Note No. 179

Service : Waste Services

Further Enquiries to: Sandra Truscott /
Martin Litherland

Date Prepared: March 2014

Direct Line: 01225 713328 / 01225 718523

Removal of mini recycling sites

On 25 February 2014 the Council approved the budget for 14/15, which included a series of savings proposals. These proposals incorporated the removal of all council-operated mini recycling sites in the county, in order to reduce operational costs and generate contract savings.

The changes

The Council currently has a network of 127 mini recycling sites where local residents can take glass, paper and cans for recycling. These are located at various sites, including public car parks, pub and village hall car parks, and supermarkets.

Although once the mainstay of recycling efforts within the county, the materials collected at these sites (glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, telephone directories, food and drinks cans and, in some cases, textiles) have for some time duplicated those also collected through the kerbside black box service.

The kerbside black box service is available to every household in the county. We have also seen participation increase markedly following the introduction of new plastic bottle and cardboard, and free of charge "opt-in" garden waste, collections in 2011. It has never been easier for Wiltshire residents to recycle a wide range of materials at the kerbside, and these services have successfully supported a move to fortnightly collections of residual waste which has in turn contributed to further increases in recycling.

Conversely, we have seen a consistent decline in the performance of our remaining network of mini recycling sites over recent few years as the kerbside services have become increasingly popular and well used. In addition, the current network is considerably reduced from previous years following ad hoc requests from private landowners and parish councils for sites to be removed. Plastic bottle and cardboard sites were also removed during 2012 following the introduction of kerbside collections of these materials. Consequently, the contribution that mini recycling sites make to our overall recycling rates has reduced dramatically (see table 1).

Table 1:

Recycling Performance	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14 YTD
Kerbside						
Green waste	18,675	19,344	20,248	22,741	32,078	30,826
Black box	26,579	24,272	23,568	23,867	24,223	18,324
Plastic bottles /card	1,924	3,670	4,366	7,418	12,012	9,298
BRING SITES						
Paper, Glass, Cans etc	5,804	5,465	5,062	4,339	3,655	2,252
Plastic bottles /card	1,581	1,853	1,513	1,090	151	0
HRCs						
Green waste	13,424	11,170	11,192	12,210	9,093	7,574
Recyclates	41,442	38,682	39,848	39,921	37,381	34,564
Total	109,429	104,456	105,797	111,586	118,593	102,838

Cost savings

We expect the removal of this service will realise annual contract savings of £123,000.

However, in year one this will be a lower figure as the removals will not realise a full year saving, and there are likely to be costs associated with removing infrastructure such as hard standing, fencing and signage at some sites, with some minor reinstatement being required.

We also anticipate that the majority of residents using these sites currently will better utilise their existing kerbside recycling collections once the sites have been removed, as happened with plastic bottles and cardboard when those bring sites were removed. Therefore, there should not be a notable increase in waste to landfill as a consequence of this action.

Residents can receive up to two black boxes per household. Additional black boxes (and smaller black baskets for smaller households or the elderly) are already held in stock, and we do not anticipate any upsurge in demand leading to further acquisition costs.

Impact on performance and service users

The network of plastic bottle and cardboard mini recycling sites were removed following the introduction of the new kerbside collections of these materials in 2012. The table above (table 1) shows the impact of the kerbside collections on the performance of those sites, with a significant fall in tonnage collected as residents chose to utilise the new kerbside services instead. When these plastic bottle and cardboard mini recycling sites were removed, we saw the kerbside performance increase again.

We anticipate a similar outcome when the remaining mini recycling sites collecting glass, paper and cans are removed, as these materials are already collected via the black box service.

Notices will be placed on containers and/or site signage advising site users that the facility will be closing, and will promote the use of the kerbside service and local Household

Recycling Centre as an alternative site where excess recyclables can be taken. The signs will also promote the fact that residents can request additional kerbside recycling containers.

Timetable for site closures and container removals. We currently anticipate that closure notices will be put up on site by the 5 April 2014, giving residents 4 weeks notice of the removals.

All mini recycling sites will be closed to residents from the 5 May 2014, with containers physically removed by the end of May/early June. These removals will be completed in series.

A removal schedule is currently being drawn up with Hills Waste Solutions Ltd, and individual parish councils, councillors, landowners and area boards will receive pre-notification of the removal date of their local sites in late March/early April.

Cleansing of sites

Arrangements will be put in place to enable ongoing cleansing of the sites after the containers have been removed, in order to deal with any residual littering or flytipping. The sites will be monitored by our Waste Technical Officers and the opportunity to cease frequent cleansing will be reviewed on a regular basis.

The sites to close in Bradford On Avon community area will be:

Sainsbury's
Station car park
Budbury Circle
Farleigh Wick, Fox & Hounds
Holt Village Hall

Communal sites that will remain are:

Cedar Court Bradford on Avon
Springfield Road, BOA

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the project team on wastemanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk, or contact Sandra Truscott on 01225 713328 or Martin Litherland on 01225 718524