

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

### SALISBURY AREA BOARD (8 November 2012)

---

#### **BRIEFING NOTE - CHANGES TO MINI-RECYCLING FACILITY AT WAITROSE**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The council has ceased to collect plastic bottles and cardboard from the Waitrose car park mini recycling site, as part of a county-wide change to waste collection services. Other materials – paper, glass, cans, textiles and books - will continue to be collected from the site.
- 1.2. The changes to the Waitrose (Salisbury) mini recycling site are part of a county-wide programme of changes which has been consulted upon and advertised. The changes were approved in principle as part of the council's budget setting for 2012-13, which required the waste service to make savings totalling £300,000 by a number of agreed methods.
- 1.3. Whilst the council will not now collect plastic bottles and card from mini recycling sites, all residents now have access to a kerbside collection of these materials, using a "blue top" bin or "no blow" blue bags. Many residents are using the kerbside collection and recycling has increased greatly as a result. In contrast tonnages collected at mini recycling sites have been reducing. The kerbside service offers far more capacity to residents and can accommodate all normal household items. Larger cardboard packaging can be cut up to fit into the bin for kerbside collection or taken to the council's household recycling centres including that at Churchfields. In many cases it can be returned to the retailer. (Cardboard can be a useful addition to home compost bins, for those residents who are keen gardeners.)

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. The waste services budget for 2012-13 requires savings of £300,000. This will help the council to spend more on priority services, such as those for vulnerable adults and children, and roads. Following the recent major improvements to kerbside recycling services the budget decision was based on a calculation of savings to be made by
  - (1) terminating all plastic bottle and card collections from mini recycling sites
  - (2) reducing the overall number of mini recycling sites and
  - (3) slightly reducing household recycling centre summer opening hours.
- 2.2. The savings are equivalent to approximately 1 per cent of council spending on waste management. This is relatively modest compared with savings made by other services.

2.3. The first action has led to the changes at the Waitrose (Salisbury) mini recycling site, which is operated by the council.

2.4. The council decisions relating to mini recycling sites were made in the knowledge that their use has been generally reducing. This table shows performance in recent years :-

<b>Mini recycling sites</b>	<b>2007/08</b> Tonnes	<b>2008/09</b> Tonnes	<b>2009/10</b> Tonnes	<b>2010/11</b> Tonnes	<b>2011/12</b> Tonnes
Paper, Glass, Cans	6,547	5,804	5,465	5,062	4,339
Plastic bottles/Cardboard	1,279	1,581	1,853	1,513	1,090
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,826</b>	<b>7,385</b>	<b>7,318</b>	<b>6,575</b>	<b>5,429</b>
Change from 2007/08	n/a	-6%	-6%	-16%	-31%

2.5. Overall, mini recycling site tonnages have been decreasing for several years, as more recycling has been provided at kerbside. Until 2009/10 the number of sites taking plastic bottles and cardboard was being increased, with tonnage growth. However, as kerbside service became available in south Wiltshire, use of mini recycling sites for these materials also started to reduce.

2.6. Figures for the first quarter of 2012-13, compared with the same period a year before, show the effect of extending the kerbside collection to all parts of Wiltshire last year, and the very small tonnage collected at mini recycling sites.

<b>Plastic bottle and cardboard collections (tonnages)</b>	Quarter 1 2011/12	Quarter 1 2012/13	Percentage Change
Kerbside service	1101	3002	+173%
Mini recycling sites	335	73	-78%

### **3. Consultation and Reporting**

3.1. The Council consulted with residents for 3 months between 29 February and 28 May 2012, in order to obtain their views on the proposed changes outlined above. The consultation asked respondents to complete a short questionnaire which aimed to gather information on residents' recycling behaviours. The purpose was to ascertain the impact of the proposals on their ability to continue recycling.

3.2. The council used a number of communication channels to invite responses. Information was

- sent to parish councils via the Parish Newsletters on at least two occasions
- made available on the council's website
- sent to the local press
- advertised in the council's 'Your Wiltshire' magazine which is sent to all residents in Wiltshire and
- included in the agenda for the Salisbury Area Board meeting 17 May 2012.

3.3. During the three month consultation period, 384 responses were received.

- 3.4. Key findings from the survey were that almost 90% of respondents now make frequent use of the kerbside dry recycling collections. In contrast, only 24% of respondents used mini recycling sites frequently and about 70% use them less than they did before the kerbside improvements, or do not use them at all. Responses showed that the main concern was accessibility of available sites to the public.
- 3.5. Following the consultation, a [formal report was published and submitted to the Cabinet member](#), and the following decisions were made:-
- The withdrawal of plastic bottle and cardboard collections from sites where these were provided was confirmed
  - Closure of school recycling sites, including an offer of alternative services to schools, to approximately halve the general network of sites, whilst keeping most public sites open
  - Closure of 23 public sites with low performance. This enabled the council to keep open some sites that formerly collected only plastic bottle and card, which would otherwise have closed.
- 3.6. The remaining network will total about 140 sites, normally collecting paper, glass and cans. The above changes and closures will deliver the required savings outlined above.

#### **4. Informing Residents and Others about the decisions**

- 4.1. In order to keep council members, area board managers and parish councils informed of the changes to recycling sites in their area, individual emails were sent containing information about the changes, reasons for these changes, timescales and exactly which sites were affected. Emails were issued circa 17th August 2012.
- 4.2. Notices were displayed at all sites affected by changes. In order to keep users informed of the changes, the council put up signs on all the sites containing information about the change dates. These signs were then replaced more recently with updated signs to inform residents that plastic bottles and cardboard are no longer collected at the site.
- 4.3. Services were changed or discontinued (as announced) on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The relevant bins are being removed during October, as planned.
- 4.4. In addition the changes were featured in the Salisbury Journal a few weeks ago and have been highlighted on the Wiltshire Council and Recycle for Wiltshire websites.

---

Report Author: (Andy Conn – Head of Waste Management)  
Tel No: 01225 713422  
E-Mail: [andy.conn@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.conn@wiltshire.gov.uk)

---

Background papers:

Report to Cabinet member and published decision:  
<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=649>