

Questions from Charmian Spickernell, Vice-Chair of the CPRE.

Councillor Bridget Wayman – Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Waste

Everleigh Household Recycling Centre

Background

CPRE put questions to Cabinet relating to Everleigh HRC at Meetings held on 30th January and 6th February and now wishes to put one follow up question and two new questions to Cabinet today.

Follow Up Question

With reference to the fifth Question put on 30th January, and the second interim Question put on 6th February and the responses thereto, CPRE considers that neither Question has been answered fully. CPRE has NOT requested that Cabinet gives an undertaking that Everleigh will not be closed, but simply that the circumstances that have surrounded the site since the changeover in contractors on 2nd October 2017 will be fully and fairly taken into account when assessing its future viability. Therefore:

- a) Will Cabinet confirm that in assessing the Everleigh site on any comparative basis with other HRCs, no account will be taken of statistics, of any kind, arising out of operations after the beginning of October 2017?

Answer

The council will take relevant statistics into account when making any decision about Everleigh. Cabinet recognises the point you make and the statistics reported to Pewsey community area board on 5 March related to the period from October 2016 to September 2017 to address this issue.

Question

- b) Will Cabinet confirm that, where any use is made of Everleigh statistics on a comparative basis with other HRC's prior to October 2017, the fact that all the other HRCs operated at times for a longer number of hours than Everleigh, is a factor that must be taken into account when considering the statistics from that site, and reasonable adjustment will be made thereto, in order for a level playing field to be achieved?

Answer

The council is aware that the opening hours at Everleigh are from 10:00 to 16:00 five days per week all year round whereas other sites opened at 09:00 from 1 April to 31 October. This information will be added to any future presentations of data. However, the opening hours at Everleigh were not extended during the summer because there was no demand to justify incurring the additional expenditure. The number of visits

reported per hour were based on actual opening hours so the chart that sets out this data does compare like with like.

New Questions to Cabinet

1. CPRE notes that no response was provided by Wiltshire Council to an important question raised by the Pewsey Community Area Partnership in advance of the Pewsey Area Board meeting on 5th March, the relevant text being as follows:

“That it was apparent from the information provided by the Environment Agency and the latest status from Wiltshire Council sent with Ms Carter’s e-mail of 21st February to a number of local Councillors, that there is no current, or previous, non-compliance with Environmental Legislation at the Everleigh site. There is simply a potential drainage risk raised by FCC with respect to Environmental Legislation”.

Will Cabinet confirm that:

- a) There is no current or previous non-compliance with Environmental Legislation in respect of drainage at the Everleigh site?

Answer

As stated in the previous briefing note, originally issued on 5 October 2017, the previous site operation posed a risk of environmental non-compliance.

Question

- b) That any concerns raised by FCC Environment at, or around, the time of the changeover in operators are no longer relevant?

Answer

The concerns raised remain relevant in respect of the previous site operation. The changes made to the layout of the site mean that the risk is currently being managed.

Question

2. Local residents have been deprived of significant re-cycling facilities at Everleigh for over five months now. It serves a wide rural area. The Environment Agency would seemingly have no objection to the status quo ante being restored with the customary metal containers. CPRE therefore sees no obvious reason why all the original facilities should not be restored forthwith at Everleigh. Therefore:
 - a) While Wiltshire Council may still be in the process of obtaining further surveys and cost estimates for repairs to the Everleigh drainage system, (which they have publicly acknowledged are now required because of their previous failure to inspect and maintain the infrastructure of the site) as that situation has

no environmental non-compliance issues as far as the Environment Agency is concerned, will Cabinet confirm that immediate action will be taken to restore all the recycling facilities removed from Everleigh on 6th October 2017 in an action that now seems unjustified, unfair to the local residents and against the stated aims to recycle more in order to conserve resources, reduce carbon emissions and reduce the amount sent to landfill, and;

Answer

The following table sets out the materials which we are not currently collecting at Everleigh and the alternatives for their disposal. Local household recycling centres to Everleigh are Marlborough (9 miles), Devizes (10 miles) and Amesbury (14 miles).

Non Landfilled Material	Alternative recycling options	Can material be placed in non-recyclable waste bin at Everleigh if brought onto site?
Cardboard	Kerbside collection service, other local household recycling centres	Yes
Food and Drinks Cartons	Local household recycling centres	Yes
Rigid Plastics (including bottles, pots, tubs and trays and hard household plastics)	Local household recycling centres, plastic bottles in kerbside collection service	Yes
Car Batteries	Local household recycling centres, scrap merchants	No – Hazardous waste cannot be sent to landfill
Domestic Batteries	Local household recycling centres, supermarkets and shops	No – Hazardous waste cannot be sent to landfill
Engine Oil	Local household recycling centres, car garages	No – Hazardous waste cannot be sent to landfill
Tyres	Local household recycling centres, car garages	No – Tyres cannot be sent to landfill
Low Energy Light Bulbs	Local household recycling centres, some supermarkets	No – Electrical items cannot be sent to landfill
Household chemicals (oil based paints, cleaning chemicals, household pesticides)	Local household recycling centres,	No – Hazardous waste cannot be sent to landfill

While there have been no environmental incidents the risk of environmental non-compliance continues until the drainage issues are resolved. The current site operation will therefore continue.

Question

- b) Having had reasonable time to obtain the necessary information, can Cabinet now confirm the nature of the repairs required and the cost thereof?

Answer

A detailed drainage survey has now been completed and the resulting report has now been made available. This will inform the design of the work required and enable us to provide a detailed cost estimate for consideration.