

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**12 June 2018**

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**Colin Gale**

**To Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

**Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Pewsey Parish Council (PPC) Statement to Wiltshire Council Cabinet, 12 June 2018, on the status of Everleigh HRC**

- PCAP submitted questions on Everleigh Household Recycling Centre to the Pewsey Area Board on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The Director for Waste did not answer the questions as part of her presentation at the Area Board and has still not provided a formal response to the questions which were submitted prior to the meeting.
- PCAP/CPRE/PPC submitted further questions to the WC Cabinet meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed by Cabinet at the direction of Baroness Scott that the continuous to-ing and fro-ing was not progressing the situation and not satisfying either parties. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with the Cabinet Member to resolve the status. Questions would be submitted prior to this meeting to aid the discussions. The area WC Councillors requested that they also attend.
- The meeting with PCAP and CPRE was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A history of events covering the period since September 2015 was provided in advance along with a set of questions. This information was also provided to all the area WC Councillors. The questions and draft responses were discussed. The following is a snapshot of some of the status advised:
  - The drainage system that was installed at Everleigh in 1996 was not installed in accordance with the original design.
  - There has been no maintenance carried out at Everleigh since 1996 and as a consequence the shortfall in drainage was not discovered until the recent surveys were conducted as part of the changeover of contractors in 2017.
  - The original Environmental Agency permit covered a much reduced set of recyclable items. As a consequence the installed drainage system would have been adequate. The level of recycling has grown which at the time of contract transfer has highlighted the potential risk and has

resulted in a reduced range of recycling being made available at the Everleigh HRC.

- The original contract with Hills was written at a much higher level than contracts now issued by WC. However, under the Hills contract there may be some liability for Hills to pay for some of the recovery of the site but the majority of the liability would fall to WC.
- PCAP/CPRE/PPC have still not received a formal response to the questions submitted for this meeting.
- The area WC Councillors held a separate meeting with the Cabinet Member on 10<sup>th</sup> May. No feedback on this meeting has been provided, however, at the Pewsey Area Board on 21<sup>st</sup> May the Councillors in response to a similar statement being made did confirm the meeting did take place but stated that they were unable to provide details of the meeting due to confidentiality.
- PCAP/CPRE/PPC have, and will continue to provide full support to try and progress the Everleigh issue but at present the action is firmly with Wiltshire Council to provide formal responses to the questions raised.

Since the submission of this statement responses have been received on 7<sup>th</sup> June which the organisations are reviewing. A further meeting has been offered by the Director of Waste to discuss the responses. It is probable that further discussion will be requested.

Yesterday we were also notified that a consultation on the proposed closure of Everleigh HRC had been posted on the WC website. This was surprising when discussions were still ongoing on the status and issues over Everleigh. I have reviewed the consultation document and support document and my initial belief is the consultation as presented is unlawful based on the criteria laid down by the Supreme Court. I believe a number of the 6 criteria stipulated by the Supreme Court have been breached. We will advise accordingly in due course.