

Lea and Cleverton Parish Council

Our Parish has mounted a campaign to reverse the decision made by Wiltshire Council to close the mini-recycling centres across the County.

The decision has been taken purely on financial grounds without consultation, without proper consideration of the overall effect and above all against the wishes of the end user. We believe that there will be a financial impact but not the one anticipated.

We know that the facility within our Parish is well used as an overspill to the Black Box collection and suspect that this is the case in other areas. In addition the collection bins for clothes and other items are seen as beneficial in the general drive to recycle more material.

Our parishioners tell us that they do not want additional boxes or bins as they often have difficulty storing the existing ones within their property. It is also said that full Black Boxes are heavy to carry to the point of collection. The suggestion of extra items being placed in plastic bags alongside the Black Box is seen as a retrograde step that will lead to general spillage due to either mis-handling or attack overnight by foxes or other animals.

To avoid the ten mile round trip to the nearest main recycling centre residents tell us that they will place any surplus (usually placed in the containers at our mini-recycling centre) into the general waste bin which will be then placed in landfill.

If we accept that cost is the only driver behind this decision we believe that such a move would be counterproductive.

We are informed that out of 36,000 tonnes of recycled material some 3,000 tonnes is collected from the mini recycling centres.

We believe that our village is representative of communities across the county in its views of what will happen to the material usually placed in the bins in these mini centres. Therefore we forecast that the following will be the likely outcome.

Assuming that only half of the 3,000 tonnes is placed to landfill the cost to the county at £80 per tonne would equate to £120,000 - a figure very close to the anticipated saving from closing the facilities. So why withdraw this valuable facility - why not encourage the use of these centres and save money in the process.

In addition an extra 1,500 tonnes going to landfill might well cause of the landfill targets to be exceeded, thereby attracting fines or levies from the EU.

We believe that this decision has been taken without proper consideration to the eventual cost or the nature of the facility provided and would ask the Area Board to support our move to have this decision reversed.

John Cull - Chairman - Lea and Cleverton Parish Council