

Introduction

It is clear that we are entering a new era concerning resource management, carbon management and waste recycling. Our waste, waste awareness and re-use and recycling innovation will change at a faster pace than ever before

South West Wiltshire Green Party recently submitted a response to Wiltshire Council's Waste and Recycling Survey 2017. During the consideration of our response a number of questions arose which South West Wiltshire Green Party are submitting now.

Questions 1 & 2 to be asked by Bill Jarvis

Questions 3 to be asked by Marie Hillcoat

Question 4 to be asked by Harriet James

Question 5 & 6 to be asked by Christopher Walford

Question 1 Waste Management Contracts

As of now, the plans for waste management over at least the next 8 years are cast in contracts already let.

For collections, the new 8 year contract is with Hills. As of July 2018, they will be collecting more plastics, but not all, in our blue bins. They will also be collecting glass separately. This contract is until 2025.

For disposal, even more onerous contract periods have been set until 2036 (Lakeside, 50,000 tonnes per year) and 2038 (Hills, 60,000 tonnes per year). Each of these is a minimum tonnage. However good we become as recyclers, 110,000 tonnes will HAVE to be provided to these contracts every year or the Council will suffer penalties.

According to the Council's End Use Register 2016/7 waste figures, Wiltshire are already suffering penalties. In 2016/17 Lakeside only received c45kte; Hills only received 59kte, of which (after moisture losses) a mere 1.3% was recycled.

Hill's MBT plant sent 18.7kt to landfill which must have cost Council tax payers over £1.5m in landfill tax (£84.40 per tonne) paid to central government.

Council Tax payers are unable to see if they are getting good value for money from these contracts because the gate fees and income from recyclates are hidden by a veil of 'commercial confidentiality'. Neither is it known if the Lakeside contract requires a minimum calorific value per ton or if there are minimum contractual tonnages for landfill.

When the new collection contract starts in 2018, the amount of recycling should improve, with all plastics (except 2D) being recycled and glass collected separately. Good quality recovery could make modest improvements to recycling rates.

Question 1: In light of the above can the Committee explain what was the purpose the Waste Survey and Consultation and what improvement can the people of Wiltshire expect to see in Waste Management because of it?

Question 2 Food Waste Management

- 110 Local Authorities in England are now operating successful food waste collections.
- With "smart" collections, food waste can be collected efficiently.

- Gate fees for food waste into Anaerobic Digesters are at an all-time low and plants are already operating in Wiltshire.
- Output from Anaerobic Digestion plant can benefit the local community through heat and power, including the gas availability for transport use.
- Keeping food waste out of residual waste collected delivers a significant improvement in potential recycle quality and subsequent resale value

Question 2: There is strong evidence that food waste collections and processing through AD plant can deliver significant economies and improvements in the waste management process. Why are Wiltshire Council not introducing this process?

Question 3 Open and Transparent approach to waste management

More ambitious waste management with targets plus a transparent and flexible forward approach to all waste management needs is essential if the County is to engage with the community to minimise costs and environmental impacts.

Question 3: How do the Council see the consultation process that has recently taken place building into an awareness campaign to improve recycling rates?

Question 4 Waste Management Contracts (2)

With the pace of change in waste type passing through the waste management system, all contracts to manage that need to be both flexible and easily terminated if they are no longer delivering best value or environmental benefit to the County.

Question 4: Can the Council confirm that all waste collection and management contracts let have such flexibility clauses and that future contracts will also have these?

Question 5 -Local Economy

With the changes in global positioning on waste, including Brexit and China's decision to stop import of recyclates from January 2018 there is a real opportunity for the County to push reprocessing locally.

At present the UK exports around 60% of all materials that could be reprocessed into new materials and goods. There is a dearth of such facilities in UK which has been created by the "easy" option of cheap export.

Question 5: Will Wiltshire Council set up a county-wide forum which will support and promote the development of such industry?

Question 6 Best Available Technology (BAT)

There is planning permission for an Advanced Thermal Treatment plant to process waste in Westbury that would otherwise go to landfill or Energy from Waste plant.

The proposed ATT plant does not use Best Available Technology in its design. The proposal is outdated and was designed for managing materials other than municipal waste. The emissions management system for this plant does not use the Best Available Technology to control the small particulate emissions in order to avoid harm to human health. It is generally agreed that the impact of these emissions has been underestimated in the past. The plant's proposed location is inappropriate as it has not taken into account the potential impact of the inevitable emissions on the local community.

Question 6: Will Wiltshire Council revisit the approval given to the ATT plant to ensure the company applies Best Available Technology to the facility and will the Council also confirm that they are not preparing to enter into long term minimum tonnage contracts with the company for supply to this plant?