

Environment Portfolio Holder Update

Recycling

Green bins have now been delivered to the majority of properties in Westbury and the surrounding villages. Roadshows took place two weeks ago and were well attended by residents. The response was very positive with most people supporting the proposed twin bin scheme. The first collections will start on Friday 10th February. Due to Easter Bank Holidays it has been decided to delay the roll-out in Bradford-on-Avon until April 2006 with the first collections planned for the beginning of May.

Recycling figures for January will be available in mid January and are expected to show an average recycling rate of between 25% and 26%. With the introduction of the twin bin scheme in Warminster and Westbury the year end average is likely to be between 26% and 27% against a target of 21%.

The year to date BVPI 199 performance is on target. The Wiltshire wide LPSA 2 stretch target has been agreed at 16.25%. This will be a challenge for West Wiltshire with an expected contribution of a sub 20% performance required by March 2008. With successful service bids for two new sweepers, and some changes to the way we work, we should be able to hit the target. The recently hired in sweeper which has been working hard to clean main roads has made a big difference and will be retained for a further month.

The new Streetscene Maintenance Officer, Philip Hart, joined us on 31st January. His first task will be to assess how accurate our grounds and cleansing records are. He will then be working on updating the records and the production of work schedules

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Following the Cabinet meeting on 11 January, the Five Towns Initiative discussed the Act at its meeting on 25 January.

The town councils represented at the meeting agreed to investigate the potential for working with the Police Neighbourhood Teams on enforcement issues. A discussion paper is being produced to be circulated around the town councils, to facilitate a debate particularly on the funding issue.

Flooding Issues in Wynsome Street, Southwick:

Residents had contacted the MP Dr A Murrison regarding flooding in back gardens. We carried out a camera survey of the sewers whilst using one elsewhere in the district and found the pipes to be in poor condition pipes downstream belong to Wessex Water and appear in good condition. The pipes in question are private sewers and are the responsibility of the landowners.

Trowbridge Cemetery:

Costs for the extension of drainage and paths in Trowbridge cemetery have been received and the work will go ahead as soon as the capital is approved. Hopefully this will be at the February Council meeting as it is a variation to the current year capital programme.

Burials Administration:

Burials administration transferred from Environmental Health to Property and Estates on 23 January 2006.