

Chairman's Announcements

1. Recycling Success

The success of Wiltshire's kerbside collection of plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, cans, textiles, glass bottles and garden waste has led to a review of the county's mini-recycling sites.

Households across Wiltshire recycled more than 68,000 tonnes last year through the kerbside collections, including garden waste. 36,000 tonnes of this came from the black box and blue lidded bin collections meaning the smaller recycling sites in the county are now used very little – less than 3,000 tonnes is expected to be collected through the mini recycling sites this year.

Since the introduction of the new kerbside collection there has been a sharp fall in the amount of waste being taken to mini recycling sites, such as those in car park. These sites collect the same materials as the black box kerbside service, meaning it is a duplication of service. As a result, the remaining 126 mini-recycling sites in Wiltshire will be removed, with the money saved by reducing this service duplication being ploughed back into vital council services.

Signs informing people about the proposed changes will be displayed from early April, and all sites will close from 5 May. Recycling bins will be removed from the site shortly afterwards and before the end of May. Sites will be regularly cleaned after the containers have been removed to manage any littering or flytipping issues that may occur in the short term.

Any households without a blue lidded plastic bottle and cardboard bin or a black recycling box, can obtain one by contacting the council. Households can also have up to two black recycling boxes for recycling paper, glass, cans and textiles. On occasions where households have more recyclables than can fit into two black boxes, we ask that the extra materials are separated out into carrier bags and placed out for collection alongside the black box (mixed materials may not be collected). Anyone who feels they do not have space for extra bins or boxes can contact the council to discuss alternatives.

2. Life is for Living Handbook

The 'Life is for Living' handbook is a 50 page A4 publication produced by Wiltshire Council to support older people to stay in their own homes as long

as possible by providing a wealth of information and advice such as keeping safe, falls and accident prevention, medication and much more.

I know Miranda had contacted all parish councils to ask whether they wish to distribute copies to older people living in their parish and those who have responded will be able to collect their copies tonight.

Copies will also be made available in GP surgeries, libraries and some sheltered housing schemes and I'm delighted that Ellen Blacker our Good Neighbours Scheme Co-ordinator is also distributing them to those more vulnerable clients, including those who may be confined to their home.

We know from the JSA that we have an aging population in the Malmesbury community area, so if any parish councils have second thoughts and would like copies, do contact Miranda and she can let you have them at the next area board in July.