

COMMENTS

Comment Received	Officer Comment
<p>Comment 1</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of Downton Parish Council to express its strong objection to the proposed reduction in both the opening hours and the number of days in which the Household Recycling Centre in Salisbury will be open from June 2015 which it believes will lead to more frequent incidences of fly-tipping.</p> <p>It would be logical to assume that with the additional charge of £40 per year, despite the green bin consultation which was less than satisfactory and Wiltshire Council's commitment to provide a free green bin in compensation for the change to two-weekly collections some years ago, those residents who choose not to pay will be required to visit the Centre more frequently. If it is closed, they will not travel the considerable distance required to leave it at the next open Centre.</p> <p>Councillors appreciated your detailed explanation given at the recent Southern Wiltshire Area Board that lack of government funding and budget constraints had left the Council with no alternative. However, it believes that the implementation of reduced hours and days at the Recycling Centres will be a false economy as officers and contractors will be required to spend money and hours in dealing with and investigating the anti-social problem of fly-tipping. The removal of tipped waste across Downton parish takes long enough as it is now, so the Parish Council is naturally concerned that the problem will only get worse.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council's continued insistence that the Council tax cannot be increased, even by 1.9%, is not supported by Councillors as they recognise that services need to be paid for. They also advocate that as a society, the residents of Wiltshire should be recycling more, not less.</p>	<p>The council will closely monitor the number (and type) of fly tipping incidents both before and after the changes. However, we do not anticipate a significant increase in fly tipping by users of the household recycling centres as we believe these residents are in the main conscientious individuals who would not willingly decide to commit an offence by dumping their waste.</p> <p>The council is committed to widely promoting the proposed changes so that site users are well informed of the changes before the planned implementation date of 13 July. The council has also sought to close the household recycling centres on their quietest, or least-used, days and has sought to stagger the closures so that the majority of households will have an alternative site available within a 15 mile driving distance of the local household recycling centre. We would of course encourage householders to plan their trips to their local site to coincide with the five days each week they remain open. However, if the trip cannot be rearranged then an alternative site would be available within that prescribed distance.</p> <p>We agree that we should be recycling more. We would hope that the majority of residents would make best use of their existing kerbside recycling services (black box and plastic bottle and cardboard collection) for the whole range of materials that can be collected via those services: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/recycling</p> <p>We would also hope that furniture and electrical items that could be re-used would be donated to the local re-use networks, such as the Burnbake Trust, as well as the growing number of British Heart Foundation outlets. Alternatively bulky items can be collected by the council for a fee. http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/large-item-collection.</p> <p>We have also seen an increase in interest from the public in our subsidised Food Waste Digesters; the "Green Johanna" has proved to be very effective at composting a mix of both food and garden waste: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-</p>

Comment 2

On behalf of Downton Green Group, I'm writing to put on record our dismay on learning that you are proposing to reduce not only the opening hours but also the number of days on which the Household Recycling Centre at Churchfields in Salisbury will be open from June 2015. We believe this will lead to:

- More incidences of fly-tipping from some people who turn up, find the centre shut or that there are long queues (an inevitable result) and cannot be bothered to come back another day. Thus it is a false economy as Wiltshire Council will be required to spend money in clearing up after this anti-social problem.
- Fewer items being recycled as people are more likely to break them up and place them in the grey bins. Are we correct in thinking that you have worked out that the potential increased cost in increased landfill charges is less than the added cost of the current opening hours?

The £40 cost per green bin is a deterrent to people recycling garden waste and now they will find it less convenient to take this waste to the recycling centre; shorter opening hours will mean longer queues particularly in the summer months when most garden waste is brought to the recycling centre.

How does this demonstrate to everybody Wiltshire Council's, so say, commitment to reducing landfill by promoting recycling? You advocate that we should all be recycling more but are making it harder for us to do so.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

The council will closely monitor the number (and type) of fly tipping incidents both before and after the changes. However, we do not anticipate a significant increase in fly tipping by users of the household recycling centres as we believe these residents are in the main conscientious individuals who would not willingly decide to commit an offence by dumping their waste.

The council is committed to widely promoting the proposed changes so that site users are well informed of the changes before the planned implementation date of 13 July. The council has also sought to close the household recycling centres on their quietest, or least-used, days and has sought to stagger the closures so that the majority of households will have an alternative site available within a 15 mile driving distance of the local household recycling centre. We would of course encourage householders to plan their trips to their local site to coincide with the five days they remain open. However, if the trip cannot be rearranged then an alternative site would be available within that prescribed distance.

Whilst there may be some householders that choose to make room in their household waste bin for materials that might otherwise have been recycled at the household recycling centre, we believe that the majority of householders will continue to utilise their household recycling centre for the mainly bulky items that residents only occasionally dispose of (wood, metals, furniture, etc). In addition, we would hope that the majority of residents would make best use of their existing kerbside recycling services (black box and plastic bottle and cardboard collection) for the whole range of materials that can be collected via those services: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/recycling>

We would also hope that furniture and electrical items that could be re-used would be donated to the local re-use networks, such as the Burnbake Trusts, as well as the growing number of British Heart Foundation outlets. Alternatively bulky items can be collected by the council for a fee. <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/large-item-collection>.

One further point to make is that 110,000 tonnes of Wiltshire's residual waste is now sent to Energy from Waste facilities. Therefore, if some material was broken up and placed in residual waste bins, the majority of this waste would not be land filled.

In 2014/15 we sent 20.3% of the waste we collected to landfill, compared with 56.4% in 2008/09.

I note your comment about additional queues at the household recycling centres resulting from the reduced opening hours, combined with the charge for garden waste collections. The proposed decision to reduce opening hours considered the fact that relatively few visits took place between 9-10:00 and between 16:00 – 17:00. In the case of Salisbury household recycling centre, even fewer visits took place between 17:00 and 20:00. We shall closely monitor this at all of the household recycling centres. I would also note that we currently have almost 50,000 households now having signed up and paid for their garden waste collections to continue. We shall place bin hangers on garden waste bins following the last free collection to remind residents that collections become chargeable from 15 June, and will not empty garden waste bins without the “paid for” label from that date. We would anticipate that each of these further measures will encourage yet more householders to opt-in to the scheme. Clearly, the more residents that choose to opt- for the garden waste chargeable collections, the less pressure on residents who have decided to use the household recycling centre instead.

We have also seen an increase in interest from the public in our subsidised Food Waste Digesters; the “Green Johanna” has proved to be very effective at composting a mix of both food and garden waste:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/home-composting>

Comment 3

Purton Parish Council has read and debated the proposals at their recent Council Meeting held on the 11th May 2015, for a change in both operating days and times of the HRC sites within Wiltshire and wishes to comment as follows :-

We understand the ethos of the proposal to save expenditure on behalf of Wiltshire Council whilst still attempting to give the public a value for money service however we do raise concern over the closure of HRC sites some two days per week plus a reduction in the remaining daily operating times.

The proposal states that a least one HRC site, within a specific area of Wiltshire, will be open seven days per week, however when looking at this in more detail we find that the statement is not quite

I acknowledge the fact that some distance may need to be travelled to access an alternative site. However, we would hope that most visits to local household recycling centres (which remain open for five days of the week) could be planned to coincide with the revised operating times after the 13 July 2015. Where this is not possible we have sought to stagger each site closure to allow those residents that are unable to rearrange their need to access a household recycling centre on a particular day to be able to travel to an alternative site. We have attempted to ensure that one should be available within 15 miles of the local site.

Whilst not an exact science this aspiration has been achieved, with all sites having an alternative

<p>that which it seems for residents here in Purton.</p> <p>When our local HRC site is closed the nearest site open will be at Stanton-St-Quintin some 20miles away. To travel such a distance is simply not practicable and will only serve to add more traffic onto our already congested roads.</p> <p>We are of the opinion that unlike other areas within Wiltshire such as the principle main towns, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, Chippenham and Calne where HRC sites are in closer proximity of each; other Purton being in the far Northern corner of the County is out on a limb plus there is also the issue of Swindon residents using the site despite the best efforts of HRC site staff they cannot in busy times challenge all who enter the site.</p> <p>Due to the location of the Purton HRC site as detailed above and in relation to other sites within the North Wilts area along with its close proximity to Swindon, we would request that you look again at this site in regard to the proposal with a view to reducing the closure to a maximum of one day per week but preferable to remain open seven days per week.</p> <p>We are concerned that as a result of the proposed reduction in both opening and operating times we will see an increase in 'Fly tipping' from the private sector as we are aware that individuals will be caught out in relation to opening times, not wishing to return home with their rubbish they will find the nearest gateway or lay-by in which to deposit it, such action will then incur cost for Wiltshire Council in respect of collection and disposal and ultimately the Council Tax payer.</p> <p>We hope as a Council you will listen to the concerns and those of residents of Purton.</p>	<p>site available within the 15 mile distance (as calculated using AA Route Planner based on site post code). In the case of Purton specifically, the Honeyball site near Lower Compton (SN11 8RE) is 15 miles from the Purton site, Stanton St Quintin (SN14 6BD) is 19 miles distant and the Marlborough site (SN8 4AN) a journey of 20 miles.</p> <p>We do not anticipate an increase in fly tipping, although we shall be monitoring this closely both before and after the proposed changes are implemented. It is worth noting that the household recycling centres are provided for the management of household waste only and are not permitted to accept commercial waste. You mention a potential increase in fly tipping from the private sector but as commercial waste should not have been delivered to the household recycling centres this should not occur as a consequence of changes to the opening hours.</p> <p>The council intends to implement a six week communications programme before the changes are introduced in order to ensure that site users are informed of the revised opening hours. With regard to residents of Swindon using the Purton household recycling centre, clearly the site is provided for the use of Wiltshire residents only. If we identify problems arising from the use of the site by Swindon residents, the council would need to consider how this might be managed, or prevented, in future.</p> <p>Given the current pressures on the council's budgets, the contribution that revised operating times at each site makes to the overall savings targets and the aspiration to offer the same level of service to all residents, the council does not consider it viable to open the HRC at Purton for six days per week, instead of the proposed five.</p>
<p>Comment 4</p> <p>I have read the proposal with regard to the reduction of opening times of HRC sites throughout Wiltshire of which I am saddened to see.</p> <p>My comments in relation to the proposal are as detailed below:-</p> <p>The proposal states that residents will have access to at least one HRC site within their area seven days a week.</p> <p>Nearest HRC site which will be open in North Wilts</p>	<p>I acknowledge the fact that some distance may need to be travelled to access an alternative site. However, we would hope that most visits to local household recycling centres (which remain open for five days of the week) could be planned to coincide with the revised operating times after the 13 July 2015. Where this is not possible we have sought to stagger each site closure to allow those residents that absolutely require access to a site on a particular day to access one within, say, 15 miles of the local site.</p> <p>Whilst not an exact science this aspiration has</p>

<p>area when Purton is closed will be at Stanton St Quintin, some 20 miles away.</p> <p>Those living in areas such as Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster and Calne will not be effected so badly as HRC sites are within a closer proximity of each other.</p> <p>I feel that due to the location of the Purton HRC site serving not only Purton but Towns such as Cricklade, RWB and such Villages in between that it will be totally impractable to access another site when Purton is closed therefor we as residents within the area as detailed will not have access to another site as stated without travelling a considerable distance and as such adding to the already congested roads within the North Wilts area.</p> <p>We will I feel see an increase in fly tipping from the private sector for as we know there are people from Swindon that come to Purton, they will undoubtedly be caught out and find the HRC site closed, not wanting to take their rubbish home they will find the nearest available layby or gateway in which to dump it in, such action will instigate the necessity for Wiltshire Council to clean up the rubbish at a cost to not only to the Council but ultimately us as Council Tax payers.</p> <p>The Purton HRC site already sees rubbish dumped outside its gates when closed and the decision to close the site for two days per week and reduce the opening hours will undoubtedly only serve make matters worse.</p> <p>Due to the location of the Purton HRC site in relation to other sites within the North Wilts area and its close proximity to Swindon (Ridgeway Farm, Mouldon Hill which is in the Parish of Purton and North Wilts) I would plead that you look again at this site in regard to motion as proposed with a view to reducing the closure to a maximum of one day per week.</p>	<p>been achieved, with all sites having an alternative site available within the 15 mile distance (as calculated using AA Route Planner based on site post code). In the case of Purton specifically the Honeyball site near Lower Compton (SN11 8RE) is 15 miles from the Purton site, Stanton St Quintin (SN14 6BD) is 19 miles distant and the Marlborough site (SN8 4AN) 20 miles.</p> <p>We do not anticipate an increase in fly tipping, although we shall be monitoring this closely both before and after the proposed changes are implemented.</p> <p>The council intends to implement a six week communications programme before the changes are introduced in order that site users are informed of the revised opening hours. With regard to residents of Swindon using the Purton household recycling centre, clearly the site is provided for the use of Wiltshire residents only. If we identify problems arising from the use of the site by Swindon residents, the council would need to consider how this might be prevented in future.</p> <p>Given the current pressures on the council's budgets, the contribution that revised operating times at each site makes to the overall savings targets and the aspiration to offer the same level of service to all residents, the council does not consider it viable to open the household recycling centre at Purton for six days per week, instead of the proposed five.</p>
<p>Comment 5</p> <p>You may remember that the Chairman at the last Amesbury Board held in Durrington, allowed me to ask as to why the waste depots run in Partnership with Hills and Wiltshire Council are cutting back on the service they give throughout the County. Effectively this would effect Amesbury and Salisbury and all the surrounding villages if It is to be cut back two days a week and the hours alongside the days are open only from 10 am to 4pm. The staff who</p>	<p>As part of the council's budget savings proposals for 2015/16, the Waste Service has committed to reviewing the opening hours of our 11 household recycling centres with our service provider, Hills Waste Solutions.</p> <p>You will appreciate that, with the need to close an increasing funding gap with a reduction in grants from central government combined with an increase in demand for other key services, we have had to closely review the waste service in its</p>

run it will have to face redundancies and those who are left will lose some £1500 per year!

While I have seen the paperwork in regards to this, the Public know nothing about it! Even the Salisbury Journal who I wrote to appear to keep quiet about it!

The Chairman said he sat on the committee at Trowbridge, he also said he agreed with me that the terms were not very agreeable to the staff or the Public and would bring this matter up. What it boils down to in regards to the public is poor service. While we want to protect our countryside the mess will now increase when this is put into place. Secondly the Staff do not earn a fortune and many because of age will find it difficult to find work. Thirdly, the cost of continuing the service will cost I am told, well under £1.80 per month on our rates per month! The Silence by all concerned is not very agreeable.

Further comment following initial officer response:

While this has been held back from the public for so long I do not know, but will guess that an Election of some importance was to be held!

As we are now a fully and well justified a Conservative Council throughout Wiltshire, I am sure nobody wants any special favours, but would the Board perhaps consider keeping things as they are with both the opening times and the staff keeping their jobs? This work is not known for paying high wages but the Amesbury staff give excellent service especially to the elderly and infirm, as I am sure all the depots do! The cut in their wages or loss of jobs, is I am sure, not what the Government would agree with to keep the rates down! I was informed that this would mean a small increase if this action was not taken! The last thing poorly paid and elderly people want is to lose their jobs.

As our rates, thanks to this Government, has not shown any large increase since they came to Power five years ago I do not think the Population would moan about paying that small increase for the service given to all.

If this action goes forward, I have no doubt the damage to our environment with 'Fly' dumping will increase considerably especially when the depots

current configuration. It was clear that there were distinct periods where each of the household recycling centres were underused.

The proposed changes should take effect from **13 July 2015**. Hills are working with the staff affected to minimise the impact of these changes on them.

The council will ensure that no less than six weeks notice of the changes is provided to site users, and a communication plans to deliver this is in development. I have no doubt that disseminating this service information via the Community Area Boards will feature as part of the communications plan, as will communicating directly with site users at the household recycling centres.

The decision to review the opening hours of the household recycling centres was made by full Council on its budget meeting on 24 February 2015. The proposed operating hours were published during the last week of March following the review of use of the sites during the current opening hours.

Hills are continuing to consult and work with their staff to manage the impact of the changes on them.

I note your concerns about fly tipping. The council does not expect a significant increase but will monitor this to assess any impact of the changes to opening hours.

will be closed at such an early hour in the evening and late in the mornings.

I do hope our Local MP's and Councillors will support this proposal.