

Warwickshire Waste Partnership – 4th December 2006

The Refurbishment of Hunters Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station, Rugby

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the Officers Group

Summary

The report details the proposed redevelopment of the Hunters Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station, including the proposed layout.

Recommendation

That Members support the proposals for the refurbishment of the Hunters Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station in Rugby.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hunters Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station ('Hunters Lane') was built in 1979 and is now in need of substantial refurbishment.
- 1.2 It was designed primarily as a waste transfer station to transfer up to 30,000 tonnes per annum of waste, which had been collected from the kerbside by Rugby Borough Council. The site consists of a large deep pit for waste with associated compaction plant, an office block, a weighbridge, and some small areas for recycling and re-use. However, reductions in the waste received by the site from the Borough Council means that it is now used mainly as a public recycling centre. The majority of the Borough Council's waste is now delivered direct to the local landfill site.
- 1.3 Hunters Lane is the only household waste recycling centre in the Borough of Rugby, which has a population of approximately 91,600. The site currently provides collection facilities for the recycling of paper, cardboard, wood, textiles, engine oil, scrap metal, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans, glass bottles, car batteries, inert material, green waste, fridges, televisions and computer monitors.
- 1.4 An allocation of approximately £1.3 million for the redevelopment of the facility is currently included within the Capital Programme.

2. Refurbishment Options Assessment

- 2.1 Although Hunters Lane currently experiences problems with capacity and access to recycling areas that cause congestion within the site and queuing outside, the site itself is well situated. Therefore, given the problems associated with finding land suitable for household waste facilities, it was decided to refurbish the existing site instead trying to find a new one.
- 2.2 As the Hunters Lane site is small for a combined household waste facility and waste transfer station, at just under 0.5 hectares, an options assessment was carried out by experts in recycling centre developments, SLR Consulting Ltd.
- 2.3 SLR Consulting were instructed to look at a range of options in terms of layouts, capacities and costs to enable a fully informed decision to be made about the future of the site. These options were:-
- (i) Any short term changes to the site to improve recycling rates.
 - (ii) The capability of the current layout, with minor refurbishment works.
 - (iii) Layout options for retaining both the household waste recycling centre and waste transfer station on the current site.
 - (iv) Layout options for using the current site to accept household waste and trade waste only.
 - (v) Layout options for using the site for household waste only.
 - (vi) A generic layout for a waste transfer station with a 22,000 tonne per annum capacity, sufficient for the anticipated needs of Rugby Borough Council.
- 2.4 For each of these options SLR Consulting was asked to provide a layout for a split level site with a one way traffic management system, incorporating a large re-use shop, which is established best practice in Warwickshire. For each option they were also required to detail the advantages and disadvantages of the layout and predict the likelihood of a 60% recycling rate being achieved.

3. Proposals for Refurbishing the Hunters Lane Site

- 3.1 Of the three possible layouts identified in the report and listed above, the one for retaining the waste transfer station on the existing site as well as the household waste recycling centre would not be able to provide the required 60% recycling rate due to the lack of space on site.
- 3.2 The other two layouts for the household waste recycling centre would be able to achieve the required recycling rate. Therefore, in order to continue to provide a waste disposal service for small traders and offset the management costs of the site, it was decided to retain the trade waste facility.

3.3 A plan showing the layout of the proposed redevelopment to a split level facility is shown in **Appendix A**, this drawing will be displayed at full A1 size for perusal at the meeting. This plan has been sent to the following stakeholders:-

- (i) Clews Recycling, who run the existing site.
- (ii) Warwickshire County Council Health and Safety Team.
- (iii) Sustainable Rugby.
- (iv) Rugby Borough Council.
- (v) The Waste Planning Authority.
- (vi) Councillor J Wells and Councillor Ms K King.

3.4 The comments received to date are generally very positive about the proposals but also include the following concerns:-

- (i) The potential for congestion around the entrance and shop area.
- (ii) Lack of parking available on the site due to space constraints.
- (iii) The need for the storage of spare skips on site.
- (iv) Better demarcation of pedestrian walkways.

These concerns and any additional ones raised will be addressed in the development of the design.

4. Transfer of Rugby Borough Council's Waste

4.1 As these proposals for the redevelopment of the Hunters Lane site will result in the loss of the existing waste transfer facility, discussions are taking place with Rugby Borough Council regarding the possibility of working together to locate the facility elsewhere. At present Rugby Borough Council only transfers approximately 3,500 tonnes per annum of waste through the facility and it is probable that this could be accommodated elsewhere.

6. Timescale for Redevelopment

6.1 The timescale for the redevelopment is as follows:-

December 2006 – Apply for planning permission

Autumn 2007 – Commence works on site

Spring 2008 – Open new facility

6.2 It is proposed to carry out the works to the site during the winter months when the demand is less.

7. Temporary Arrangements for Duration of Construction Works

7.1 A number of options are being assessed for the provision of alternative facilities while the Hunters Lane site is closed for construction. These include:-

- (i) Increased opening hours for Stockton Household Waste Recycling Centre while Hunters Lane is closed.
- (ii) The provision of an alternative tipping area for trade waste and Rugby Borough Council's waste at Unit 17 of Hunters Lane Industrial Estate.
- (iii) Improved provision of bring banks in the area for glass, paper etc.
- (iv) Restricted facilities at the Hunters Lane site for general household waste only.
- (v) An agreement with Leicestershire County Council for Warwickshire residents to use the Lutterworth Household Waste Recycling Centre for the duration of the works.

7.2 It is probable that a mixture of the above will be utilised. The alternative options for waste disposal and recycling will be widely advertised in advance, and while the Hunters Lane facility is closed.

Enquiries: About this report should be made to Jo Ingle, Project Manager, 01926 418064, email joingle@warwickshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

None.

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23rd November 2006