

Warwickshire Waste Partnership - 27th February 2007

Temporary Arrangements for Public Recycling Facilities in Rugby - Winter 2007/8

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

Summary

This report details the proposed temporary arrangements that will be put in place to serve the Rugby area with public household waste recycling facilities while the Hunters Lane site is closed for refurbishment from September 2007 to March 2008.

Recommendation

That Members note the proposed temporary arrangements for household waste recycling while the Hunters Lane site is closed for refurbishment.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The existing household waste recycling centre and waste transfer station at Hunters Lane, Rugby, is now over 25 years old. As such it is being refurbished to provide a modern split level site designed to meet the current and future recycling needs of the local residents. To do this it is necessary to completely demolish the current site and build a new facility.
- 1.2 Given the scale and nature of the works required it was decided that the best course of action would be to close the site while the works were carried out as quickly as possible. In order to minimise the disruption caused by this, the works have been programmed to take place during the winter months while the site is considerably quieter.
- 1.3 The alternative course of action would be to try and keep a part of the site open while the works take place. However, it was ascertained that this would not be feasible due to the size of the site. Even if it were feasible to keep a small space available, working around, and keeping safe, an area being constantly used by the public during working hours would result in the works taking a lot longer to complete with a corresponding increase in costs. This would then affect the site at its busiest times of the year.

2. Options for Alternative Facilities

Local Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 2.1 The two other household waste recycling centres closest to Rugby are Stockton in Warwickshire and Lutterworth in Leicestershire. The location of these sites is shown in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Stockton is currently only open at the weekend but both the Planning Permission and the Waste Management Licence allow it to be open full time, seven days a week. The Stockton site is located 9 miles from Hunters Lane, and it takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes to travel by car between the two sites. This site could serve residents who live in the southern half of the Rugby area.
- 2.3 Leicestershire County Council have agreed that Warwickshire residents can use the Lutterworth site while Hunters Lane is closed. The site is located on the southern side of Lutterworth, just off the A426. It is 7 miles from Hunters Lane and, with the journey taking approximately 10 to 15 minutes, could serve residents in the northern area.
- 2.4 Both sites offer recycling facilities for the following materials:-
 - (i) Paper and cardboard.
 - (ii) Hardcore and rubble.
 - (iii) Glass, cans and plastic bottles.
 - (iv) Engine oil.
 - (v) Scrap metal and clean kitchen foil.
 - (vi) Wood and green garden waste.
 - (vii) Televisions, monitors, fridges, freezers and other white goods.
 - (viii) Textiles.

They will also accept non-recyclable residual waste.

- 2.5 In addition the Lutterworth site will accept mobile phones and car batteries.

3. Temporary Replacement Facility in Rugby Town Centre

- 3.1 The possibility of providing an alternative household waste recycling centre in Rugby for the duration of the works has been considered extensively. Unfortunately there are few sites available that would be suitable for handling waste materials without reconstruction due to the regulatory requirements on such facilities.
- 3.2 Any temporary site would have to comply with the same planning, licensing and safety requirements as a permanent site. It would also have to provide a range of facilities for recycling in order to not undermine the efforts of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership in encouraging and increasing recycling rates.

- 3.3 It is not feasible or cost effective to provide a temporary site, even if a suitable one could be found, given the planning and licensing requirements, and bearing in mind the need to provide safe and appropriate facilities for recycling.

Bring Banks

- 3.4 Rugby Borough Council has a number of recycling banks located at sites in and around the town centre. These provide recycling facilities for glass and plastic bottles, cans and paper.
- 3.5 In discussion with Rugby Borough Council officers it is proposed to purchase additional bring banks to enable them to increase the capacity of this service. This has the added benefit of providing a long term increase in the level of recycling facilities available as well as for the duration of the works.

4. Cost of Alternative Facilities

Stockton

- 4.1 It will cost an additional £11,600 per month to open Stockton full time, manage the additional waste and recycling, and provide sufficient manpower to operate the site.

Lutterworth

- 4.2 Leicestershire County Council have agreed that, unless there is a significant increase in general waste, they will not charge for Warwickshire residents using the site. However, if it causes their disposal costs to increase dramatically they may wish to recover some of their costs. If this is the case it will be offset by a reduction in our own disposal costs and should work out to be cost neutral.

Bring Banks

- 4.3 It is proposed to purchase sufficient bins for four new bring bank sites at supermarkets that are not currently served. The cost of these bins is £2,200 per site, giving a total investment of £8,800. Rugby Borough Council also envisages that the extra use of all of their bins will cost them up to £5,000 in additional servicing.
- 4.4 These costs will be offset by the reduction in site management fees of approximately £15,000 per month while Hunters Lane is closed. Assuming that the site could be shut for up to 7 months, September to March, then the temporary arrangements should be cost neutral.

5. Proposed Temporary Arrangements

- 5.1 Given the above information it is proposed to provide the following alternative facilities while the Hunters Lane site is shut:-

- (i) Open the Stockton site 7 days a week to cover the southern area of the borough.
 - (ii) Confirm the agreement with Leicestershire County Council for Warwickshire residents to use the Lutterworth site, which will provide facilities for the north of the borough.
 - (iii) Work with RBC to provide additional bring banks for recyclables.
 - (iv) Use Unit 17 of the Hunters Lane Industrial Estate as an alternative facility for trade and Rugby Borough Council waste.
 - (v) Man a small section of the site with 2 recycling operatives who will direct users to the alternative facilities and deal with any fly tipping in the immediate area. This section of the site will have to work around the construction works and will not be suitable for the provision of public facilities for safety reasons, but will assist members of the public in finding an appropriate alternative facility.
- 5.2 These facilities will provide a suitable, cost effective alternative for the period concerned and the time of year. These alternatives are similar to those provided when the Burton Farm site was closed for refurbishment, with few problems encountered.
- 5.3 Obviously there will be disruption due to the works and it will be necessary to publicise the situation, both prior to the works commencing and while they are taking place, with regular updates on progress.
- 5.4 Rugby Borough Council has expressed concerns about increased levels of fly tipping occurring while the site is closed. It has therefore been agreed that should the fly tipping in the area become unmanageable an extra crew will be provided by Warwickshire County Council.

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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