

## **Winchester City Councillor report July 2023**

### **DIY Waste charging at Hampshire Waste and Recycling Centres**

The issue of charging for DIY waste regularly comes up at parish meetings and you may already have seen some publicity around the announcement by the government that charges for DIY waste at council tips are being abolished.

The government's announcement is undoubtedly welcome news for those undertaking DIY projects as this reduces project costs in challenging times. However, the disposal of this waste still must be paid for by the council and will incur additional costs to Hampshire County Council of around £1m per year.

This decision requires secondary legislation, so we do not know the full scope of waste included or the start date for free disposal.

Whilst we all support measures to crack down on fly tipping my sense is this will make little difference. As it happens, I am assured, incidences of illegal tipping in Hampshire are actually fewer than before DIY waste charges were introduced at household waste recycling centres. Most residents choosing to dispose of their domestic waste, do so responsibly. Unfortunately, fly tipping is often undertaken for profit by unscrupulous people and I'm not convinced they would have taken the waste to the tip even if disposal was free.

### **Update on waste and recycling in Winchester**

Winchester is a waste collection authority, which collects household waste and recycling. Hampshire County Council is a waste disposal authority which treats and manages the collected material.

Currently, Winchester collects 43,000 tonnes of waste from its residents, 17,500 tonnes is recycling including green waste and 25,500 tonnes is collected as refuse. Of the refuse collected approximately 35% of this is food waste and 5% are materials currently recyclable but in the wrong bin.

Of 11 districts in Hampshire, Winchester is currently 3rd in its recycling rate performance but we are most definitely what you would class as 'middle of the pack' across all English authorities. East Devon being top of the class, they have three weekly residual bin collections, a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly chargeable garden waste collection, a weekly recycling collection which includes glass, pots, tubs, trays, textiles, batteries, cans, bottles and cardboard. There is the potential to increase the level of recycling in Winchester removing up to approximately a further 30% from the black bins.

Central government is introducing the Deposit Returns scheme or reintroducing depending on which generation you belong to, on certain items such as plastic bottles which will remove a portion of recycling from kerbside collections. Also, the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility will mean supermarkets and the like will have to make products

easier to recycle and provide funding to local authorities to support the cost of recycling these products.

The council is currently evaluating what the shape of its future waste and recycling system should be, how to deliver the mandatory food waste collection programme, how the inter-authority agreement between Hampshire and the collection authorities should be structured and importantly how we introduce greener waste and recycling vehicles to reduce the impact on climate change.

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