

Parish report June 2021 Jill Haynes Chalk valleys Ward

This month I have done a number of councillor webinars in my portfolio role looking at our waste collection and where the waste goes after we have collected it. I thought that this month some of these facts and figures would be of interest to you.

The budget for waste collection at Dorset Council is around £32M. Just over £15M of this is in disposal of the waste. The collection vehicles and staff are operated from six depots across the county. As of this month all homes in the county have the same service, a weekly food waste collection and a fortnightly black bin collection and recycling collection with a separate glass and battery collection on this week.

We collect about 190,000 tons a year, and over 60% of this is recycled. We are proud to be in the top five for our waste services in the country and would even reach the top spot if our collections were not more expensive than urban authorities due to our rural area. All our waste is collected and taken to transfer stations where it is bulked up and taken in larger vehicles for processing.

Black Bin Waste

A normal dustcart can hold ten tons of compacted black bin waste. Each full lorry costs the council approximately £1200 to dispose of the contents after the costs of collection. After bulking up the waste is delivered to a site near Wimborne operated by New Earth Solutions. Here the waste is treated and any compostable materials like food waste, garden waste and dog poo are removed and treated in a high temperature plant to sterilise. The residual from this process is then used to back fill large quarries like the china clay quarries in Cornwall. Any tins are taken out for recycling and the residual matter including film, nappies, and you know what else you put in the black bin!! is compacted and wrapped like big bale silage. These are then taken for refuse derived fuel, large incinerators that create electricity and which also use the heat in other outlets. Currently the bulk of our waste goes to Europe where the plants are very efficient. However, from September this will go to a new state of the art plant at Bridgewater and the heat is going to be piped to the Muller dairy close to the site.

Recycling/green bin

The current contents of our green bins are

73% Newspaper, mixed papers and cardboard

7% plastic bottles

6% mixed plastics

4% ferrous cans

3% aluminium cans

7% residue we don't want like film and food waste

Dorset council could save £1.5M a year if we could stop the food waste contaminating the recycling bins!!! The cost for this recycling can range from -£50 to +£10 per tonne depending on quality and markets. Currently we are being paid for materials as there is a shortage of quality plastics. Again, the material is bulked up and taken to a very specialist plant in Shotton North Wales. It goes this far as they have the ability to recycle the bulk of our materials and pay us the best price. Much of this is because Dorset still process a lot of newsprint and this along with the mixed card and cardboard goes directly to a huge paper mill next door for reuse. Your milk bottles, plastic bottles and cans are all put back into the process to be used again.

We have a continuous programme of Right Stuff right Bin to try to get people to ensure that packaging is clean if put into the recycling and does not include food waste. It is a battle as many packaging producers put on their packaging that it is recyclable when in the form that they provide it is not. For example, plastic lined or wax lined cardboard containers have to be removed to as currently they cannot be processed at the mill.

Glass

The technology has improved considerably in recent years and can now sort the various colours of glass down to 6mm. All our glass goes into making more glass bottles. However, we only want glass bottles we don't want broken wine glasses, window glass or pyrex as this is a different grade and cannot go back into the system. Please put these other types of glass into the black bin, wrapped in paper or film if broken. Yes, leave the metal tops on the bottles or jars the process easily deals with them and recycles them too.

Garden Waste

The brown bin garden waste is again bulked up at the transfer stations and the household recycling centres and mostly taken to Eco Solutions at Parley for Windrow composting. There are two other small facilities at Stourpaine and Weymouth. The material is put through a massive shredder and laid out in long lines to compost. The whole site is about 8 acres but does wood recycling as well. It is quite a scientific process with probes regularly monitoring the temperature ups and downs to determine when the heap needs to be turned. The material is then sold in bulk to landscapers and the like.

Food Waste

The food caddy collection again is taken to depot to be bulked up and then goes to the anaerobic digester at Piddlehinton. This is a top end facility which feeds energy back into the grid from the process and well as using the spare heat generated to supplement the nearby grain store. The end product is a sludge that can go back on agricultural land.

Batteries - We will recycle all kinds of domestic battery, **but they must be kept separate!!** Every week somewhere in the country there is a fire either in the lorries

or at a plant because batteries have been put in with the waste. In particular the lithium batteries are lethal as they still have so much energy left in them.

So a quick run through about waste and what happens to it, it's a complex subject so rather a longer than normal report. Please let me have your comments, questions or feedback. Best wishes, Jill