



## **KCC Members Newsletter Waste Management Update January 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

This briefing provides an update on work by KCC's Waste Management service and partners. Do feel free to share the information it contains.

### **The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Booking System Consultation**

Thank you to everyone who responded to and publicised the public consultation on the future of the booking system for Kent's HWRCs. The consultation closed on 30 September and 10,705 people gave us their views online, by post, email and voicemail. All the responses have now been analysed and the results will be reported to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 18 January 2022.

### **Availability of slots**

All 18 HWRCs in Kent have resumed their pre-Covid opening hours and continue to operate 7 days a week at all sites. As usual in December, the HWRCs closed on Christmas and Boxing Day and we had Bank Holiday hours on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Both the Deal and Sheerness HWRCs were closed for one day for the installation of new waste compactors (these increase the amount of waste that can be moved in one vehicle which reduces traffic and saves both time, money and carbon emissions).

Overall in December we had 131,152 booking slots available and 50% of these were booked.

## **Trial of 'on the day bookings'**

Our present booking system allows bookings for the next day and up to a month in advance in half hourly slots. However, we know many people would like to be able to book 'on the day' and we've been trialling this at the Folkestone, Maidstone and New Romney HWRCs. The good news is that the trial has gone well. If the booking system is kept long-term 'on the day' bookings will be extended to all HWRCs enabling bookings to be made up to an hour in advance (provided there are available slots).

## **Kent Resource Partnership (KRP)**

In the last Waste Management newsletter, I introduced Sally Ward, the new KRP Manager. The KRP brings together the district and borough councils which are the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) with Kent County Council which is the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and we work together to '**reduce, re-use and recycle**' waste in Kent.

Sally has now been in her role for a little over 4 months and among the new initiatives she is piloting are schemes to collect coffee pods, textiles and electrical and electronic equipment as well as kerbside collection of flexible plastic and recycling from flats. Sally also wants the KRP to have a more direct role in communicating with Kent's residents so you can expect to see and hear more about her work. In the meantime you can see more about the KRP here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/partnerships/kent-resource-partnership/about-the-kent-resource-partnership>.

## **The Resources & Waste Strategy**

Last year the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) held consultations on:

- the deposit return schemes for drinks containers
- extended producer responsibility for packaging and;

- consistent recycling collections which will transform the way we deal with our rubbish.

We expect DEFRA to give its response to these consultations in 2022 with changes to the way your waste is collected and disposed of likely to follow in 2023. We'll keep you updated.

### **Sturry Road Reed Bed renewal project**

The Sturry Road closed landfill site is located south of the main A28 road, some 2.5km north-east of the centre of Canterbury. The site was closed in 1989/90 and restored to grassland. Further restoration works have transformed the site into a community park. As part of the monitoring and management of the site, a leachate treatment plant was installed along the eastern boundary of the site.



Over time the reed bed (into which the leachate flows) became blocked and required a significant upgrade to ensure enhanced environmental protection to the River Stour. The works will help ensure that any contaminants that are treated through the Plant, which have leached from the close by closed landfill site cause the absolute minimum disturbance to the close by and wider environment.

### **New HWRC in Allington, Maidstone**

I'm delighted to report that work on the new HWRC in Allington is on schedule. The photos below show current progress with the canopy erected, the concrete bays constructed and the new cabins being installed. An official opening is planned for May with a preview visit for KCC Members who would like a tour.



## **Consultation on the Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan**

Kent County Council is the planning authority for waste management and mineral development, which includes quarrying for sand, brickearth and ragstone and every 5 years our Minerals & Waste Plan is reviewed to make sure it's still in line with national legislation and guidance and any significant local changes.



The Minerals & Waste Plan is always of most interest to those who live near an existing or proposed site but it affects all of us here in Kent so do take this opportunity to respond by 09 February.

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/hub-page/mineralsandwaste>

## **Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee**

As well as the report on the HWRC booking system, the next meeting of the Environment & Cabinet Committee on 18 January will be reviewing the Key Performance targets. We have set a stretch target to improve recycling rates across Kent to 50% (70% at our own HWRCs). What can't be recycled is turned into energy at Allington leaving less than 1% to go to landfill (by law asbestos must be deep buried).

Papers for the meeting are published the week before on [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) (go to the 'committees' section of the website and the meeting itself will be webcast live.)

**Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment  
Ends**