

Questions and Answers

**Executive
Thursday 20th October 2016**

West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

This page is intentionally left blank

Executive Meeting

20 October 2016

Questions and Answers



Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

(a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment by Mr. Jeffrey Kent:

Question:

"What is the target date for Padworth recycling tip to accept general rubbish and why does Padworth recycling tip not open before midday on weekdays?"

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

Thank you Mr Kent, in your question you refer to the Padworth recycling "tip", and we prefer to refer to them as you just did as the Household Waste Recycling Centres, now this is a important distinction, this isn't just semantics, its an absolutely important distinction.

I think its all to easy to imagine, that when waste is collected from the road side or householder take theirwaste to the centres, that it just simply magically disappears. But actually the reality is that it costs an awful lot of money to dispose of waste properly and safely. A very substantial part of the cost is what we have to pay in Landfill Tax. We encourage our householders to do as much as they can to support our recycling undertaking. We are very successful at that. West Berkshire's tax payers contribute very strongly towards the recycling exercise and we are very pleased at that. Just thought I would mention that.

The purpose of the Recycling Centre is to sort and prepare the end of the individual aspect, the categories of waste for disposal and Veolia, our contractor for that does a very good job of doing that on our behalf.

Veolia are in the process presently of submitting two planning applications, they need to have planning approval to work around some of the restrictions based on people they had in the first place. That will allow the centre to accept general rubbish and to be open on weekday mornings. Now those applications have been submitted and are presently undergoing validation by our planning department and 13 weeks after the validation Veolia will be able to accept general rubbish.

We anticipate after the planning side has been completed, that we will be able to take general waste in the first quarter of 2017.

The Chairman asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?"*

There was no supplementary question.

Members' Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

(a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment by Councillor Alan Macro:

Question:

"When did the Executive Member become aware that there would be a delay in residents receiving their permits to use the West Berkshire and recycling sites?"

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

22nd September.

The Chairman asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?"*

Councillor Macro asked:

"Would it not have been a good idea to have postponed the introduction by a week, because they were some people, certainly in my part of the district, who had not got a permit, for at least the week after and were supposed to come before?"

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

We put in place measures to make sure that people were able to access the sites the two sites effectively without undue delays

I asked that officers instruct Veolia be lineate in that first week and accepting that people weren't going to have their permits. I am confident in that to say no bonafide users of the two centres suffered any inconvenience.

(b) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment by Councillor Alan Macro:

Question:

“What was the total cost of producing and distributing the permits to use the waste and recycling sites?”

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

As you know Councillor Macro, the cost to the Council on waste disposal is considerable. Of every £100 of council tax payers' money we spend every year, £14 goes on waste.

So it does cost us a lot of money and what we have learnt is that due to changes and local compliance, tax payers are having to spend money on disposing of waste at councils across the border and also commercial waste that shouldn't come through the Centre.

That is the main reason we introduced the scheme to restrict usage of the centres to West Berkshire householders. That is going to save us in the region of £200,000 a year that we would have to spend to dispose of waste from outside the District. The total cost of the permit scheme is £33,300 more or less and that works out at around £9,000 a year based on the permits lasting for four years.

And what that breaks down to per household that works out at 50p per household for the scheme.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Macro asked:

“When this was first proposed, I asked how much this was likely to cost, I was told it would be £9,000?”

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

£9,000 a year, over 4 years. £33,300 that was a one off exercise, we won't have to do that again for the duration of the permits being 4 years.

(c) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment by Councillor Alan Macro:

Question:

“What progress has been made in expanding the Padworth recycling centre to take general household waste?”

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

As I mentioned when I answered Mr Kent’s question, applications have been submitted, if they are approved then we expect to start to see general waste at Padworth in the first quarter of 2017.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

There was no supplementary question.

(d) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment by Councillor Alan Macro:

Question:

“How many residents pay for an additional green bin?”

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

As of 12 October this year, 435 residents have subscribed to the additional green waste collection service.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Macro asked:

“The people who only have one bin, do you have any plans to charge them?”

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment answered:

No plans at all, certainly not in our current financial year. What I can't say Councillor Macro, in these difficult times, is that we won't be considering some point in the future.
