

Effingham Parish Council



EFFINGHAM

Cllr. Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Surrey County Council
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2DW

7th August 2017

Dear Cllr. Goodman

Surrey's Community Recycling Centres – Public Consultation

Thank you for your email of 21st June, advising us of the public consultation on the proposed changes to community recycling centres (CRCs). Effingham Parish Council has considered these proposals, and has serious concerns about the impact which these will have if carried out, and urges the County Council to reconsider the proposed changes. Several of the proposed changes may have a serious impact on the sensible disposal of waste by residents in Surrey, and will most likely lead to a significant increase in fly tipping. We note that the changes proposed are claimed to result in cost savings of around £2 million, but it is also known from news items about fly tipping that the cost to Surrey is annually approaching £1 million, and this is likely to increase if problems are exacerbated. It is not clear that the proposed savings take into account the cost of dealing with fly tipping problems. The proposed changes may simply shift the cost burden to other parts of Local Government or on to residents.

It does not seem likely that the sites scheduled for closure have a high asset value which could be recovered by selling them, and if the sites are closed they will need to be decommissioned properly, which will involve further costs.

We believe that the CRCs should operate effectively, which may actually mean having extended operating hours during the summer, and appropriate hours during the winter months. Many Surrey residents work during the day, so it may be more appropriate to schedule the opening hours to align with the times that users will find most acceptable in order to reduce the risk of problems. Overall the intention should be to make it easy for householders in Surrey to dispose of unwanted material in a responsible manner, rather than to initiate deterrents which will create other problems which are costly to fix, and in particular fly tipping which causes considerable disturbance to the local community and the environment.

Regarding the closure of the Dorking CRC, there are frequently queues outside that site, which indicate a reasonable level of use. If it were closed users from the Dorking area would have to travel to Leatherhead or Reigate which would increase traffic and pollution, and apart from increasing the deterrent effect of making disposal difficult, would also increase queuing time at those sites. It is known that some residents in Effingham find that site a useful alternative to the site at Leatherhead, though it is accepted that many local residents may use other sites.

Effingham Parish Council requests that the County Council seriously reconsiders the proposed changes to the CRCs, and in particular neither to close the CRCs suggested, nor to implement other measures which will make it difficult for Surrey residents to dispose of waste material.

Yours sincerely



Jon Short
Parish Clerk

Jon Short ~ Clerk

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