

# COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2020

## ITEM 12 – NFDC DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY

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A meeting of the NFDC Environment Panel held on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, has recommended the next stage of the project to look at a new waste and recycling collection service for the district be put forward to the NFDC Cabinet on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The changes could include a wider range of materials being collected for recycling, such as plastic pots, tubs and trays. We are not told which particular pots or if NFDC is licensed to dispose of all these materials?

The supporting document, of some 66 pages, goes into great detail about waste collection and recycling but leave some questions unanswered. In fact some of the costs information contained within the document is misleading, or in some cases not included.

The meeting was advised how the proposal will:

1. Help the area have a cost and carbon efficient service
2. Minimise the amount of waste
3. Improve the quantity and quality of recycling

The main proposed changes would include:

Food Waste – this would involve households having a small food caddy, or bucket, inside the house with the contents being decanted into a larger container, or bucket outside the house.

This would be collected weekly.

Paper and Card – these to be placed in a reusable bag similar to the current garden waste bag.

This would be collected every alternate week.

Mixed Recycles – this would be placed in a wheelie bin.

This would be collected every alternate week.

General Waste – that which cannot be composted, reused or recycled placed in a wheelie bin.

This would be collected every alternate week.

Garden Waste – this would be placed in either a wheelie bin or reusable bag.

This would be collected fortnightly.

If I take the above proposals in turn.

1. Costs –

The costs have not yet been fully established at this stage but at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Chris Noble, NFDC Waste and Transport Service Manager, stated the new proposed system would be more expensive to operate.

“Food waste collection is a resource intrusive system and very expensive to provide. There would be staff increases rather than reductions. Compostable liners for households to use in the inside food waste caddy, bucket, are available but there is no decision on who would provide these”.

Vehicle types and the various containers would have to be decided upon and, presumably, increase costs.

Food waste would be sent for anaerobic digestion as opposed to being sent to Marchwood to produce electricity. We have no suitable sites within the county, the optimum site would be a farm where the farmer would use the fertiliser on his land – again there are no costings for this.

Nicola Plummer, NFDC Projects and Performance Officer, said a survey would have to be completed of roads and/or houses to see if the new proposal would suit. As a result of these surveys “our service would have to have additional resource (staff)”. Assistance will be given to those elderly residents who are unable to wheel out their bin(s) – this would be another added cost.

2. Minimise Waste –

Chris Noble, NFDC Waste and Transport Service Manager, said the best way to have residents reduce waste is “the way we collect waste. People can put out more than one black sack each week – no questions asked. With the proposed containers, they have a finite capacity with no facility to exceed a wheelie bin capacity. What happens when someone, for various reasons, has more to dispose of – where will it go to?

3. Improve the quantity/quality of recycling –

Communication to residents regarding recycling has not been that effective. Given that Council Tax demands are sent out each year, could more detailed information about what and how to recycle is sent with this demand?

A considerable amount of waste comes from supermarkets – will they be encouraged to reduce this?

Nicola Plummer, NFDC Projects and Performance Officer, said the majority of New Forest residents will be able to accommodate the new containers. “The new service will mean new challenges”. There may be a split service when properties with no outside space for containers or frontage directly onto the footpath would be issued with sacks.

Some of the footpaths within Copythorne Parish are very narrow and wheelie bins left out would endanger those with buggies or wheelchairs. Chris Noble, NFDC Waste and Transport Service Manager, said there would be an NFDC policy of when to put your wheelie bin out and when to take it in again. Who would enforce this and what about those people working all day?

We were told 90% of councils use wheelie bins, which means some 20 councils do not. What are their recycling figures like compared to those other 90%? What other factors did they take into account in not adopting the wheelie bins?

A period of time has been set aside for public consultation November 12<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, with there being so many unanswered questions and misleading information regarding the costings, the report has come up short in a number of areas and more work and further clarification is required.

Nicola Plummer, NFDC Projects and Performance Officer, said any resident making a request, will be provided with a paper copy of all the documents produced.

With the recent and proposed Parish Council projects, telephone boxes, village signs, benches and noticeboards, these have been designed to enhance and improve the street scene of our community.

This proposal with wheelie bins will reverse these improvements.

Our street scenes could look like this...



In some areas already provided with wheelie bins, residents found their bins were even spying on them after councils, including Bristol, started using microchips to monitor how much rubbish homes were throwing away.

Building fires have also been started by arsonists setting the bins alight.

My proposal therefore as follows:

1. Seek answers to those questions posed above.
  - Are NFDC licensed to dispose of all materials described earlier in the report?
  - How are the compostable liners to be funded?
  - What is the total cost of the food waste disposal?
  - What are the costs of providing new vehicles to remove household waste?
  - What are the costs of providing a suitable site for anaerobic digestion?
  - What would be the increased staffing costs of food waste disposal?
  - What are the costs of increased staff to compile the surveys?
  - Who would enforce the NFDC policy of when the wheelie bin should go out and when it should be returned?
  - What is the total cost difference between the current and proposed waste removal system?
  - Who can opt out of the proposed new system?
2. Reject the notion that wheelie bins and food waste caddies, or buckets, enhance our community.

**Cllr. Steve Herra**

**October 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**