

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY DECEMBER 8TH 2020

Item 13 - DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY – REPLIES TO OUR QUESTIONS TO NFDC

Questions relating to the above Strategy were tabled at the last Parish Council meeting on November 10th 2020 and were forwarded to NFDC, their replies have been received.

Unfortunately, the questions relating to the costs of the new waste proposal and comparisons with the existing system have not been answered. The response to the financial questions were answered *“these costs have not yet been established”*.

In addition to the financial questions, there are still unanswered questions relating to compostable liners, suitable sites for anaerobic digesters, additional staffing levels and new adapted vehicles. These would also have an adverse effect on the final costs of the proposals.

In the interests of openness and transparency, answers to these and other questions should have formed part of the original Draft Waste Strategy and, if not, should be available now for residents to make a qualified judgement on the proposed strategy which includes the introduction of wheelie bins. Reusable bags have been used effectively for garden waste; additional reusable bags could be used for the other waste materials instead of wheelie bins and still achieve increased recycling rates. Full costs of providing the current waste collection service compared to the proposed collection service costs are required.

In short, the response from NFDC has been disappointing and fallen well short of expectations. Further additional work is required before this proposal could be deemed to be a completed piece of work. It is accepted that improved recycling rates are desirable, it is the proposed method which is being challenged.

As a result of the above, I make the following proposal:

That we ask NFDC to:-

1. Provide a cost comparison between the existing and proposed collection service.
2. Extend the public consultation period until all the financial questions are answered.
3. Consider a Plan B, with reusable bags for waste materials instead of wheelie bins and food waste being collected in a separate container.

Cllr Steve Herra
November 29th 2020