

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Waste from Councillor Jones – Environment and Transport O&S Panel 22 July 2015

1) Significant progress has been made in increasing the general recycling rate across the town in recent years. What educational initiatives/events are currently being planned in the short to medium term in order to further boost this figure?

Earlier this year, we received £30k of WRAP funding to improve communications about our kerbside recycling collections, which included delivering a refreshed Recycle More guide to each household, new stickers for the rubbish bin to encourage residents to think before they throw, a social media campaign, feature articles in BH Life, a series of community recycling road shows, schools workshops using Recycler, the Rapping Robot and a Recycled Sculpture Competition, with the winning designs displayed at the Hengistbury Head Visitors Centre.

This campaign also coincided with the introduction of foil wrap and trays to our kerbside recycling mix.

We are planning to hold our first Repair Cafe in September in partnership with Transition Bournemouth, where residents can bring broken items for repairing by specialist volunteer fixers and receive repair training for next time. We hope the event will be successful and be held regularly across the borough going forward.

Later in the year, we are planning to trial free kerbside collections across the borough of electrical items in Bournemouth. Three collections are proposed (Dec-15, June-16 & Dec-16) using £27k funding from BIS WEEE Local Project Fund.

Alongside these new initiatives, we will continue to promote our waste collection services to encourage residents, especially transient populations such as students, to recycle as much of their waste as possible through our food waste, recycling or garden waste collections. Our priority, however, is to reduce the waste produced in the first place, so will also be promoting waste prevention activities such as food waste reduction, home composting, smart shopping, junk mail avoidance and real nappies, as well as encouraging reuse at give or take days, charity shops and Millhams reuse shop.

2) What percentage of flats have opted-in to the food waste collection scheme and what is currently being done to further promote this to residents/managing agents especially in respect of those blocks of flats with communal bin areas?

Since food waste collections were introduced in March 2013, 14% flat blocks have expressed interest in recycling their food waste. We now have 171 flat blocks (8% of the total number) participating in service, resulting in over 5,500 flat units having access to a food waste bin, although not all of these choose to recycle their food waste.

We encourage flat dwellers to opt-in to receive food waste collections at roadshow events, community talks, when door stepping, via the website and social media. When one resident expresses an interest, we send letters to all residents in that block to encourage them to take part and issue individual kitchen caddies and liners as requested.

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and the Arts from Mr Ron Whittaker
– Environment and Transport O&S Panel 22 July 2015**

Am delighted by the heritage lottery grant of some £60.000 for the Stour valley Barn as visitor destination which will include toilet provision and hopefully small cafeteria the work done outside the barn in Stour acres by the Stour valley volunteers and our staff is of great credit.

The cabinet members makes comments in working up a larger scale lottery submission for Hicks farm over many years I have had so much correspondence with officers here none more so in 2008 when the planned worked up outdoor learning and interpretation centre/ working farm was cancelled, can the cabinet member please give some clearer vision and not please just an aspiration as to what will be include in any submission for the master plan and finally mention was made to me that in the in the coming discussion in September that attraction interest from RSPB AND National trust to view with investment at Hick farm and THROOP MILL. After some 35 years endless campaigning to seek to get the present owners to see the benefits of such, my hope that we will see this dream come true.

Can I add much of these issues were fully address in 2010 in the then South East Dorset green infrastructure in evidence and opportunities study.

The success of the Heritage Lottery Bid we have had for Stour Valley Barn (in partnership with the RSPB) is a first step in the direction of developing detailed plans for the area including the farms estate.

The Stour Valley Masterplan, which the Council adopted in 2013, sets out numerous ideas and options for the development of this area; however at present these are just ideas. The next eighteen months will allow us to work with the local community, visitors and stakeholders to establish what will work best for the area, for residents, visitors and wildlife. We hope that this preparatory work will lead to the Heritage Lottery Fund agreeing to a much larger bid in the medium term.