

**UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF PLAN TO COLLECT, FOR  
COMPOSTING, FOOD WASTE IN THE GREEN BIN**

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MEETING: ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE

CONSULTEE

DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014

REPORT BY:

WARD: ALL

KEY DECISION N/A  
REFERENCE (IF  
APPLICABLE):

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide up to date information about the agreement with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) regarding the provision of a composting facility that will allow Chesterfield Borough Council to collect food waste for composting.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the information is noted.

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 In December 2012 cabinet agreed that the Council should enter into a legal agreement with DCC to enable the Council to deliver Green Waste and Food Waste to an In Vessel Composting Plant (IVCP). At the time there had been a challenge to the planning process for the site at Deepsick Lane Arkwright. This challenge was overturned but as work was about to start it was identified that there was potential presence of Great Crested Newts, so a survey had to be carried out in conjunction with an independent Ecologist. The survey concluded that the presence of newts on the site could be measured in the “lower” category so work could start subject to certain mitigation measures being put in place.

- 3.2 Before work could commence the Environment Agency received a last minute threat of Judicial Review of the Environmental Permit for the site. A robust reply was sent and after the challenge period had expired no actual challenge was received.
- 3.3 Work started in November 2013 and the build is currently in line with the project plan which gives a completion date of 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. The plant will need a commissioning period and DCC and the three Waste Collection Authorities have agreed that deliveries of mixed food and garden waste will start from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This is subject to a review date in March 2014 which will give DCC an opportunity to delay this start if the project has suffered delays due to bad weather. There is an agreement that this start date will not be further delayed beyond the end of June 2014 and if the plant is not complete and ready to receive loads by then DCC will, at their expense, find alternative sites to deliver the mixed waste for composting.
- 3.4 The facility will allow CBC to collect food waste with garden waste in the green bin which the majority of residents already have. The inclusion of food waste could increase the tonnage of materials collected for recycling by 1000 tonnes assuming every household puts approximately 0.5kg of food waste in the green bin per fortnight. This would increase the recycling rate by 3%.
- 3.5 The list of acceptable items for the IVCP has been issued and does not allow the use of any type of compostable bag, other than paper bags which meet the European Standard EN 13432. These bags can be bought at most of the major supermarkets and DIY stores in and around Chesterfield.
- 3.6 There is still some discussion regarding providing all residents with a kitchen caddy to use to collect their food waste prior to putting it into the bin. A survey is currently being run among staff to see if the provision of a caddy would encourage householders to use the scheme.
- 3.7 It is planned for all three councils to issue a consistent message by delivering the same publicity material at the same time to eliminate the confusion that can occur when one Council carries out a different scheme. The CBC Communications and Marketing Manager will be working with the publicity officer for Bolsover and North East Derbyshire to formulate the publicity plan and material.

For further information on this report please contact Carole Grew, Senior Waste Management Officer x5797