



Derby City Council

**Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 September 2013
Public Questions and Responses**

**COUNCIL – 18 SEPTEMBER 2013
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
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Public Questions

A	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Banwait	Organic Waste Collection
B	Simon Bacon	Councillor Banwait	Raynesway Household Waste and Recycling Site
C	Paul Chadwick	Councillor Banwait	Markeaton Nursery Budget
D	Dorothy Skrytek	Councillor Banwait	Funding of Sinfin Waste Treatment Plant
E	Simon Bacon	Councillor Banwait	Household Waste Collection Costs
F	Paul Chadwick	Councillor Banwait	City Flower Budget

a. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Banwait

In the recent review of the waste project by Councillors Banwait and Shanker why did this not include a proposal to boost recycling to circa 70% which would have left far less residual waste to handle and would push Derby up the waste recycling league? As an example, a number of councils even now attain recycling rates close to 70% such as the Vale of the White Horse.

When and how will the City Council be informing the people of Derby that they are to be forced to throw organic food/garden waste resources (currently composted through the brown bin collections) into the black bin (destined for planned incineration, in line with the waste contract which states that 13000 tonnes of so-called 'residual', 'organic' and 'calorific' (plastics) waste will be procured monthly) and that this is in breach of Waste Regulations 2011 and the Waste Hierarchy, i.e. this waste is already being treated higher than incineration and landfill:

WASTE HIERARCHY

**REDUCE,
REUSE,
RECYCLE/ COMPOST,
INCINERATION,
LANDFILL.**

The brown bin collection service will cease at the end of October 2013. Householders will be advised of this by the middle of October. The chargeable garden waste collection service will commence in April 2014.

At that time, householders will also be invited to access the Council's website for information on how to reduce their food waste as well as information on the new Garden Waste Service and home composting.

In all, the following initiatives on reducing food waste and dealing with home composting will take place over the coming months:

1. November 2013 - Special Derby Edition of Waste-Not News focusing on food waste over Christmas (to all key stage 1 & 2 pupils)
2. March 2014 – Edition of Waste-Not News focusing on home composting (in partnership with Derbyshire County Council to all Key Stage 2 pupils)
3. December 2013 Sure Start – information days focusing on Love food Hate Waste (LFHW) which is part of a national campaign organised by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

4. There will be ongoing press work on Love Food Hate Waste campaigns and Home Composting which will be added to the Garden Waste Service website ongoing.

These initiatives will encourage Derby's Householders to minimise their food waste and should they choose not to join the Garden Waste Collection Service, to home compost their garden waste which is appropriate for the environment by moving this organic material that would have to be transported and processed at cost to Council Tax Payers, up the environmental hierarchy.

This approach does not breach Waste Regulations. When considering the issues of the waste hierarchy, Local Authorities are required to take account of technical feasibility and economic viability of their selected waste management arrangements. In the light of recent Government cuts Derby City Council has had to make some difficult decisions about where these cuts need to fall and the Garden Waste Service will yield around £1.2 Million of savings every year, which if not taken from this service would result in £1.2 Million worth of cuts from other valued Council Services.

b. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Banwait

Queue's at the Raynesway waste recycling site regularly reach back to the main highway on summer weekends. The £40 brown bin charge that the Council is putting into place will vastly increase the amount of waste which will now be taken to the Raynesway HWRC site - noting this, how does the Council propose to manage the highway situation which can and will develop from the increase in the sites usage?

The Council expects the garden waste of non subscribers to the new Garden Waste Collection Service which formally went into the brown bin to go in a number of directions.

Much of the garden waste generated by non subscribers will be home composted, some will go into the black bin although householders will need to take care that they leave enough room for their non-recyclable waste, and of course some garden waste will be taken to Raynesway Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

It is too early to say accurately in what quantities these tonnages will be, therefore at this time we are unable to assess the impact on the number of extra householders and vehicles using Raynesway Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

When the changes have been made, Waste Management will monitor inputs to the site and take feedback from the site's operators on an ongoing basis.

Dependant on the actual traffic that will use the site in the future and any congestion experienced, Waste Management will review the impacts and take action as and when it becomes a particular problem, in agreement with the operators of the site and any other potential partners.

c. Question from Paul Chadwick to Councillor Banwait

How much was the budget via Markeaton nurseries for flowers and baskets in the city and parks?

The cost of operating Markeaton Glasshouse was, at the time of its closure in March 2011, around £300,000 per year. However, it should be noted that as well as providing the flower bedding and hanging basket requirements for the city, it also provided the indoor floral decorations for civic buildings and events at the Assembly Rooms and Guildhall, as well as acting as a nursery for trees and shrubs used in Council landscaping projects around the city.

d. Question from Dorothy Skrytek to Councillor Banwait

The City Council admitted to Defra, during the PFI incineration plant bid with Derbyshire County Council that the incineration plant was unaffordable and that recycling was cheaper. When and how will the City Council be informing the people of Derby - and future generations including today's teenagers - that they will have to pay council tax increased by 4-5% a year in order to pay off bank loans of over £120 million, (though this is a conservative estimate as interest rates will increase and the PFI loan will be refinanced) adding more to the costs of high-carbon, polluting and unsustainable incineration?

The outline business case for a Private Finance Initiative issued to DEFRA at the end of October 2008 for this project identified that the affordability position for the project compared favourably with the 'Business as Usual' (continue to landfill) case. *(Section 1.8.11 page 33)*

However since that time, the capital funding of this project is not being delivered through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and neither City nor County will be taking "bank loans of over £120m", RRS the contractor will borrow this money

The Councils will pay an annual unitary charge for the service provided (and will only pay if the service is provided). A large proportion of this charge is fixed over the lifetime of the project, only that element relating to the running costs will inflate, as is to be expected in any service contract.

Any refinancing of the loan by the contractor or movement in interest rates after contract signature will have no adverse effect on the Councils' payments, indeed any refinancing gain will be shared with the Councils.

The project was only embarked upon following thorough value for money analysis and offers significant annual savings to the council tax payers of City and County when compared to the alternative of landfill.

The City Council will continue to provide information on the waste services that it provides through its website and it will provide relevant campaign material to householders for the foreseeable future

e. Question from Simon Bacon to Councillor Banwait

What are the costs of running a dustbin lorry with a crew per day and does this vary depending on what waste stream it is collecting?

The average cost of running a refuse collection vehicle and team is £110,000 per year. This does not vary dependant on what waste stream is being collected.

f. Question from Paul Chadwick to Councillor Banwait

After the closure of Markeaton nurseries what was the budget for outside contractors to carry on Markeaton's work?

The cost of having the seasonal bedding plants for flower beds and hanging baskets for 2011/12 supplied by an external grower was £58,000.

For 2012/13 a reduction in flower bedding provision was made and this cost was reduced to £38,000. On top of this, the cost of planting, watering and maintaining the beds and baskets by Council staff was £71,000.

The total saving therefore realised by removing the remainder of the flower beds and baskets is £109,000, although only £88,000 saving has been made for 2013/14 as £21,000 has been retained for the one-off cost of re-planting the beds and borders with perennial plants or shrubs, or grassing them over.