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LOCAL NEWS

News from Winchester

Councillor David Gillett

ONYX – Southleigh landfill - update on progress

There have been no further developments since I last publicly reported. The tip at Southleigh is still scheduled to be full this year. So far no application has been made to extend the site to the east and northeast (the area under consideration previously).

As I have previously stated, the big issue for us in southeast Hampshire is how we deal with the residual waste, that is the waste that cannot be handled by the new incinerator at Portsmouth. Once the hole in the ground is full there is nowhere else for it to go. Onyx is looking for an alternative location to handle and sort this residue waste and this work is currently being investigated in conjunction with Hampshire Waste and options for improving the Household Waste Recycling centre at Harts Farm Way.

INTEGRA – The county's waste handling partnership

For over ten years there has been a market leading partnership in Hampshire consisting of all the local authorities in the county along with the two cities and the county council. This partnership has worked well in dealing with the increasing global problems of handling and disposing of waste and encouraging recycling.

There have recently been press reports that the county are pulling out of the INTEGRA partnership. I thought it would be helpful for those who are concerned at this news if I put the record straight.

Hampshire County Council have *not* pulled out of INTEGRA. They have expressed concerns that the business plan that INTEGRA currently have is not sufficiently robust enough to meet the challenges of the future, especially in the area of commercial waste. Hampshire have put INTEGRA 'on notice' which has certainly focussed attention on the issues.

As a member of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee at HCC, I am glad that one of the first things we will be looking into are the issues surrounding HCC's concerns and the successful future and continuation of INTEGRA.

The challenges for waste and recycling in this county are immense and they will only be met by policies, which are comprehensive, imaginative and robust.

Times are changing for refuse and recycling

Richard Jannaway

Refuse in Havant will soon be collected only every other week and the reason is to encourage recycling! The change is part of an on-going effort to reduce the amount of refuse going to landfill or the incinerator, in an affordable way.

Instead of collecting refuse every week and recycling every fortnight, households in the Borough will be given another 240 litre wheeled bin for their rubbish which will be collected every two weeks. And only rubbish in the bin will be accepted, no black sacks. Refuse will be collected one week and recycling the next

"Alternate Weekly Collections will encourage residents, especially those who don't currently recycle, to think about what's in their bin and make a real effort to reduce the amount of rubbish they throw away," said Havant Borough Council's Waste Recycling Officer, Sally Smith.

It would cost too much to collect every week and recycle effectively. Sally Smith added, "It is essential that we increase the amount of recycling in the Borough, not just for environmental reasons, but also to avoid possible fines for not meeting Government recycling targets fines that would ultimately have to be met by increasing council tax."

Implementation

Chichester District Council adopted a similar system last year but had teething problems that upset many people. Most of the problems were due to inadequate communication and overhasty implementation, which resulted in black sacks full of rubbish being dumped in lay-bys around the district. Havant are determined this will not happen here and they will be holding roadshows, giving talks and distributing leaflets to make sure everyone knows what is happening and why.

The council recognises that the standard 240-litre wheeled bins will not be suitable for everyone and a team of Recycling Advisors will be on hand to help those who need to make alternative arrangements. For example, very large families may need extra bin capacity while people who live alone may need a smaller bin. Residents can call a special hotline number 023 9244 6023 if they have any questions about the scheme.

Could you be a recycling advisor?

Visit the Havant website: www.havant.gov.uk/havant-4484 to find out, or phone Susie Lea on 0117 9304355.

The scheme will be implemented in phases and Emsworth will be last. So hopefully they will get the 'bugs' out of the system before it gets to us. The timetable is:

September 2005: Waterlooville, Cowplain and Wecock Farm.

April 2006: Purbrook, Crookhorn and Stakes, Leigh Park, Hayling Island and parts of Havant.

September 2006: The rest of Havant, West Leigh and Emsworth.

Planning Update

Richard Jannaway

New Brighton Road - The land to the east of New Brighton Road, just north of the A27, is in the news yet again. Last quarter we reported that the issue appeared to have been resolved. Now the pattern of last winter seems to be repeating itself.

In the last round of applications three houses were applied for, these were approved, but have yet to be built. Two further applications were made for different plots on the site. If these had been approved a total of five houses would have been built in the triangle behind 14 to 22 New Brighton Road. The application for extra houses has now been rejected, as the land is part of the Strategic Gap.

The site used to be extensively wooded and there are Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) on many of the trees. The latest order, made last month, prohibits the cutting of any trees without specific approval. Despite this, there has been extensive felling and clearing with fires which got out of control to such an extent that the fire brigade had to be called. This has been very distressing to many of the neighbours. The developer, Mr C. Hurst, doesn't seem to care and shouted out defiantly; "Come closer and get a better picture" and "Don't worry about calling the environmental health they've been out four times already", when I went to see what was going on.



A defiant Mr Hurst



TPO trees?

As we go to press we have been informed that an injunction has been obtained against Mr Hurst with a fine of up to £20,000 for each of any further infringement of the TPO's.

15 Nile Street - In the last issue, we reported on proposals to demolish the old chapel, now a light engineering works at 15 Nile Street. The application was rejected, after a full discussion by the Council, on the grounds that the building should be preserved and restored. The planning authorities are also reluctant to see the building lost from employment use.

Park Crescent - The application to convert a bungalow into two houses at 13 Park Crescent has been refused on the grounds that it would be an over-development of the site.

Hermitage - The retrospective application for large signs advertising the Hermitage development on the former Royal Oak Public House have been refused. But the signs were still there last time I went past.

Kings Terrace - The application to shoe horn two houses into the corner of Kings Terrace (see The EMS Jan 05) has gone to appeal, so the saga is not over yet.

Emsworth Community Board: Elections in September

Ken Gilchrist

Six Community Boards were set up in 2004 in Havant Borough to enable local people to influence the quality of life for their community. The present Emsworth Community Board was set up in September 2004 and is currently chaired by Councillor Virginia Wilson-Smith. The 15 board members include representatives from the Emsworth Residents Association, Emsworth Community Association, Emsworth Business Association, Neighbourhood Watch, a youth representative, the churches, several nature conservation groups as well as several residents.

All six Community Boards will be holding AGMs during a 2-week period commencing 19 September 2005. Posters and flyers will be distributed inviting the public to attend the AGM. The details of the procedure have yet to be finalised but it is proposed that the public and existing members of the Community Boards will be invited to stand for membership and a HBC Councillor will be appointed by Havant Borough Council each year. Those wishing to stand for membership should submit a short written statement giving their background, reasons for wanting to be a member and what they can bring to the Board.

At the AGM, 15 new Community Board members will be elected by the public from the list of nominations. This new Community Board will elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary at its first meeting. The new Board will also elect a representative to sit on the Havant Community Partnership Board.

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