

UPDATED NOTE - Planned changes to the provision of refuse and recycling services by Hampshire County Council and the potential impacts to Sway and its residents.

At last month's full council meeting Cllr Thornber reported on the proposed changes to refuse and recycling services in Hampshire. The minutes state 'following consultation, it had been agreed that existing recycling centres will not be closed. These will remain free to use for household waste although charges will apply for builders' waste'.

Examining the changes in a little more detail they can be summarised as follows.

- Sites will not open at all on a Thursday.
- from 1st January 2017 opening hours will be reduced by at least 2 hours a day, with sites opening at 11am and closing at 4pm during the winter months, and 11am and 6pm in the Summer. A reduction from 63 hours to 42 hours in the summer and from 49 hours 30 hours in the winter months.
- Efford is already an exception with reduced opening hours during the summer months, due to a local planning condition (HHC consultation document footnote). Efford is currently open from 9am to 4:30pm during the summer months, so 52.5 hours a week and will we understand will have both the later opening time and early close, so will only be open for 33 hours a week.
- The Efford service is already, and it seems will continue to be, less than that provided by other facilities elsewhere, and with the alternative site 15 miles away our local residents have the poorest summer service.
- The introduction of a charge for certain materials classified as non-household (DIY) waste.
- SME trade waste will be allowed in the future, allowing small traders to use the HWRC sites from Monday to Wednesday and Friday for a charge, accepting the same materials as is currently accepted by the sites on behalf of householders.
- The introduction of a charge for non-Hampshire residents via a mechanism (to be defined) to identify Hampshire residents – either through a residents permit or satisfactory evidence for proof of address such as photocard drivers licence or a current years council tax bill.

The main impact to Sway residents' will be the changes to our closest facility at Efford. The Efford site is one of three sites in the New Forest area, the next nearest site is 15.4miles away. The site received 11,381 tonnes in 2014/15 and recycled 87% of the waste received. The impact on Sway residents' from these changes will be some or all of the following:

- Reduced access to refuse and recycling services.
- Increased waiting time for using the facilities and time taken to use the facilities, due to increased checks, charges, and types of wastes accepted etc.
- Increased costs for disposing of waste classed as non-household waste from activities and DIY projects undertaken in the home.

These impacts are likely to have a negative impact on Sway residents' and their personal requirements. There is also an increased risk of fly tipping within the village or, perhaps more alarmingly, the National Park. Fly tipping is an issue for both public and private landowners, is expensive to clear up, unsightly and if in the forest can cause harm to the forest livestock.

Whilst there is probably not much Sway Parish Council can do to reverse these decisions, as they are related to the £98M reduction required in the HCC budget, there are things that can be done to help minimise the impacts:

- To urgently seek clarification on the opening hours at the Efford facility from the 1st January, and if it is confirmed that the 16:30 Summer closing will be maintained to push for equivalent opening hours to be provided at Efford through either;
 - the opening until 6pm - in line with other sites
 - to open the site earlier than other sites, to compensate for the early closure
 - a combination of an earlier start and maintaining the Thursday opening.
- To continue to show support for the facility at Efford and the preservation of extended open hours and a 7 day a week service. Perhaps by encouraging our residents to write to our county councillor and the relevant executive member Rob Humbly. Some of the reasons for wanting to preserve the opening hours at the Efford facility may be as follows:
 - The facility already has a reduced summer service due to a restriction requiring closure at 16:30.
 - The next nearest facility is over 15 miles away so this facility is serving a large area, it is well used and has a high recycling rate.
 - The reduction in opening hours will make the facilities less accessible for residents, particularly those working.
 - The site is already busy and there are often queues, by reducing the opening hours, introducing charges and widening the scope of who can use the facility there are likely to be longer delays which could create put people off using the facility.
 - There is scope to improve the running and efficiency of the current site.
 - Making refuse and recycling facilities more difficult to use is likely to be counterproductive and result in more people seeking alternative routes to disposal.
 - There is little in way of detail provided on the impacts on efficiency and costs associated with introducing residents permits or similar and charges at the site. If these mechanisms are introduced they need to be done in a way that minimises the delays and impacts to the site operation.
- To publicise the changed opening hours at the Efford facility so that our residents' are aware of the changes and do not make unnecessary and unproductive trips.
- Promote the use of other recycling facilities in the area, particularly those in Sway village and provided by NFDC (particularly the green bag collection scheme that residents can join).
- To consider the requirement for additional facilities.
- To make sure that residents are aware of how to report fly tipping in the area, so that if instances do occur they can be reported and dealt with as soon as possible

Copy of email received 24/08/16 following a phone call to try and confirm the Efford opening times for 2016.

From: **Waste Management** <waste.management@hants.gov.uk>
Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2016 at 4:11 PM
Subject: Efford HWRC
To: "a.pepper.sway@gmail.com" <a.pepper.sway@gmail.com>, "clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk" <clerk@sway-pc.gov.uk>

Dear Alex

In follow up to our conversation earlier I can also add that Hampshire County Council recognise the earlier closing time compared to the other 23 Household Waste Recycling Centres provided by HCC. And that Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Rob Humby, has stated, the County Council acknowledges the concerns of the New Forest & Hampshire residents regarding the change in opening hours at Efford and would like to reassure that HCC are committed to providing a service that is as widely available as possible, in light of the savings the County Council is looking to achieve.

Now that a decision has been made to change opening hours at HWRCs across Hampshire, we, HCC, are discussing with the Landlord's the possibility of bringing the summer closing time at the Efford HWRC in line with the rest of the network for the future.

In the meantime I would like to assure you that both the Council and the Household Waste Recycling Centre management contractors (Veolia), help residents access sites in as an efficient way as possible, to reduce the impact of queuing and continue to provide an effective service that recycles a high proportion of materials.

Best regards
Geraint

Geraint James
Waste & Resource Management
Hampshire County Council
www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk