

RECYCLING BANKS – ST JOHN FISHER PLAYING FIELD

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At Community Services Committee on 27 March, a petition containing 526 signatures requesting the return of recycling facilities was presented. A copy is appended.
- 1.2 The matter was referred to Council, to enable this report to be prepared.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The location of the recycling banks, which were until recently situated adjacent to the car park at St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh, has been considered by Members on several occasions since 1997 following complaints of disturbance by some local residents.
- 2.2 In April 1999 a Ward Member presented a petition to Council from 44 residents requesting that the banks, and the basketball facilities, be removed. This was referred to Community Services Committee in June, following which a Member site visit took place to enable consideration of the best location within the playing field site for the banks.
- 2.3 Following the site visit, there was consultation with the occupiers of 62 local properties. The matter was then considered by Community Services Committee in November 1999. It was resolved to keep the banks in their existing location and to provide a 2m anti-climb fence.
- 2.4 That decision was referred to Full Council on 7 December 1999, when the Committee's resolution was ratified.
- 2.5 In October 2000, Community Services Committee received a report on the impact of the installation of the anti-climb fence. A Ward Member advised the Committee of complaints that had been reported to him and the matter was deferred to the next meeting to enable a report to be prepared.
- 2.6 At the November 2000 Committee meeting, the decision was taken to remove the recycling banks. This was referred up to Full Council on 19 December 2000, when the decision to remove the banks was confirmed.

3 THE PETITION

- 3.1 Copies of the full petition have been placed in the Members' Room.

4 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PETITION

- 4.1 The petitioners make a number of suggestions about options for provision of recycling facilities in the locality, centred around the concept that single recycling banks are less likely to attract vandalism than several sited together. There may be some truth in this, although it does have the disadvantage of requiring residents to go to several locations to deposit a range of materials. The example cited of the bottle bank at the Hungry Horse public house on the corner of Downhall Road and London Road may not be entirely valid, as the site is on private land and benefits from supervision by staff.
- 4.2 Contract services staff have surveyed the sites suggested in the petition, but do not consider them to be suitable for recycling banks, principally because of lack of space for safe and convenient usage and emptying. They have also looked for other sites in the locality, but have been unable to identify any. Members are advised that previous approaches to Eastern Group to site banks on their car park have been declined.
- 4.3 Providing a secure site that can be locked at night may be seen by vandals as a challenging target and may also result in recyclable waste regularly being left outside by people who call outside the designated opening hours. Reliable arrangements would be needed to open and close the site, which may require removal of persons from within the site at closing time. Such arrangements are likely to incur significant costs.
- 4.4 Household collection of recyclable waste is suggested in the petition. Council has recently taken the decision to expand such collections to approximately 5000 households this year, including a round in Rayleigh on Mondays.
- 4.5 Members may wish to consider changing the Rayleigh round to one covering the area concerned. The Property Maintenance and Highway Manager advises that this is a small round comprising 597 properties, some 114 of which are not in the immediate locality. This compares with the Rayleigh round currently selected which has 1225 properties on it.
- Adding additional properties to those already selected will increase the costs of the kerbside recycling scheme roll-out in the current year.
- 4.6 There may be opportunities to upgrade the recycling bank site at the Brookside Café, but as the petitioners point out, this is a poor location for pedestrians.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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- 5.1 The replacement of the recycling facilities in other locations would help restore the level of recycling undertaken by residents in this part of Rayleigh.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The banks at St John Fisher playing field were removed because of reported vandalism and nuisance. It is important to ensure that if replacement facilities are installed, these do not give rise to similar complaints.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Council has currently agreed an expansion of the kerbside recycling collection scheme to a total of 5217 properties. Adding a further 597 properties will increase the capital costs by an estimated £9,000 and add £10,000 per year to revenue costs. It is likely that the additional revenue cost will only require funding from 2002/03 onwards.
- 7.2 Removing the hardstanding fencing etc at St John Fisher Playing Field cost approximately £600. To provide a hardstanding, fencing and signage for new banks would cost approximately £2,000 - £3,000, dependent on the size of the site.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**
- (1) Whether to add Rayleigh round 7, Mondays, to the expansion of the kerbside recycling scheme, at an estimated capital cost of £9,000 and revenue cost of £10,000 per year, OR,
- Whether to substitute Rayleigh round 7, Mondays, for Rayleigh round 1, Mondays, in the kerbside recycling scheme.
- (2) Whether to take any further steps in response to the petition received. (CD(F&ES)(HHHCC))

G Woolhouse

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Background Papers:

Petition received from Mrs A Lacey and Mr C J Lumley.

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