



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Bournheath
Fairfield & Belbroughton
Catshill & Marlbrook
Dodford & Grafton
DECEMBER 2016

MERCIA WASTE APPLICATION for an Incinerator Bottom Ash Processing and Recovery Facility.

The Planning proposal for the “Proposed Operation of an Incinerator Bottom Ash Processing and Recovery Facility on the Hill and Moor Landfill Site, Piddle Brook Lane, Wyre Piddle” has been published by Worcestershire County Council Planning Department for consideration.

The application for a maximum annual tonnage of 50,000.00 is proposed by Mercia Waste Management Limited to store the IBA at the landfill prior to mobile processing plant being brought onto the site. The mobile plant would operate for a period of circa 6 weeks every circa 6 months and would recover metals from the IBA, which can be recycled. Thereafter, subject to specification and to a viable commercial outlet being identified (at the relevant point in time), the remaining IBA could be graded to enable its reuse as a secondary aggregate in the construction industry. However, if no commercially viable outlet can be identified then the remaining IBA would be disposed of within the landfill site in line with the previously accepted approach.

The Hill and Moor Landfill site already benefits from planning permission to dispose of this type of waste. Accordingly, the application to which this Planning Statement supports, seeks to introduce processing plant capable of managing up to 50,000 tonnes per annum of IBA. Under this application the aforementioned operations would be limited to landfill cells 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 (please see drawing ref: H&M-CC-MWM-005 Rev A) and accordingly it would be contemporaneous with the lifetime of these cells. As such, it would not affect the ultimate restoration of the landfill site. A detailed description of the proposal and its operation is provided in Section 3.0 of this Planning Statement.



The proposal has also been discussed with the local liaison group to ensure that the community is kept up to date with activities at the Hill and Moor Landfill Site. The feedback received suggested no particular objection to the proposal, rather members of the group recognised the merits of what is being proposed. The application will be subject to the normal consultation period before being considered by the planning committee. The application will not be taken to committee until the new year.

The savings target is currently £58 million over the next two years from the County Council budget. This is on top of the £100 million saved since 2011. £29 million pound savings in each of the next two years will be a challenge.

Some of the savings will be made from a variety of areas that do not touch the services and these include;

- + Examining council tax bills again to try and eliminate any errors and tackle fraud
- + Closing down vehicle depots or merging them with other organisations to share space
- + Reviewing council contracts with outside bodies like the NHS to see what can be re-negotiated
- + Investigating the use of our sites like County Hall to see if more space can be rented,
- + Removing £100,000 from general building maintenance

Other savings that do impact upon services will do so positively like;

- + Building more care units for the elderly to prevent them from needing expensive residential settings
- + Creating more in-house cost effective units for children in care
- + Block –Booking domiciliary at-home care giving surety to our most used providers

We are confident the savings can be achieved without an adverse impact on the public even though the savings will be taken from defined budget areas. Much of the 2017/18 savings have already been identified, with a new package of measures taking out a further £6.8million from the £322 million budget. We have yet to receive notice of the Local Government funding settlement but we do know that an additional social care precept of 2% is being encouraged again this year.

The 2017/18 budget will be published in draft form in December, and go out for public consultation before going to a vote at Full Council in February. Longer-term, the expectation is that another £25 million will need to be saved in 2019/20, but the County Council will still be a £300 million pound-plus organisation because while we are taking money out the bottom we are putting it in at the top.

SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The NHS plan to reconfigure hospital services across Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the public are now being asked for their views. In summary the story is about

- Maximising efficiency and effectiveness across clinical, service and support functions
- Putting prevention at the heart of delivery and creating an environment where people stay healthy supported by resilient communities
- Improving services which care for people at home or closer to home supported by GPs working alongside community teams
- Ensuring acute sites have the capacity to provide the care the staff are trained to provide
- Ensure specialist services are safe and sustainable
- Involving and engaging communities before any significant changes to services



Providing more care at home

The report puts into context the move from hospital care towards responsive local support in people's homes. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire say they expect the number of beds to reduce in community hospitals and also, in order to prevent the risk of avoidable admissions to Acute hospitals, they will ensure only those with an acute medical condition access the Acute hospital.

There are currently 324 beds at the five small community hospital sites, which are designed to keep people away from A&E at Worcestershire Royal Hospital and the Alexandra Hospital Redditch. The STP plans state "beds could be reduced to just 182, under the plan to put more money into at-home care, funding a wave of nurses and other health professionals to go into people's own homes to keep the sick out of hospital".

The STP was discussed at the last Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 16th November 2016. The minutes of that meeting can be accessed on the County website at

<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=4351>. The STP report can be picked up on the web page <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/yourconversation/in-summary/> and click on the summary update. You can join in the conversation online at: www.yourconversationhwh.nhs.uk or by following the organisations on social media. Please access the report, read it to formulate your own views based upon experience or otherwise and make your views known in the best way you can.

My personal summary of the key issues and potential public focus points is:

- Community hospital beds will close and Acute hospitals will admit only those with an acute medical condition
- Community based services will improve and the creation of healthy environments will be supported by resilient communities.

I believe the emphasis on community based services will be welcomed if the funding that has been used on community beds is diverted into the new community services. If the closing of beds is used to plug a funding gap then where will the money come from to improve the community offer? The current use of the Better Care Fund is having beneficial results on integrating services and supporting people to live independently out of residential care. Last year 3,788 over 65s were supported in their own homes, 1,209 after leaving hospital. The Better Care Fund money is already allocated and will not stretch far enough to provide financial support to the improved offer.

The call for Social Care to be adequately funded to avoid a crisis in the NHS is misleading and over simplified. The additional funding needed to make social care a universal service would require increasing the financial burden to the public through direct taxation and/or local taxation, in other words it would require funding in the same way as the NHS is funded. Local Authority Social Care is currently a welfare based service set up under The National Assistance Act 1948 to meet local welfare needs and is a means tested service. The NHS is a universal service funded from direct taxation related to earnings (National Insurance) to deliver a national service.

NHS funding is from Central Taxation
LA funding is from a general grant and property taxation
NHS services are universal free at the point of need
LA services are means tested

KEEPING WARM & SAVE MONEY- EVENT

A range of organisations will be making someone available to speak to residents at an event being held at Bromsgrove Library Parkside on the 7th December from 9.30am – 1.00pm. The event is to help individuals to find out about keeping warm whilst saving money. Please bring along a copy of your energy bill on the day or just attend to find out what ideas the experts have to help you save money. Some of the ways you can stay warm and well this winter include:

- ✚ **Keep warm.** Heat your home to at least 18°C (65°F), living rooms slightly warmer. Keep your bedroom window closed on a winter's night. Breathing in cold air has no health benefits.
- ✚ **Look after yourself.** Contact your GP to get your free flu jab if you are aged 65 or over, live in a residential or nursing home, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person.
- ✚ **Don't delay in getting treatment** for minor winter ailments like colds or sore throats. Visit your local pharmacist for advice on treatment before it gets worse so you can recover quicker.
- ✚ **Layer your clothing** whether you are indoors or outside. Wrap a scarf around your mouth to protect your lungs from the cold air.
- ✚ **Wear shoes with a good grip** if you need to go outside.
- ✚ When you're indoors, **try not to sit still for more than an hour** or so. Get up, stretch your legs and make yourself a warm drink.
- ✚ **Have your heating and cooking appliances checked** by a Gas Safe registered engineer to make sure they are operating safely.
- ✚ **Contact your water and power suppliers** to see if you can be on the Priority Services Register, a service for older and disabled people.
- ✚ **Check on older neighbours** or relatives to make sure they're safe, well and warm enough, especially at night. Check stocks of food and medicines are sufficient to save the need to go out.

If you're worried about an older person, contact a family member, the local council on 01905 763 763, or ring the Age UK helpline on 0800 00 99 66. For more information about how to keep warm and keep well this winter, visit www.gov.uk/keep-warm-keep-well

BROADBAND UPDATE NOVEMBER 2016

Virgin's 'Supercharging Local Communities' and 'Cable My Street' are calling upon residents and businesses to influence the decision on where they deploy next by registering demand on their website. To date, Virgin announced their intention to extend their network to: Lickey, **Catshill** and **Upper and Lower Marlbrook** as part of Virgin Media's Project Lightning rollout.

Gigaclear's commercial model is 100% fibre to the premise (FTTP) and is demand led i.e. the opportunity is promoted within the community and if demand is present, fibre to the premises is deployed. Gigaclear's currently proposed deployment is expected to focus on the south parts of the Malvern Hills District (East and South from Malvern), East & West parts of the Bromsgrove district (around Alvechurch and Rowney Green in the East and **Dodford** - West) as well as around Rushock and **Upton Warren** on (North of Wychavon and South of Wyre Forest districts).

For further news and information go to the Council web pages at www.superfastworcestershireshire.com/

23rd NOVEMBER AUTUMN STATEMENT

The Autumn Statement on the 23rd November presented a picture of an economy that has been growing but expects growth to slow and inflation to rise over the next few years. The ambition is towards an economy that works for all and Government has therefore decided to provide flexibility to support the economy setting lower fiscal targets and investment in roads, rail, research and housing. Long term plans to raise the personal allowance and the higher rate tax threshold continues to be supported. There was no mention of support for Adult Social Care or any reference to the Better Care Fund. Headlines are:

- + Fuel duty will remain frozen for the seventh successive year
- + NS&I will offer a new three-year Investment Bond with an indicative rate of 2.2% from spring 2017
- + Personal Allowances will rise to £11,500 in 2017/18 and higher rate tax to £45,000
- + The National Living Wage for those over 25 will increase to £7.50 per hour
- + The Universal Credit taper will be reduced from 65% to 63%
- + Cracking down on employers breaking the law, pension scams, tax avoiders, salary sacrifice schemes.

Investment in Infrastructure and innovation includes:

- + £2.3 billion new Housing Infrastructure Fund for roads and water connections
- + £1.4 billion for 40,000 affordable homes & £1.7 billion to speed construction on public sector land
- + £390 million investment in transport technology to help in reducing emissions
- + £1.1 billion to reduce congestion and upgrade local roads and public transport
- + £220 million to tackle road safety and congestion on Highways England roads
- + £1 billion to invest in full-fibre broadband and trialing 5G networks
- + £2 billion more per year in research and development funding

Rural rate business relief will also move from 50% to 100% helping small communities with less than 3,000 people to keep their village shop or post office with a rateable value of up to £8,500, or the public house or petrol station with a rateable value of up to £12,500

My very best wishes for a merry festive season

Thank you for your help and support during the year and for your patience

I wish you good health for 2017 and hope it will be a year full of good experiences



Sheila Blagg

County Councillor

Woodvale Bromsgrove