

District councillor's report, Nov 2012

1. Textile Recycling Project

In order to avoid any confusion, this project is not intended to replace donation of clothing to charities (which households are encouraged to continue to do). It is, however, intended to prevent the 7000 tonnes of worn or damaged clothing which are placed in non-recycle bins throughout the county each year, incurring a landfill charge of over £600,000 annually. As at the end of September over 220 tonnes of clothes had been collected under the scheme. Proceeds are used in the first instance to defray running costs (e.g. provision of bags) of the scheme itself, and thereafter to offset the wider running costs of recycling.

One problem still being encountered is the placing of textiles loose in the recycling bins: they should be placed in the separate bags provided.

2. Brome recycling plant

The reopened plant has made a successful start, having operated now for two months, with only some minor hiccups to overcome. However, its success depends on ongoing use: so please encourage people to keep using it, in order to ensure that it remains in operation.

3. Homelessness

As at the end of July five households had been placed in B&B accommodation. Their average stay was three weeks, which is in line with targets. Average length of stay in the Council's hostel in Stowmarket is four weeks, compared with a target of ten weeks.

4. Pest control

The contract continues to run well and MITIE's prices have remained unchanged this year.

5. Westgrove House, Mendlesham Green

The Planning Inspector has agreed with the Planning Committee that West Grove House is unacceptable as it is in the wrong location and is overbearing and dominating in the setting of a modest row of houses. The result is very serious for the applicants, who must demolish the house within six months. However, arguably they have only themselves to blame as, following several visits by the Planning Committee, they were requested to make changes to the design. They rejected these and continued to build according to their original design even after a Temporary Stop Notice was issued.

6. Clean Britain Awards

Mid Suffolk has again been given the five star award for cleanliness. It was the first that Mid Suffolk made a joint application with Babergh, so we were pleased to have retained the five star rating.

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