

COUNCIL

MEETING OF 24 OCTOBER 2023

AGENDA ITEM 8 - QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 5.5

The following question has been asked pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 5.5 by Councillor A Cope:

‘Please could the cabinet member for the environment let us know the impact of the removal of the recycling facilities at Longmead in Tonbridge and whether this has created an increase in household recycling from properties nearby? Additionally, when will recycling facilities for all the flats reach the standard specified by the council in the surrounding properties? If this hasn't happened, what alternative provision has been provided to residents in the Longmead area to compensate for the facilities having been removed?’

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Infrastructure (Cllr M Coffin):

The tonnage data we receive for recycling collections is not detailed at such a granular level as to be able to provide specific weight data for those properties around Longmead. However, there has been a significant reduction in rubbish being dumped at the site since the bring banks were removed in August this year. Waste Services have received no complaints about the removal of the banks from local residents.

Since the completion of the roll-out of improved dry recycling services to properties served by communal bin stores, only 124 properties across the Borough – out of over 57,000 - cannot accommodate additional bins for dry recycling. These include 40 flats in Hamble Road in Trench Ward - where, although there is sufficient room to provide additional recycling bins, Clarion Housing will not allow us to provide them in suitable locations, despite our offer to fund hard standing & fencing. Local Members have also previously liaised with Clarion Housing, to no avail. Should Clarion's management change their minds and allocate appropriate locations we will of course provide the bins required for any improved service.

The only other exception for flats currently is access to food waste collections. A trial of communal food waste collections is currently being planned and due to be implemented within the current financial year, with a view to the wider rollout during 2024/25, depending on the results of the trial.

Currently, the alternative provision for disposal of recycling for residents of the 40 flats referred to are (a) use alternative recycling sites in Tonbridge; (b) use their nearest

Household Waste Recycling Centre; (c) use the existing refuse bins for their waste, which will be used to generate electricity even though not recycled.