

South Swindon Parish Council

Draft Response to Waste Strategy October 2018

South Swindon Parish Council:

- Notes low and falling recycling rates in Swindon compared to neighbouring areas, and the need to meet legal requirements.
- Recommends a high profile comms campaign to inform the public about the need to reduce waste, the importance of recycling, and what should go in the recycling box. Including leaflets to all households as well as online and social media presence, and visits by officers to HMOs, blocks of sheltered flats, etc.
- Supports non-collection of wheelie bins containing careless amounts of recyclable materials so long as this is preceded by a comms campaign as above
- Supports charging £5 for replacement bins, except where householder can produce a damaged bin
- Recommends collecting food waste for anaerobic digestion without delay, and making provision in the revised local plan for more space in new houses and flats for recycling containers including food waste bins. The Parish is concerned both about the methane released by landfilled food waste and the energy needed to dry it out for fuel,
- Does not agree with adding recyclable plastic to SRF stream because
 - Both UK and EU view energy recovery for plastics with disfavour
 - We are concerned about the energy cost of processing and transporting SRF and the toxic emissions released by the combustion of plastic, without constant monitoring
 - Stopping and restarting collecting recyclable plastic will confuse the public and could adversely affect recycling rates
 - By reducing the amount of recyclable plastic available, this policy will discourage the development of plastic recycling plants locally.
 - SBC should await the publication of the central government revised waste strategy this autumn, and make full use of any new opportunities for recycling that it may contain.
- Suggests filling any spare SRF capacity profitably by taking neighbouring councils' non-recyclable waste at a charge lower than landfill tax.