

Item 9

The Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SURREY HEATH
23rd September 2004

KEY ISSUE:

The report updates Members on the last meeting of the Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath.

SUMMARY:

The Citizens' Panel met on 11th August 2004. The meeting consisted of a brief discussion about the Local Transport Plan (2) for Surrey Heath and a community workshop on Waste

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee for Surrey Heath:

1. gives feedback on the work of the Panel over the past year to contribute to the review of the Panel, and,
2. notes the report.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. At the Local Committee meeting held on 17th July 2003, the Committee agreed to the setting up of a Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath. The next Panel meeting will be on 26th October 2004 and will focus on the draft Community Safety Strategy for Surrey Heath and a review of the work of the Standing Citizen's Panel.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. Surrey County Council has run a number of community workshops on waste across Surrey in recent month. The aim of these workshops is to:
 - Build understanding amongst those in the community about waste issues
 - Increase understanding of what the waste issues are, what the options are for dealing with the problem, and the personal and societal responsibility for the production of waste.
 - Increase understanding of the land use implications of waste management solutions and motivate attendees to participate in the Waste Local Plan consultation process.

3. There are several events and activities going on across Surrey, all related to the Local Development Framework for Waste. Surrey County Council has commissioned a series of face to face meetings like this one and there has been a workshop with waste professionals and others particularly interested in waste issues. Following this series of workshops there will be a formal consultation on the Local Development Framework which is Surrey County Council's strategy for waste.
4. The results of each workshop are reported on the Surrey County Council website (www.surreycc.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling). These findings will inform the emerging Local Development Framework.
5. The next phase of Local Development Framework is to publish a series of 4-6 Issues Papers – looking at waste minimisation and prevention, recycling, sites, BPEO (best practicable environmental option). There will be a formal electronic consultation on these Issues Papers. Sometime next year a draft Local Development Framework will be published which will also be open to consultation.
6. The Panels comments were as follows.

Waste issues in Surrey Heath

Business waste needs to be separated higher up the supply chain
Excess packaging should be stopped especially that involved in the packaging of fresh fruit and vegetables.
You need to reduce the % of business waste and encourage businesses to recycle
Why do garden waste sacks cost so much? They are 60p each. 58p of this is for transport
The mail preference service doesn't work
Junk Mail needs to be reduced and taxed at source
We need more information on recycling locally
More items need to be collected at the kerbside for recycling - not just cans and newspapers
We need wheelie bins not just black sacks.
Germany has a recycling day once a month - we need to do this
Television encourages waste e.g. DIY programmes
Recycling of construction materials should be encouraged
Office equipment should be reused not just thrown away
Should learn best practice form other areas
Incinerators are not seen as safe, need to educate people about the technology
Need to deal with general waste locally to avoid transportation costs
Must avoid mixing waste so it is easier to recycle
Wilton Road dump is inaccessible, Farnborough is much better
There has been an increase in the dumping of cars and white goods

Recycling needs to be encouraged by significantly raising landfill costs

Need to reduce the availability of plastic bags. This is a major problem.

Land Use Issues

Need to have good transport networks, should make sure that better use is made of rail transport

Should have several smaller facilities for communities, not just one big one. Needs to be not near homes so that local roads are not clogged up

Observations about different technologies for dealing with waste.

We have not been given enough information on these technologies. For instance, what does "relatively expensive" mean. Is that £2 million or more or less? If you don't give us the information you can't expect an informed response.

We are looking at the different technologies in isolation when really there must be an integrated solution. You can't use some and not others. What are you going to do with the ash from incinerators? You then need something else.

You need to make sure that waste is reduced and reused and recycled as much as possible, then you won't need lots of technologies. This whole workshop assumes that there will still be lots of waste. Follow the hierarchy and you won't have that much to deal with.

There are not enough anaerobic digesters or composters about. These would be good to have locally to serve each community.

Local facilities will help minimise transport costs and pollution.

Landfill sites will still be needed as a last resort e.g. asbestos

Pyrolysis is expensive so you would only need one in the County but if you end up having one major site then trains should be used to transport the waste.

Incinerators will still be needed for some waste e.g. clinical

Recommendations and key messages to Surrey County Council

No option can be used in isolation, you need a mixed strategy

Major capital investment is needed and imaginative financing

Focus first on the sources of waste at the point of entry into the waste stream. This will reduce waste so there will be less to deal with

Give people more and definite information if you want informed opinions.

Questions to be answered on the website

Where does the income from landfill tax go?

What does "relatively expensive" mean, how expensive is this?

What will the impact of reduce, reuse and recycle be? As this will affect the number and

costs of waste facilities needed.

CONSULTATION

7. The Panel is a consultative group of local representatives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

9. The results of this consultation will feed into the planning of sustainable waste management across Surrey.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10. None

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11. The Panel is representative of the Surrey Heath Community.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. gives feedback on the work of the Panel over the past year to contribute to the review of the Panel, and,
2. notes the report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None