

CABINET

Tuesday 26 September

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The Petition concerning 'Shaping Surrey's Community Recycling Centres 2017'

It states: "We the undersigned residents of Surrey, call on Surrey County Council not to close the Community Recycling Centre in Bond Road, Warlingham, which is a vital local amenity. We believe its closure would be a major withdrawal of services and lead to increased flytipping and congestion at the Caterham Hill recycling centre"

Submitted by Mr Charles Lister

Signatures: 526

The Petition concerning 'Save Surrey's Tips!'

It states: "We the undersigned call upon Surrey County Council to reverse its decision to close Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) at Bagshot, Cranleigh, Dorking and Warlingham, and oppose its plans to significantly reduce the opening hours of all other CRCs across the county by two days per week, and introduce further charges for the disposal of waste.

We believe that the closure of these amenities and reduced opening hours of others could lead to an increase in fly-tipping leading to further costs for boroughs, districts and landowners as well as the blight to the environment.

We call upon the County Council to ensure that all sites remain open, with no reduction in opening hours or increase in charges"

Submitted by Mrs Hazel Watson on behalf of the Liberal Democrats

Signatures: 3245

The Cabinet's combined response

Surrey County Council had to regrettably put forward proposed changes to the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) service in a public consultation out of necessity due to the financial challenges being faced. Continued cuts to funding, rising costs and increasing demand for key services means that the need to find savings has reached unprecedented levels. This year alone we need to make savings of more than £100m – that's about 10% of our overall budget.

The public consultation received 13,637 responses, which is considered to be one of the largest responses the council has received to a consultation. The council would like to thank everyone who took part and gave their opinion on the proposals in the consultation.

On 17 August I met with the leader to discuss the consultation results. The public had clearly made their views known and we both agreed that we should recommend to cabinet that we would not permanently close any of the four CRC sites.

Having listened to the views from residents and stakeholders, we have recognized the need to maintain these sites for as long as possible as set out in today's Cabinet report.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
26 September 2017

The Petition concerning 'Stop their plans to cut fire and rescue cover in Spelthorne by 50%'

It states: 'We are pleased that Staines Fire Station has been given a reprieve but we believe that adequate fire and rescue cover can only be provided by ensuring that there are two whole-time staffed fire appliances based in Spelthorne - as at present.'

Submitted by Andy Pattinson on behalf of UNISON,

Signatures: 1355

The Cabinet's response

Increasing demand for essential services such as adult social care and school places, coupled with reduced Government funding, means Surrey County Council is under pressure to find efficiencies and savings on all the services it provides for the county's residents, including fire and rescue.

As part of this the fire and rescue cover in Spelthorne was reviewed and following a consultation in 2013, it was decided to close Sunbury and Staines fire stations and replace them with one new fire station at an optimum location to serve the area. It was agreed at that time that the new station was to have one full-time crew and one on-call crew, subject to it being possible to provide an on-call crew.

A further consultation on proposals regarding fire cover in Spelthorne took place between 29 November 2016 and 20 February 2017. One of the proposals was that the new station should be staffed by a full-time crew only. The Council received a high volume of responses and these are being considered alongside other factors. The consultation report with final recommendations on crewing arrangements will be presented to the Cabinet for decision at a date in the future.

Ms Denise Turner-Stewart
Cabinet Member for Communities
26 September 2017