

## Bagshot Swift Lane Community Recycling Centre Consultation

Dates: 16<sup>th</sup> September – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Number of responses: 1071

### Open-text analysis

We have used AI assisted thematic analysis for the open-ended responses.

**12. If selected 'support with conditions', what are these conditions? Please suggest any alternative service arrangements that you would like us to consider.**

- **Opposition to Closure:**
  - "I do not support the proposal to close it down."
  - "I most definitely do not support the closure."
  - "I do not support the closure of the site"
- **Accessibility and Convenience:**
  - "The site is less than 10 minutes away from Ascot residents whereas the Maidenhead site is over 30 minutes away."
  - "It is convenient. Always well used and easily accessible."
  - "I can use this site without making it a special journey."
  - "This is closest and easiest to access and never had to queue for 30 min to access the size like in Camberley."
- **Environmental Concerns:**
  - "This means more pollution, and more road congestion - which is a significant detractor from the overall goals of recycling - i.e. being environmentally conscious."
  - "Where is the logic in making SL5 resident drive 20+ miles to recycle. The damage we cause the environment, let alone the risk to human life and the time nobody has free, we will simply stop recycling."
  - "It would add volume of cars on the already very busy A30 section from Bagshot to Camberley and more emissions which I thought Surrey Heath wanted reduced."
  - "I don't want to drive further as it really is not good for the environment. It defeats the object of recycling."
  - "There is always a large queue at Camberley which is the nearest alternative site 6 miles away and can take over an hour to get there."
  - "We need to encourage and enable more recycling as household consumption rises and valuable materials need to be kept in circulation"

- **Community Impact:**
  - “RBWM residents are not welcome at the second nearest recycling centre in Bracknell as there is no agreement between RBWM and Bracknell Forest.”
  - “The whole of Ascot is bereft of any sensible local recycling options.”
  - “Whilst small, Bagshot Recycling services a widespread community.”
  - “If it were to close completely, it would cause huge problems for local residents, plus travelling to Camberley”
  - “Residents of Ascot, Sunningdale & Sunninghill to be given access to Lyne, otherwise we have a 22 mile round trip to Maidenhead.”
- **Staff and Service Quality:**
  - “The Bagshot centre is staffed by committed, friendly and dedicated staff who have been working there for years and are happy to give advice.”
  - “I haven’t had this experience at the larger, more modern, sites which tend to be less well staffed.”
  - “The site is not difficult to access and seems to function well.”
- **Suggestions for Improvement:**
  - “If it were modernised and made safer it would get even more use.”
  - “Opening the site for longer, widening the road, making gardening collection free which is a large proportion of the regular usage of the site.”
  - “Perhaps the whole site could be moved away from the existing housing/business alongside it into this field and expanding it into a more modern and safer, user-friendly site?”
  - “Consider an arrangement with Bracknell council so those in the sunnings and Ascot can use Bracknell.”
  - “Accept more types of rubbish like it used to, i.e., plaster board and rubble.”
  - “Let SL5 residents use Camberley site.”
  - “You could reduce the opening times to weekends only.”
- **Concerns About Fly Tipping:**
  - “This will cause even more fly tipping as people will not want to drive 6 miles to go to the nearest tip in Camberley.”
  - “The closure of this site would encourage fly tipping in the surrounding area.”
  - “I fear fly tipping will become a greater issue with the additional costs this will bring to the council.”
  - “Closing will push more traffic to Camberley and increase the chances of fly tipping.”
- **Need for Convenient Recycling Options:**

## Annex B2

- “More recycling collection as part of the weekly collections would be helpful.”
- “We need a recycling centre that is close by.”
- “Improved recycling options from kerbside collections.”

**13. Is there anything else you think we should consider or that you would like to share about this proposal?**

- **Concerns About Fly Tipping:**
  - “Without it fly tipping is likely to increase as people get frustrated by the lack of local dump.”
  - “Closing the site would attract more fly tipping in the area.”
  - “Fly tipping is happening because of poor management of the recycling process.”
  - “With the loss of such facilities is it any wonder that people fly tip.”
  
- **Convenience and Accessibility:**
  - “If this is closed we have to drive down 20 mins to access the one in Maidenhead making it a more expensive option.”
  - “As a RBWM member who uses this site frequently, I think it would be a great shame to close it down. It is a 10-15 min drive for many RBWM residents as opposed to a 30 min plus drive to the other sites listed above.”
  - “The Bagshot centre is convenient and rarely too busy to access.”
  - “This site is the most convenient for Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham community and has better access for them than a long journey to Camberley.”
  - “The recycling centre at Swift Lane is a vital part of local services that are regularly used by local residents so it is important that it stays open.”
  
- **Environmental Concerns:**
  - “If this closes, I will have to do a 25 mile round-trip to get rid of any of my recyclables which is not green at all.”
  - “Closing tip locally is worse for the environment because more cars travel further and there will be more queues with engines running. Totally not in line with net zero.”
  - “We are supposed to be cutting down on emissions and yet we have bagshot recycle 2.4 miles away and if this closed the named one we have to use is Maidenhead (we aren’t allowed to use Bracknell) which is 8.2 miles how does that make any sense?”
  - “The purpose of recycling is to save the environment. Closing this centre would mean 100s of people regularly driving 6-10 miles away to recycle... driving unnecessarily does not help the environment.”
  - “You should consider the environmental impact of the additional fuel required to travel to these further recycling centres.”
  - “Travelling greater distances to a community recycling centre goes against the sustainability and environmental objectives of such sites.”
  - “It will also result in unnecessary additional travel and carbon emissions with the risk of additional unauthorised disposal.”

- **Staff and Service Quality:**
  - “Credit has to be given to the team that operate this site. It has always been very clean and easy to get to.”
  - “I’d just like to say how helpful and kind I have always found the people who work at the site.”
  - “The staff at the site are excellent and a couple have been there some time. They are very helpful.”
- **Cost and Resource Allocation:**
  - “Clear ups and enforcement by the relevant local authorities is expensive. If the savings gained by closing Swift Lane were exclusively ring fenced to investigate, prosecute and fine fly tippers, then there may be an argument to consider closure.”
  - “I consider this service highly important in terms of what we get in return for our high council tax costs.”
  - “We pay our council tax, and therefore expect to be able to have access to local facilities like this.”
  - “Could end up costing the community more.”
  - “More homes are being built while facilities are being closed and our council tax increases every year.”
- **Operational Issues and Suggestions:**
  - “Part of the reason Bagshot processes a smaller proportion of waste is because a) you have limited what you can take and b) it’s closed two days a week.”
  - “Change the 4 days to Thursday to Sunday and its use will increase again.”
  - “Perhaps a token fee for SL5 residents could be introduced if we are so much of a burden...a tap and go £1-2 per visit, or an annual £15 permit would not seem unreasonable.”
  - “If you decide to close the site, how will you look to use the savings? May I suggest improving cycling infrastructure (safe links between the 3 villages - properly separated from cars and pedestrians) and speed reducing measures on the A30.”
  - “Why not consider installing security cameras on the site and in swift lane.”
  - “A similar consultation took place some time ago resulting in reduced hours of opening for Bagshot. This seems to meet the needs to save costs and also those of easy access for residents.”
- **Community Impact:**
  - “This site is extremely valuable to local residents and there is NO accessible alternative for a lot of people.”
  - “It would have a disproportionate impact on residents and must be kept open.”

- “Having access to the Bagshot facility which is right next to Ascot is a pragmatic and welcome solution which would be a loss to the community should it close.”
- “The recycle centre is a valuable service provided as part of our council tax and one that contributes to the environment.”
- “This subject keeps coming up. The residents and users are constantly fighting to keep this facility open.”
- “Multiple local CRCs (rather than one larger recycling centre in Camberley) best serve the needs of our outlying village communities.”
- “The Bagshot recycling centre is used by many members of the community and would be a great loss to the local residents.”

- **Traffic and Congestion Issues:**

- “To propose to close this community recycling centre would push all the local traffic into other towns.”
- “The journey to Camberley CRC may only be 6 miles, but the number of traffic lights and traffic congestion make this an awful journey.”
- “Closing the Swift Lane site would increase the usage of the already very busy Camberley site causing queuing and traffic problems.”
- “Mileage to alternatives is one way of looking at it however it doesn’t represent the time it would take to get to these locations on a weekend, particularly the closest - Camberley. A30 is already a nightmare with traffic.”
- “There is too much traffic congestion on the A30. Why does the council want to add to that congestion with all those extra car miles to Camberley and all those extra emissions?”
- “Access to Camberley Wilton Rd needs to improve as there is already congestion.”

- **Opposition to Closure:**

- “I strongly disagree with the proposed closure of the site.”
- “In summary I strongly oppose the closure of the Bagshot site.”
- It is unacceptable to close Swift Lane recycling centre.”

- **Council Decisions and Communication:**

- “Please advise why this proposal is not being sent out to all parties affected by this decision.”
- “It’s madness and I will not vote again for any of the current council if this facility is closed.”
- “The Council needs to start listening to the community it’s supposed to be serving.”
- “Seems like the sooner we change councillors or those who say they look after local residents the better.”