

**Cabinet: 26 November 2024**

**PETITION TITLE: SAVE SWIFT LANE**

**Statement:** We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to not close the Swift Lane Recycling Centre in Bagshot. Surrey County Council are planning to close the Swift Lane Recycling Centre in Bagshot. This will cause great difficulty to local residents who will be forced to make long journeys to dispose of their household rubbish. There will inevitably be an increase in fly-tipping in the countryside around Bagshot, Windlesham and Chobham, harming the environment and wildlife. This is another erosion of public services. We demand that Surrey County Council listens to residents and keeps the Swift Lane site open.

**Submitted by:** Richard Wilson

922 Signatures

**RESPONSE:**

**Details of the petition**

A petition objecting to the potential closure of Bagshot Community Recycling Centre (CRC) was submitted by Surrey Heath Borough Council Councillor Richard Wilson to Surrey County Council's Democratic Services on 9th October 2024.

The title of the petition is:

"Surrey County Council are planning to close the Swift Lane Recycling Centre in Bagshot. This will cause great difficulty to local residents who will be forced to make long journeys to dispose of their household rubbish. There will inevitably be an increase in fly-tipping in the countryside around Bagshot, Windlesham and Chobham, harming the environment and wildlife. This is another erosion of public services. We demand that Surrey County Council listens to residents and keeps the Swift Lane site open".

**Analysis**

The petition was conducted using Change.org. It was submitted to the council on 9th October 2024 with 922 signatures. Further signatures have been added since receipt by SCC. However, SCC's procedures require that electronic petitions be treated as paper petitions and only signatures received up to the date of submission of the petition to SCC are considered.

Analysis of petition data shows the following:

- 396 (43%) were Surrey residents with 257 (28%) from the Bagshot catchment area used in the Cabinet Report on the closure of the site.
- 169 (18%) were from Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead – who use Bagshot CRC with permission (they have no 'right to use' Surrey CRCs);
- 344 (37%) were from the UK, but not Surrey or RBWM;
- 12 (1%) were not UK.

The above data shows that approximately 1.04% of Surrey residents aged 18 and over whose closest CRC is Bagshot, signed the petition prior to submission to SCC.

This analysis does not suggest that the majority of local residents are against the closure.

### **Response**

Responses to the petition raised concerns about increased fly-tipping, environmental impact and inconvenience. Surrey County Council's experience is that previous changes to CRC facility provision such as reduced opening hours and days have not resulted in any increased fly-tipping.

Surrey County Council's Resources and Circular Team are taking a report to Cabinet on 26th November recommending that Bagshot CRC be closed.

Residents of RB Windsor and Maidenhead will be directed to Lyne CRC in Chertsey.

The report sets out the rationale for closure, highlighting potential hazards and significant operational issues and detailing the results of public consultation. It also considers both the environmental impact of the potential closure and the impact on journey times to alternative sites.

Analysis undertaken by SCC's Transport Modelling specialists shows that the Swift Lane CRC in Bagshot is the closest CRC to 12,428 households.

- 63.47% (7,894) of these households would see no increase in drive time when accessing the nearest alternative (Lyne, Woking or Camberley) if the Bagshot site was to close.

- Of the remaining 4,544 households, none would have a drive time of greater than 20 minutes or 7.8 miles to the closest alternative site.

To compensate for the closure of Bagshot CRC nearby Camberley CRC will be opened for an additional day per week to compensate, meaning that Camberley CRC would be open for 7 days per week. Traffic movements at Camberley CRC will be monitored and it may be that the site could be open earlier at weekends should the evidence suggest earlier opening would be of benefit.

Residents of RB Windsor and Maidenhead would be directed to Lyne CRC in Chertsey which is convenient for them and would not contribute to additional usage at Camberley CRC.

It is therefore appropriate that Cabinet consider the proposal to close Bagshot CRC and determine whether the site should be closed at the Cabinet meeting on 26th November.

**Natalie Bramhall**

**Cabinet Member for Property, Waste and Infrastructure**

**14 November 2024**