

Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for Hambleton Parish Council

Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will be introducing a charge for soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos from 1 October 2016.

Soil and rubble, which is usually created from construction, alteration or repair of homes and gardens, will be charged at £2.50 per part or whole 30 litre bag, or per item. Soil and rubble includes construction and demolition materials such as stone, rubble, clay, concrete, bricks, blocks, sand, tiles, paving slabs, and ceramic bathroom suites. There will be no charge for crockery or clay/terracotta flower pots. The limit of six bags of soil and rubble per household per month will be lifted.

Hampshire County Council will also be implementing a charge for plasterboard and cement-bonded asbestos. Plasterboard, which is accepted at all sites, will be charged at £10 per sheet, or £6 per 30 litre bag. Cement-bonded asbestos, which will continue to only be accepted at Andover, Basingstoke, Efford, Netley and Portsmouth HWRCs will be charged at £12 per sheet. No other type of asbestos is permitted. Cash and card payment options will be available at each centre.

Managing Hampshire's waste costs all the councils in the county around £100 million each year, and, coupled with ongoing reductions in Government funding, the Council needed to look carefully at how to deal with, and pay for, waste. This type of DIY and construction waste is particularly expensive to dispose of, costing Hampshire's council taxpayers around £1 million each year.

This new charge is being introduced from October 1 to cover the additional costs of disposing of DIY and construction waste compared to household waste, which is the fairest way for as many as possible, and which residents said they supported. Many authorities elsewhere in the UK already charge for this type of waste to cover their cost of its disposal, and Hampshire will now be doing the same.

The charges apply to the specified waste types only and no householder will be expected to pay for normal household waste, green garden waste or recyclable materials such as scrap metal or glass.

The charges follow a public consultation in 2014, in which 6,500 members of the public responded to proposals on how to meet savings the County Council is required to make. A further consultation which took place this year, looked at cost savings in other areas such as changing opening hours, trade waste charges and the possibility of charging for other non-household materials.

Hampshire HWRCs will also be accepting trade waste from small and medium sized businesses on a chargeable basis from October 1, accepting the same materials that the sites currently accept from residents. More information will be available in due course.

Hampshire County Council's Consultation on Local Government. Full details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/servinghampshire. The consultation closes at midnight 20th September.

Devolution, I believe, has slipped down the government's agenda given Brexit and there have been reports that the Prime Minister, Theresa May is to abandon George Osborne's plan for directly elected mayors in city regions.

Cllr Roger Huxstep

Member for Meon Valley Division

5th September 2016