

Purbeck District Council July 2014 Report

Elections

As there was an election for the District Council at the end of May I did not write a report for the June magazine. I have now been re-elected and although we are technically NOC (No overall Control) we are in fact in control and I have been re-appointed Planning Committee Chair as well as taking on the portfolio of Economy and growth.

Recycling

Residents have helped increase Dorset's recycling rate by 6% since the new, standardised collection service was launched, according to figures from the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). Dorset recycled 54% of its waste in 2013/14, up from 49% in 2012/13.

The service started in Purbeck and part of West Dorset in March 2014. In the first month, Purbeck's recycling rate was 56% – more than twice the rate of 27% for March 2013. The Recycle for Dorset service is being rolled out across Dorset's six districts and boroughs between 2012/2015, with the aim to increase recycling to 68% and reduce costs by £2m a year.

Another 50,000 households in Weymouth and Portland and West Dorset will start using the scheme in October, followed by the rest of West Dorset in 2015. The total amount of Dorset's waste sent to landfill last year was 23%, down from 26% in 2012/13. In addition, 18% of Dorset's waste was sent for either mechanical biological treatment, where further recycling is extracted, or to produce electricity. Dorset's statistics for 2013/14 also show that, compared to 2012/13:

- the total amount of household waste collected grew by 2.5%
- three times more garden waste was collected for composting
- 32% more recycling was collected at the kerbside
- 26% less recycling was taken to community bring banks
- 18% less non-recyclable rubbish was collected
- 17% more food waste was collected to generate renewable energy

Councils currently pay £80 in tax for every tonne of waste sent to landfill. Including gate fees, it costs £1,060 to landfill 10 tonnes of rubbish, compared to an income of £127 for the same amount of recycling. In a recent survey of 5,000 residents using the new service, 89% said they were satisfied with it and 85% said they were now recycling more. There have been a few teething problems but a big well done to everybody!

For more information about this go to www.dorsetforyou.com/recyclefordorset

Surgery

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Purbeck District Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and cannot get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

Peter Wharf
District Councillor