

## **District Councillor Report for Ingham Parish Council 17th September 2019**

Many of us may have received an email from a resident asking about recycling in West Suffolk.

We have been in contact with this resident answering the points raised but thought it would be a good idea to also share these answers with you.

No residential or commercial waste that West Suffolk Council collects goes to landfill. Instead what can be recycled is recycled and the rest goes to the energy from waste plant at Blakenham.

Of course the Council is the last part in the process in dealing with waste and this can only be tackled across the whole system. We, like all councils, encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle to avoid waste being produced in the first place. It is at the initial stages of production and point of purchase that the most change can be made in reducing waste – be that reduced packaging, only buying enough for what is needed or reusing and recycling items. To this end we work as part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership of local authorities responsible for collecting and disposing of the county's waste.

We try to recycle as much as we can and councils may vary across the UK although Suffolk authorities are mostly the same. Recycling methods vary for various reasons such as reducing contamination so more can be recycled, cost of process and availability of facilities. For example we encourage people to recycle glass at the bring sites so not to contaminate or degrade other recyclables such as paper and cardboard. Currently we capture 70% of the available glass through our bring sites.

Our brown bin garden waste collection has been successful. UK law introduced following the Foot and Mouth outbreak means food waste cannot be composted outdoors as garden waste is. However, the council and the wider Suffolk Waste Partnership lobby to reduce food that is thrown away working with supermarkets and campaign groups.

Government are also consulting on bringing in changes to recycling including more incentives for residents to recycle, such as getting money back for returning plastic bottles. A summary of the responses to this first round of public consultations were published by Government on 23 July 2019. Further consultations on a more defined set of proposals are expected around the turn of the year. These proposals include looking at mandatory weekly food waste collections, proposals for the collection of glass and garden waste and seeking to make the producers of packaging more financially responsible for its disposal. It is also worth remembering that processes can cost extra either in terms of ongoing costs for the council tax payer or impact on the environment with extra

collections and vehicles on the road. That said, for our current and future generations we are constantly looking for ways to improve. An example of this development is the kerbside collection of batteries. When the council introduced this scheme producer responsibility was in its infancy and there were few alternative places accepting these items. As producer responsibility and used battery deposit options have increased significantly, use of the kerbside collection scheme has reduced and is no longer necessary.

I would encourage Members to channel enquiries such as this through Mark Walsh.

## **Copy of a letter which will go out to householders from Peter Stevens**

### **Compositional analysis of residual waste**

I write to tell you that selected households in West Suffolk householders will be receiving the letter attached to this report, telling them they have been selected as part of the next sample area for our compositional analysis of residual waste.

Households are selected at random and their waste is removed prior to the arrival of our bin collection crews in order for it to be thoroughly sorted. The information we gain from this exercise helps to inform our communications approach and provides a measure for our performance.

Residents are given the opportunity to opt-out of this exercise should they wish to, and will be contacted by letter offering this option next week.

**Rural task force** is a task force set up by West Suffolk council to look at how best to ensure the different issues facing residents, communities and businesses in more rural areas are taken into account by West Suffolk Council in all its future activities and decision making. Parish councils will be consulted in this in this task force piece of work.

### **Climate change**

There has been a climate change task force been set up to make recommendations to Cabinet on West Suffolk Council's future role in protecting and enhancing the environment both in ways in which it carries out its operations and through specific initiatives

**Car park review** has been set up to review national/local trends and policy and evaluate the current performance of the car parking service across locations

including usage conditions of the car parks, quality of service delivery, enforcement, parking incentives and customer feedback in West Suffolk.