

REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 9th August 2022

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for Burham and Wouldham Ward
Councillors Dave Davis and Roger Dalton

SATURDAY FREIGHTER SERVICE

1. On 20 July 2022, TMBC's Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee consider the future of the Saturday Freighter Service, the bulky waste collection service that was suspended on 20 March 2020 and has not been restarted.

2. It was fully recognised that in many parts of the Borough that has had this service, that it is popular and well used. However, the Committee found compelling reasons to recommend that the service is not reopened. In summary these are:

- a) The service does not allow 1600 tonnes of materials collected each year (excluding WEEE) to be recycled.
- b) The service diverts potentially recyclable materials away from being recycled.
- c) Alternative opportunities exist for the disposal of bulky items.
- d) The service does not support targets outlined in the Council's Climate Change Strategy.
- e) The service increases the tonnage of waste sent for incineration and negatively impacts on recycling rates.
- f) That this service is not a core part of the waste service and there is. No legal requirement to provide it.
- g) The original justification for this service was the lack of Household Waste Recycling Centres and this cannot be justified now that the state-of-the-art Allington HWRC was opened on 9th May 2022.
- h) As a result of the opening of the Allington HWRC KCC have ceased to pay their contribution of £9000 towards the costs of this service.
- i) Data suggests no correlation between increased fly tipping and the suspension of the service.
- j) At present it is difficult and expensive to man the service with HGV drivers and this would detract from the mandatory kerbside collections.
- k) That only parts of the Borough have had the full benefits of the service. It has not been universally available.

Like all district councils TMBC is having to make some very difficult decisions on financial savings. All services for which there is no legal requirement to provide are vulnerable to cuts.

3. The Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee has recommended to the Cabinet that the service is permanently discontinued.

4. We understand this is on the agenda of the TMBC Parish Partnership Panel of 1st September and will go to the Cabinet Meeting on 7th September.