

**CONTINUATION OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE ON 23 JANUARY held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON  
ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 6.30pm on 15 FEBRUARY 2007**

Present: - Councillor A R Thawley – Chairman.  
Councillors K R Artus, C A Cant, J F Cheetham, C D Down, S  
Flack, E J Godwin and A Yarwood.

Officers in attendance:- D Burrige, M Cox and R Pridham.

**E51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C A Cant and C D Down declared interests as a members of a village hall management committee but stated that they had obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee.

**E52 WASTE COLLECTION FROM COMMUNITY PREMISES**

The Committee was advised of the need to set an equitable structure for the charging of waste collection from community premises. At present some premises had collections on domestic waste arrangements whilst others were on trade waste arrangements.

The Environmental Protection Act set out the definition of domestic collection as being those properties that were residential. The charging of Council Tax separated the domestic premises from non-domestic. The former included a contribution towards the cost of refuse collection the latter did not. The council had the power to set the charge it felt appropriate for collection of non-domestic waste within the Council's fees and charges.

Community premises were viewed for the purposes of this report as premises such as Village, Community and Church Halls, places of religious worship, youth voluntary premises and Day Centres. The arrangements for community premises from other local authorities had been sought and this showed a bias towards charging as trade waste.

It was recognised that some community premises had low volumes of use or limited income. Others had a more commercial approach and were dealing with higher volumes of users, income and waste. The aim of the charging policy was to give support to those without income raising opportunities, and after the free allowance was used, make a charge in line with the level of waste generated

It is proposed that each community premise was allocated a defined volume of free non-recyclable waste collection. This would be the same volume for each premise which would be 1 bag per week. Once the volume of free waste was exceeded trade waste charges would be applicable. Halls that had trade waste containers in place would be credited the value of the bags against their

invoice. Premises suited to receiving a free collection of recyclables would be offered the opportunity to trial and test what could reasonably be achieved.

Members asked a number of questions on the detailed operation of the scheme.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Members approve the charging arrangement that reflects the wish to support community premises and balance it against the cost of collecting and disposing of the waste.
- 2 That a free service of 1 coloured bag per week is implemented with effect from 1 April 2007. Community premises that have trade waste bags they no longer require may return them and request a refund.
- 3 Trade waste charges shall apply to premises that require waste services in excess of the free allowance.
- 4 Where successful recycling arrangements can jointly be established this will be a free service.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm