



Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release 15th September

Green waste problems leave Warks council taxpayers with £200,000 bill

Delays in opening the in-vessel composting unit planned to handle Stratford District's green and kitchen waste at the Ufton site are proving costly for local council taxpayers.

The in-vessel composters were originally expected to open in April 2009, some 9 months after Stratford District Council moved to a green and kitchen waste collection system. Delays mean that the green and kitchen waste for Stratford District is currently being taken to a site at Long Marston for consolidation and then transported to a commercial in-vessel composting unit at Sharpness, Gloucestershire.

The delays have led to extra costs for the County Council (the waste disposal authority) of £200,000.

'It's hardly green to have to transport waste to Sharpness and it's certainly proving very costly,' said Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Stratford District Council, Cllr Peter Mourse. 'Council taxpayers must be in despair about the way the Conservatives have handled the introduction of the new waste arrangements – it's just been one problem after another'.

Notes:

1. Planned opening date of April 2009: per County Council email, available from P Mourse. See also press reports, 26th June 2008 on problems over planning permission at the Ufton site, including an objection by the Conservative Deputy Leader at the County Council.
2. Extra costs: Item 12, para 4.6 County Council Cabinet papers, 10th September.
3. Sharpness details: email from County Council, available from P Mourse.
4. The Ufton site was not able to handle in-vessel composting when the new waste collection arrangements were introduced, resulting in green waste collections being suspended by the District Council over last winter.

More information:

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