



KCC Members Newsletter
Waste Management Update
October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This briefing provides an update on work by KCC's Waste Management service and partners. Do feel free to share the information it contains.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Booking Consultation

The recent consultation on the future use of a booking system at the HWRCs closed on 30th September. We have received a huge response to this consultation, with 10,635 questionnaire responses received, as well as 52 emails and 18 voicemails.

There has been a wealth of feedback, comments and suggestions. Waste Management Officers are now analysing responses and a full report will go to the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee on 19 January 2022.

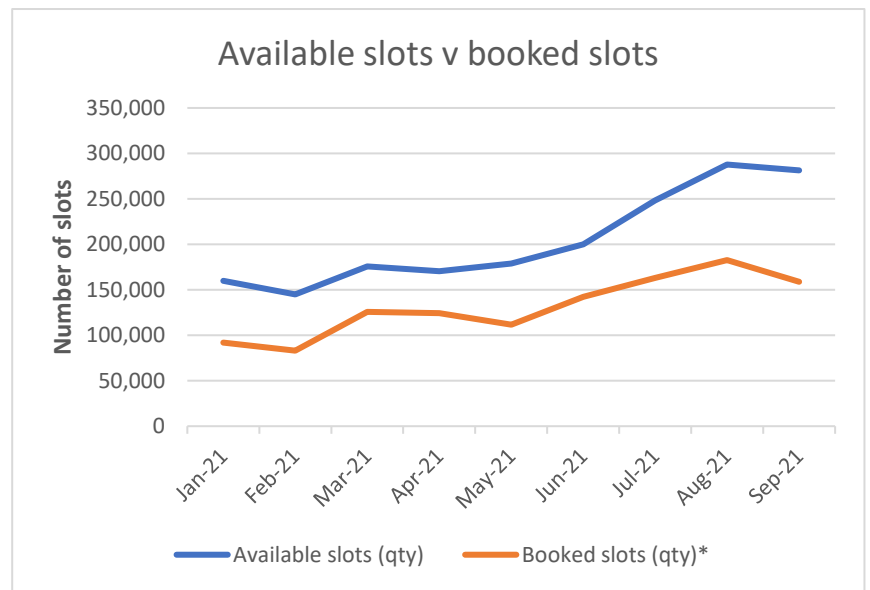
Thank you to those who responded and for encouraging residents to participate. We were extremely encouraged by the level of response, proving just how much interest there is in our waste management services and how valued our recycling centres are to our communities.

Update on HWRC use

All restrictions on capacity at the HWRCs were lifted on 19 July. All sites are open 7 days a week and all opening hours have returned to pre-Covid patterns.

Although many districts in Kent have had disrupted kerbside waste collections caused by driver shortages, and four districts suspended their garden waste collections, our HWRCs had sufficient capacity to cope with demand. More than 281,000 appointments were offered through the booking system in September.

The graph shows the total number of slots *available* for customers to book compared with the total number that have *been* booked. On average, across all HWRCs, 56% of the available slots in September were booked. (The dip in the blue line is caused by September having one day less than August not a reduction in capacity.)



The table shows demand across all 18 of our HWRCs.

HWRC	Available Slots during September 2021	% of slots booked during September 2021
Ashford	17,955	70%
Canterbury	20,520	37%
Dartford	12,825	47%
Deal	12,450	66%
Dover	17,955	66%
Faversham	12,450	31%
Folkestone	12,525	86%
Herne Bay	15,390	60%
Maidstone	20,520	67%
Margate	20,520	71%
New Romney	17,430	42%

Pepperhill	23,085	46%
Richborough	9,960	65%
Sevenoaks	15,390	57%
Sheerness	9,960	35%
Sittingbourne	11,625	51%
Swanley	10,260	41%
Tunbridge Wells	20,520	76%

One trend that appears to be continuing from during the pandemic is that residents visit the HWRC less frequently but with bigger loads. Pre pandemic an average load was about 45kg and the latest data show an average load is now 58kg.

Same day booking

We know from our surveys that some residents would like to book their visit to a HWRC on the day of their visit. BookingLab, which provides the booking system, has developed a web-app to provide this enhancement and we will be trialling it at the Folkestone & Maidstone (Tovil) HWRCs. These sites have been chosen for their variations in connectivity to IT networks and because they cover the two HWRC operating contractors. If successful, we intend to extend this option to all HWRCs.

New Kent Resource Partnership Manager

The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) brings together all the councils involved in the collection and disposal of household waste to improve how Kent's waste is collected and recycled. We're delighted to introduce Sally Ward who joined us on 01 September as the new Kent Resource Partnership Manager. Sally says:

"I have been very impressed with the commitment to the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) and the benefits that it brings to the County. It is my intention that more collaborative working



within the Councils, will serve to maximise our position in the UK. This is particularly important as we await the results of the consultation from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in relation to the fundamental changes to the collection and disposal of waste which will form the new Waste and Resources Strategy.”

Welcome to Sally and we look forward to hearing more from her in her new role.

Update on new waste facilities in Kent

- New HWRC in Allington, Maidstone

The August newsletter reported on the start of work at the new HWRC at Allington to relieve pressure on the very busy site at Tovil in Maidstone. I’m pleased to report that work is on schedule for the planned opening before June 2022.

- Upgrade to the Waste Transfer station at Dunbrik to serve Sevenoaks

The KCC Waste Management Team is working on a project for a new Waste Transfer Station (WTS) on land next to the existing facility at Dunbrik, Sevenoaks. The new WTS will be

built to the much more exacting standards expected of such facilities nowadays, and will help us support Sevenoaks residents to increase the amount they recycle.



KCC is closely involved in the specification of the site with the landowner to make sure it meets our needs, and a new lease is being negotiated. Amendments to the original planning permission have been submitted and all comments from consultees have now been addressed. The KCC planning officer has therefore issued the case and his draft decision (to approve the application) to the Secretary of State. The application for a new Environmental Permit has also been submitted to the Environment Agency and work on the detailed construction drawings is now underway. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the new year with the facility open Spring/Summer 2023.

- A new Waste Transfer Station and HWRC in the Folkestone & Hythe District

KCC has also been looking for a new site for a Waste Transfer Station and HWRC in the Folkestone & Hythe District to replace the present cramped facility at Shorncliffe which is one of our busiest sites. This would also relieve pressure on the Ashford WTS. We will share news of progress as this project progresses.

HWRCs and Flytipping

Is there a link between HWRC charging policies and flytipping? It's a view often expressed but a recent study has found no link. The environmental charity WRAP has published (June 2021) a study of charging policies at HWRCs in England and flytipping. This study (which you can read on WRAP's website (<https://wrap.org.uk/resources/report/relationship-between-fly-tipping-rates-and-hwrc-charging>)) is in line with our experience here in Kent. This report will also shortly be published on the KCC website. The tonnage of flytipping brought to KCC for disposal has remained broadly level since 2014/15.

Of course, any amount of flytipping is unacceptable and inexcusable. Flytipping is a criminal offence and both Kent Police and the district councils are responsible for taking

enforcement action against those who flytip. Whilst KCC has no obligation to do so, we have provided over £500,000 to fund extra enforcement activity by the district councils and Kent Police as well as the purchase of covert cameras for flytipping 'hotspots' and an education campaign about the risk in using unlicensed waste carriers.

KCC will continue to work with our partners in the Kent Resource Partnership to tackle flytipping.

Finally...

You may have seen the recent episode of 'Defenders UK' on BBC1 that followed Maidstone Borough Council waste enforcement officers tackling flytipping in the borough. It provided a fantastic insight into the work of the team and I'm sure we all congratulate them on their hard work. If you didn't get a chance to watch it, you can by following this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0010bqk>.

Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

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