

Somerset Waste Partnership

Monthly Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff – October 2014



Recycle More – High Diversion Trials

- Our new [trials](#) were successfully launched in September and cover 5,000 households in Taunton, Wellington and Wiveliscombe.
- All trial homes have weekly food waste, extra materials recycled, with service variations involving different containers, communication initiatives and collection frequencies for dry recycling or refuse.
- It is too early to report results, but many people are pleased with the opportunity to recycle more and are giving the changes a good try, including the collections in Wiveliscombe testing a three-weekly refuse service.
- Doorstepping to talk to high numbers of households on selected rounds is also having a good effect.
- The trials end in December and are being closely monitored for increases in recycling, reductions in refuse going to landfill and feedback from residents.

Service update

- Following disruption to recycling collection services due to a national driver shortage, the situation has stabilised. This is as a result of initiatives to improve driver management and working conditions, as well as improved performance by agencies recruiting drivers for collections contractor Kier.

- SWP's contract protects partner authorities from any short-term increases in costs resulting from these changes. There is still some risk in the arrangements, but longer-term stability should be improved with internal driver training courses, the first of which is due to finish in November.

Your Somerset – Your SWP

- Keep an eye out for the [October edition of Your Somerset](#), Somerset County Council's residents' newsletter, being delivered to your door. Once again, SWP is featured in a "cut-out and keep" directory of our services and news updates on ways residents can cut Somerset £12million annual landfill bill.

Bag a reuse bargain while you recycle

- If you live in or around Taunton do not forget the Reuse Shop at [Taunton's Priorswood Recycling Centre](#), which offers a shopping experience that is good for the environment and great for your pocket.
- The Reuse Shop takes items left at recycling sites and sells them to the public so they have a new life.
- It is great for budding upcyclers, anyone with an eye for a bargain and those looking to create a unique look. Check our Facebook page for photos of stock.

- For enquiries about specific items, you can contact the Reuse Shop on 07985 438897 (mobile) during their opening hours – 8am to 4pm, seven days a week.

Latest media releases

- [Positive Taunton Deane reception for Recycle More Trials.](#)
- [New effort on collection days.](#)
- [New father's court fly-tipping shame.](#)
- [Masked thief caught in CCTV drama.](#)
- [What to do with waste on windy days.](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, which consists of two members nominated by each of the six partner councils in Somerset, one of which must be the portfolio holder (PH) for waste and/or the environment.

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the AGM from the Board's membership.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 19 December.

For full information on SWP, SWB and all our services visit: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

The current SWB membership is:

- **Mendip District Council** – Councillors Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), John Parham
- **Sedgemoor District Council** - Councillors John Swayne, Richard Burden
- **Somerset County Council** - Councillors Derek Yeomans (Chair), David Hall
- **South Somerset District Council** - Councillors Jo Roundell Greene, Henry Hobhouse
- **Taunton Deane Borough Council** - Councillors James Hunt, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset Council** - Councillors Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Martin Dewdney

Agenda, papers and reports for SWB meetings are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

The main source of advice and information on SWP services is www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. Customer service helplines for all partner authorities can assist with service enquiries. We publish a monthly e-zine (sign-up on our website) and post on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

