

Somerset Waste Partnership

Monthly Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

March 2016



New online system for asbestos

From Monday 4 April 2016, asbestos and plasterboard disposal at recycling sites will be chargeable. Payment details will be available at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

The charge for treatment of these materials is £12 per sheet (or equivalent) of asbestos containing materials and £4 per sheet or equivalent of plasterboard or plaster, with payment by credit or debit card. Minimum order: one sheet or sack. Asbestos must be sealed in thick plastic before taking to a recycling site (see website for handling advice).

Easter revised collections

Kerbside recycling and refuse collections that would usually occur on Good Friday 25 March will take place on Saturday 26 March. All collections in the week commencing Easter Monday 28 March will be one day later, with Friday's collections moving to Saturday 2 April. There are no changes to recycling sites schedules.

Chard Cashless Trial

We saw a good response from the residents and commercial users of the Chard Recycling Centre during the "cashfree" trial. Having taken over £1,000 in card payments, there was just one occasion when the "machine said no". This trial was aimed at determining whether cashless transactions were viable on our sites, in order to increase security and staff safety. The full results of the trial will be reported to a future Waste Board, along with any plans to

replicate this method of payment elsewhere.

SWP on BBC Radio Somerset

The range of waste services provided by SWP were promoted on BBC radio Somerset on Monday 22 Feb. Pre-recorded features were slotted in throughout the day and included interviews with collection crews on the breakfast show, an audio tour with Steve Read at the anaerobic digestion plant at Walpole mid-morning and a look at the work of the Taunton Recycling Centre, including the Reuse Shop, on the drivetime show. Our thanks go to both Viridor and Kier for their assistance.

Chard webcam

A new webcam has been installed at Chard Recycling Centre, to enable site users to view the queues before setting off for the site. This service complements the existing Queue Cams at Bridgwater, Taunton and Yeovil recycling centres.

<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/queue-cams/>

Garden waste reminders

District partners are distributing [garden waste](#) renewal forms to existing subscribers and encouraging new users to sign up for the fortnightly collections. Mendip and South Somerset are charging £50 (South also offers two-year subscriptions at £95), Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and West Somerset charge residents £53 for this service. All districts will increase garden waste sacks to £26 from 1 April.

Scouts recycling challenge

A new national initiative run by Recycle Now is challenging Beavers, Scouts and Explorers (and their friends and families) to recycle more. If every Scout in the UK recycled one more milk bottle, it would save enough energy to power a primary school for nine and a half weeks. SWP is promoting the challenge.

<http://scouts.org.uk/recyclenow>

Latest media releases

Media releases from SWP in the last month included:

- [Garden waste collection service reminders go out](#)
- [Could you help gardeners to compost in confidence?](#)

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 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 22 April 2016.

For details of SWP, SWB and our services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Terry Napper
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs Derek Yeomans (Chair), David Hall
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Angie Singleton
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllr Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

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.

SWP publishes a monthly e-zine (sign-up on our website) and posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

