

**LLANDRINDOD HOUSEHOLD WASTE
RECYCLING CENTRE
WATERLOO ROAD, LLANDRINDOD WELLS**

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

August 2015

1.1 Introduction

Powys County Council is committed to improving how we collect waste and recycling and the roll out of the new kerbside collection service across the whole of Powys has recently been completed. In addition to this, the contract to operate Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) has been retendered to ensure that recycling and reuse is maximised from these sites and that the service is provided at no extra cost to the council. The recycling performance at HWRC's is an important contribution towards meeting the stringent statutory targets set by the Welsh Government, which for 2015/16 is 58%. Failure to meet these targets will potentially result in considerable fines to the authority of £200 per tonne for each tonne below the target, as well as reputational damage.

Increasing recycling and composting rates is a priority under the Powys Change Plan which states that 'We will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase recycling.' Recycling is also highlighted as an area that 'we need to significantly improve.'

Household Waste Recycling Centres form a significant element of the Waste Strategy referenced in the Powys Change Plan. A key action in the strategy is 'Improving the Household Waste and Recycling Centres across the county in order to see a consistently high recycling and composting level from all sites in excess of 75%.'

The Council has worked closely with the Welsh Government as part of its Collaborative Change Programme to improve recycling and has worked to the Welsh Government's blueprint as specified in its Municipal Sector Plan. This blueprint specifies that a recycling rate of at least 80% should be achieved at HWRCs. The council's contract specifies a recycling rate of 75% during year 1, increasing to 80% by year 5.

Maximising recycling from HWRCs is essential for the Council in realising its climate change objective as well as achieving the Welsh Government's Statutory Recycling Targets.

Llandrindod Wells is the main centre of population in central Radnorshire and has been identified as the preferred location to provide the community with an easily accessible facility to recycle their waste.

The Waterloo Road site is currently operating as a recycling centre and has planning consent under application RAD/2007/0520 for this use. This application, therefore, specifically relates to the storage of household waste classed as hazardous that is not currently handled at the site. The site will be improved to provide additional recycling facilities and will be permanently staffed.

The materials proposed are substances/objects that many householders would have in their home or store in their garages such as fridges, freezers, gas bottles, household and garden chemicals, televisions, florescent tubes, paint, car batteries, oil, etc. In ordinary circumstances and if handled appropriately these will pose no risk to the environment and the surrounding area. The quantities stored at the site would be minimal and strictly regulated under the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) permit which will be in place at the site.

The contract to operate all HWRC facilities within Powys was awarded in May 2015 and it is anticipated operations will commence on the Llandrindod Wells site in January 2016.

1.2 Site Context

This site was purpose built to facilitate the relocation of the town's community recycling site from the bus station and is located on Waterloo Road and forms part of the Waterloo Road Industrial Estate which lies approx 0.75 miles to the North West of Llandrindod Wells town centre. The A483 lies to the East of the site with the A4081 to the North which provide good strategic road access to Llandrindod Wells and the surrounding area. The site is served by the industrial estate access road.

The site benefits from existing planning permission for a facility for the collection of waste and recycling. It is designated for industrial use with B2 planning status and is located adjacent to neighbouring industrial units.

The site is primarily flat in terms of topography and the boundary of the site is defined by timber close boarded fencing. The entrance has a vehicle barrier and bollards. The site is owned by Powys County Council.

1.3 The Proposals

This application specifically relates to the provision of a storage area for the acceptance, storage and transfer of household waste classed as hazardous for which an area of the site has been identified and is shown on drawings accompanying this application.

The operator, will provide a caged area and secure containers for the collection of the waste. The site will be effectively managed and the appropriate environmental safeguards will be in place.

There is currently no permanent supervision at the site and operation of the site by contractors is likely to reduce disturbance due to there being set opening hours for the site. The contracted opening hours will be 1000 hours to 1600 hours Monday to Sunday. There is likely to be an increase in traffic during these hours but there will not be the

opportunity to use the site at unsociable hours as is the case now. The site is currently serviced by heavy goods vehicles and the neighbouring tyre business also accommodates large vehicles. Furthermore there is currently an issue with flytipping at the site which will be alleviated by having a secure, manned site with CCTV provided by the contractor as part of the contract.

2.0 Design and Access Statement

Accessibility

The policies contained in the UDP considered in preparation of this proposal are GP1, GP4 and DC1.

The site is an existing recycling site with planning consent which has good access to the highway network. The proposals will not result in any changes to the existing access provisions which are to current design standards. All vehicles will enter and exit from the existing access which is suitable for heavy goods vehicles. The site is situated on one level and there are therefore no access issues related to this proposal. It has level access and caters for both vehicles and pedestrians. Footways are located on the approaches to the site which incorporate tactile crossings.

The storage area for household waste considered to be hazardous will be on a level surface. The site will be attended at all times when operational and staff will assist users with handling items if required.

The overall layout will remain as existing with heavy goods vehicles servicing the recycling and waste containers as is currently the case.

Appropriate signage and road markings will be laid within the facility to direct users of the site.

Character

Amount

The total area of the existing recycling site for which planning consent has previously been granted is 1922 square metres. The area for materials considered to be hazardous is 255 square metres. However, this also includes areas for manoeuvring of vehicles, etc.

Layout

The layout of the recycling site will be unchanged by this planning application as the site is in place. However an area will be set aside for the storage of household waste considered to be hazardous which will be stored as required by regulations. The area proposed is located so as to allow easy access to drop off and pick up containers.

There is an existing surface water drainage system at the site.

Scale

The scale of the recycling site which is subject to an existing consent and has B2 industrial use and in an industrial estate will be unchanged.

Appearance

The external appearance of the recycling site which is subject to an existing consent and surrounded by approved external fencing will be unchanged by the application. A variation to the existing planning permission has been submitted to erect a 2.4 metre high steel palisade fence inside the existing timber fence and provide secure gates to prevent unauthorised access into the site.

Landscaping

The site which is subject to previous planning consent is bounded by close boarded fencing and there is no landscaping in place. There are no proposals to change this.

Community Safety

The existing site is currently open to the public 24 hours a day and is not monitored. This results in fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. The site will be staffed during operational hours when the new HWRC contract is in place in January 2016. The site will be secured when not in operation and CCTV monitored which will minimise flytipping and anti-social behaviour. A variation to the existing planning permission has been submitted to erect a 2.4 metre high steel palisade fence inside the existing timber fence and provide secure gates to prevent unauthorised access into the site.

The operation of Household Waste Recycling Centres is permitted by Natural Resources Wales. All sites must have the relevant permit before operations can commence. The HWRC in Llandrindod Wells will hold a 'Standard Rules permit' which states what the site operator can and cannot do on site to ensure the safe operation of the facility, such as:

- general management of the site - a written management system and records showing compliance with this system, application of the waste hierarchy
- permitted activities within the operation of the site - the types and quantities of materials that can be accepted and the duration for which they can be stored on site
- hazardous waste storage - how certain wastes should be handled and/or stored

- emissions, odour and noise monitoring, to ensure that any potential emissions from the site do not reach levels that may cause pollution outside of the site

In order to obtain the above permit the operator must hold an approved certificate of technical competency and provide NRW with evidence of the Management System they will use to operate the site. NRW will regularly monitor the site for compliance with the permit as well as the Management System.

The site will also be registered as a Designated Collection Facility for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). This material will be collected by the Councils Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) and processed away from site at Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities (AATF), ensuring that this waste stream is handled safely and in line with the Code of Practice.

As part of the tendering process the successful contractor was required to produce evidence of Safe Systems of Work, Health and Safety Competency and also risk assessments for operations carried out on site to give confidence to the Council that they can fulfil the requirements of the Contract and operate the facility in a safe manner. The Contractor has also provided an Environmental Impact Control plan addressing potential 'risks' on HWRCs, the likelihood of the risk occurring and how those risks will be managed on site. A caged area and secure containers will be used for the storage of all hazardous waste which will be removed regularly from the site.

Environmental Sustainability

The site currently has planning consent for a recycling centre and there are no works proposed under this planning application. Therefore there will be no impact on sustainability.

However, to improve sustainability under Section 51 (1) (b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Local Authorities are required to provide places for its residents to deposit their waste, including bulky waste for recycling and disposal. The Household Waste Recycling Centre at Waterloo Road is to be provided for this purpose.

The operation of the Contract will apply the principles of the Waste Hierarchy with the focus of operations at the site being towards re-use and recycling, with disposal as a last resort. The Contractor will separate items deemed suitable for re-use and either make these available for purchase by members of the public or work with a third sector group who can take items away from site, repair these for re-use and consequently re-sale.

The HWRC will be operated by a contractor on behalf of the Council. The Contract states strict recycling targets that the Contractor must

meet within each Contract year, starting at 75% and increasing to 80% during year 5 of the contract. In order for materials delivered to the facility to count towards these targets (as recycled material) the Contractor must ensure that these are processed in compliance with Quality Protocols identified by Welsh Government. Evidence of this must be submitted to the Council under the data requirements of the Contract.

In order to maximise recycling at these sites and minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill all site users will be asked to separate their waste and recycling. Any containers/bags of mixed waste that are not sorted prior to visiting the site will be sorted on site by the producer of the waste, all items suitable for recycling will be removed and placed in the relevant container on site, meaning that only non-recyclable waste is sent to landfill. The site attendants working at the HWRC will assist residents with use of the Facility, directing them towards the relevant containers on site and also encouraging and educating site users to segregate their waste.

The Powys Planning and Highways Ecologist has been consulted and has confirmed that there are no ecological constraints to development of the site. No ecological surveys are required.

Movement to, from and within the Development

The site is an existing recycling site with B2 industrial use located on the Waterloo Road Industrial Estate and as such has adequate access to the surrounding highway network. The access to the site is subject to an existing consent, is in accordance with current design standards and is suitable for heavy goods vehicles. No alteration to the external access provision is necessary for the operational requirements of the proposals.

Footways are located on the approaches to the site which connect to the surrounding area and facilitate pedestrian access.

Signage and road markings on the site will direct users and movements will be controlled by the staff on site in accordance with agreed management plans to ensure safe operation.