



The Mayfair Community Centre  
Easthope Road  
Church Stretton  
Shropshire  
SY6 6BL  
[info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk)  
Tel 0752 8493181

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Feedback & Insight Team,  
Shropshire Council

**Response to Consultation on Closure of HWRC's and paying for Green waste and abandoning Food Waste Collections**

Stretton Climate Care is an environmental charity established in 2008 in the Church Stretton area.

We have promoted recycling through leaflets and campaigns in Church Stretton, with the support of the Mid-Counties Cooperative Society. We have engaged with most traders in Church Stretton to encourage the reduction and recycling of waste. We have invited master composters to our events. We run a monthly Repair Café in Church Stretton and have made a significant impact in reducing waste by repairing hundreds of products. If we are not able to repair an item, we also make suggestions as to how it could be repaired. We have visited the local junior school and made a presentation on recycling with aid of Mr Cardboard Box man who is in a large box with examples of what can be recycled. We are supporting the aims set out in the Shropshire Plan, but you appear to be abandoning them.

We are therefore actively involved in reducing waste and encouraging recycling in our community. We are responding to this consultation because we are very concerned about the negative impact on the environment of the proposed changes to the waste management regime in Shropshire, some of which have been documented in your Impact Assessment. We object to all the changes that will have negative environmental consequences.

**Requiring payment for green waste collections** will impact on lower income households that are already struggling to meet their household bills. Those who qualify for Council Tax relief are apparently not going to be exempt from the charge, and therefore this amounts to a Poll Tax albeit with the potential to opt out from the service. We consider those households eligible for council tax relief should be exempt from the charge. Clearly as your Impact assessment states, green waste will be placed in the general waste, and this will be incinerated rather than composted which will result in a considerable increase in carbon emissions to the atmosphere. This is contrary to the Shropshire Net Zero Strategy as this will add to additional carbon emissions, the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change. This issue is not properly addressed in your Impact Assessment. Incidentally we do not accept that recycling counts as negative emissions as put forward in your Climate Strategy. *(continued)*

**Abandoning all Food Waste Collections until 2026** will also increase green house gas emissions and reduce the availability of compost for soil improvement. South Shropshire was a pioneer in the separate collection of food waste dating back 20 years to the UK's first anaerobic digester plant launched in 2004. This was closed in 2012 mainly because of its high cost. It is very regrettable that food waste will now be incinerated along with other household waste. Anaerobic digestion remains Defra's preferred technique for tackling food waste as it produces a fuel and a digestate which improves land fertility.

We object to this proposal and call for the bringing forward of food waste collections earlier than 2026.

**Closing two Household Waste Recycling Centres** will also have a negative impact on recycling as residents, particularly the elderly and those without cars will have great difficulty accessing the remaining sites. Even those with cars will encounter significant difficulties, extra cost, inconvenience and create additional greenhouse gas emissions. For example, if the Craven Arms HWRC is closed, householders from Clun will have a journey of over 30 miles to either Battlefield, Shrewsbury or Bridgnorth HWRC's. The sites were originally chosen when there were separate District councils and the legislation in the original Civic amenities act required a convenient location for disposal waste within the area or immediately adjoining the area of the Council. The establishment of Shropshire Council was carried out with a pledge to continue to deliver services locally. This breaks that pledge. Making HWRC's inaccessible will lead to more fly tipping which costs landowners and public authorities clean up costs and has a detrimental impact on the environment.

As there are no bring facilities elsewhere in the County, **Tetra packs and similar food cartons** are much more likely to be placed in general waste. In April 2026 kerbside collection will be required for such cartons and we expect Shropshire Council to work with Veolia to ensure that this is enabled and not subject to any exemption. The increased number of food cartons being placed into general waste will increase greenhouse gas emissions as they will be incinerated rather than recycled in a specialist plant.

**Recycling of electrical goods** will also be reduced, particularly for smaller appliances which can easily be put into general waste. This will reduce the recycling of rare earth metals used in electronic products, leading to more destruction by mineral extraction and will also result in more greenhouse gas emissions. There will also be more fires arising in your household waste as a result of small electrical products being wrongly placed in this waste stream and catching fire because of the lithium batteries often contained in such electrical products.

According to the budget proposals, the closure of 2 HWRC's does not actually save a significant sum. We urge that this proposal be abandoned.

We do not object to a booking system for HWRC's. However, this may encourage rogue traders who currently illegally use the HWRC to fly tip.

Yours faithfully

Mike Hymas, Trustee

on behalf of Stretton Climate Care