

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2012**

**Statement from: Cllr C L Strange, Executive Councillor  
for Waste Services & Green Issues**

Green Issues, of course, includes our Lincolnshire woodlands. With the very sad news of the ash tree debacle, and the demise of tens of thousands of trees currently growing in the county, the future may be that our grandchildren may never shelter beneath the leafy foliage of our native Ash – just as our children never saw the stately Elms.

Our lime woods contain ash trees, which the team of environmental officers will be examining closely and, if needed we will do all we can to assist others. However, it is the role of the Forestry Commission to take active measures. I am sure we all have great sympathy for a number of nursery men and women who have been badly hit financially, and for the fact that so many trees are being destroyed – 15,000 young trees in a nursery at Horncastle are just one case in point.

On to happier matters! The Energy from Waste plant continues to progress. With the exterior cladding due to be in place by Christmas, the main internal construction should be able to proceed throughout the winter months without major hold-ups – unless we have huge snowfalls accompanied by arctic 2010 weather! Some delay was experienced with the delivery of specialist material from Italy (as a result of the Italian earthquake, they tell us), but CNIM remain confident of achieving the target opening day.

Louth, Grantham and Sleaford Waste Transfer stations are now completed. At Boston over 500 piles have been driven into the ground to provide the foundations for the main building, and this is due to be completed in April 2013. Work on the site at Gainsborough has just commenced and this should also be completed next April.

Haulage contracts for the HWRCs are currently being advertised, and will soon be tendered for the services to commence on 1 April 2013.

Our recycling rates countywide make pleasing reading, despite some occurrences of contamination at district and city level, which resulted in a small number of loads being refused.

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is due for review in 2013, and preparatory work is in progress. Officers from the eight waste management authorities have agreed a discussion paper to act as a basis for considering a range of possible strategic options for closer integrated working in waste management between the authorities. It is anticipated that an early draft proposal reflecting the initial discussions will be prepared by the end of 2012.

I am pleased to report that a new HWRC Site Inspector has been appointed, and this will enable more site inspections at the weekend. This position became vacant on the promotion of an officer to post of Senior Environmental Services Office, following the death in service of the previous post holder.

Best wishes for Christmas from all in Waste Services.