

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2013**

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

As we move forward, through the cold and sometimes dreary post-Christmas period, I thought it would be appropriate to give an update to full council on the progression of the directorate. Whilst the 'hot topic' is the huge development on Whisby Road, and all it entails, we do have other irons in the fire. With the support of our district and city partners, we will be moving forward to examine all possibilities for the best way of not only dealing with our municipal non recyclables, but also our county's recyclates. This is a multi-million pound industry in which, I am sure, there are ways that Lincolnshire can benefit financially.

During the last four years, the department has agreed the contract to design, build, and operate the Energy from Waste facility with FCC at North Hykeham. It is now well on the way to completion for July/August time, and should be open and working to full capacity around Christmas 2013. We are about to launch a request to all Hykeham schools to come up with a name for the new EfW – so expect some interesting replies!

The new facility will be processing up to 150,000 tonnes of non-recyclable municipal rubbish from Lincolnshire's 700,000 residents - quickly bringing an end to landfilling, and the landfill tax incurred.

We have designed, and are building five transfer stations countywide, of which Louth, Grantham and Sleaford are built. The largest waste transfer station at Boston is progressing well, with the steel structure and most of the site drainage works now in place. It is located adjacent to the landfill site and the Household Waste Recycling centre, and should enable a seamless transition for the district councils when landfilling ceases. The final waste transfer station is being constructed at Gainsborough, with drainage and foundations now complete, and the steel structure currently being erected. All five waste transfer stations will be available from April to enable waste to be sent to the Energy from Waste facility in North Hykeham. We are currently developing plans to erect solar panels at these facilities to allow the buildings to be carbon neutral, save on running costs, and generate an income for the authority.

The non-recyclables will be collected and tipped at these stations by district council colleagues, and then transferred by our contractor to the Energy from Waste site. The end product from the plant will be electricity for the grid, hot water for new homes, and the potential to power various industrial plants on the adjacent Teal Park development. Hopefully, this will also provide much needed employment in the area.

We have also completed our Household Waste Recycling site at Louth, and the new Rasens site just outside Market Rasen. During the coming year, we hope to move the existing site at Sleaford alongside the new transfer station in Boston Road. Land has also been purchased at Gainsborough to enable us to construct our own Household Waste Recycling centre. This will replace the existing privately-owned site, which has faced operating problems and is costly to provide.

We have taken on board the need to rationalise the opening times of our 13 household waste sites, thereby managing to keep them all open. We are working towards 55% recycling rates for 2015, which shows the continued commitment of our residents, and our district and city partners. There are ongoing discussions with ELDC in an attempt to identify a suitable site for a Saturday supplementary service – similar to the one in Stamford, which works perfectly well. We have offered the district council £50,000 to set this up but, as yet, we have been unsuccessful.

We continue to support schemes to reduce waste at source with the Real Nappy Network, Love Food Hate Waste and other schemes.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service has continued to punch above its weight, culminating in:

- nearly 5,000 people enjoying last year's walking festival despite the weather;
- co-hosting the national AONB conference, and winning the highly regarded national Bowland Award for the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (for its innovative restoration and habitat improvements);
- coordinating the production of the new statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of all relevant local authorities and the Joint Advisory Committee partnership; and
- helping to secure nearly £100,000 of lottery funding for the new Down Your Wold community heritage project.

There is much good work ongoing with renewable energy, saving money around the county's sites. Planning permission has been recently granted, conditionally, for further solar photovoltaics at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, and a scheme is in preparation for Louth Waste Transfer Station. The exciting Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency (SCORE) has begun a four year programme, working with nearly 30 schools to save carbon, energy and money.

Moving into the field of fuel poverty, we are working with our district colleagues to promote energy efficiency as the Green Deal becomes a reality. The Responders 2 Warmth Initiative with Public Health is supporting the most vulnerable for the second winter running.