



Independent Health Concern



The Editor
Kidderminster Shuttle
Blackwell Street
Kidderminster

7 August 2006

Dear Sir

I write to compliment Councillor Marcus Hart for his letter in last weeks Shuttle explaining the reasons and rationale for staying with the current recycling system. I was Council Leader when the scheme went live 3 years ago and his letter sets out accurately and with honesty exactly the situation we found ourselves in when introducing the scheme – it is still the same now and Marcus has recognised that.

What he didn't say, however, was that Health Concern didn't bring the scheme into the whole of the district but only 80%! Perhaps, he forgot a previous newspaper article which disclosed how pleased he was to extend the scheme to the whole of Wyre Forest? Perhaps he also forgot that the Tory election campaign of 2004, when they took control of the Council, promised a return to weekly bin collections when they got elected. However, in reviewing the scheme after election, the Tories had to admit that Health Concern actually got it right in the first place so they broke their election promise and did nothing.

Recently, Councillors Mike Kelly and Mike Oborski have been amongst those knocking the scheme. As opposition members they could easily get together to put pressure on the Tory administration to change things, but, when it comes down to it, they take no meaningful action.

Maybe there is no action because they know that any solution would have to satisfy two government targets:

- Reduce the amount of waste we bury in landfill.
- Reduce the amount of landfill waste collected per household.

We couldn't continue to do that if, as many people assume (or are led to believe!) that a return to weekly wheelie bin collections just meant collecting our EXISTING wheelie bin every week. It would not! Less waste to landfill means less waste from the wheelie bin. So weekly collections would have to use smaller wheelie bins to continue to encourage re-cycling! Hence, the purchase and distribution of over 40000 new, smaller bins plus a doubling of the vehicle fleet at enormous cost to the Council Tax payer.

It has to said, that for all their talk about the policy being 'wrong', none of the people who have knocked the scheme appear to provide a workable alternative – but then those willing to score political "brownie points" with the electorate very seldom do offer a meaningful solution.

Yours faithfully

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Leader
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