

# **Municipal Services Recycling Facilities**

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For consideration by the Parish Assembly  
on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm

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## **PARISH OF ST HELIER**

**P.01/2024**



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## **PROPOSITION**

### **PARISHIONERS are asked to take into consideration and if deemed advisable:**

To approve a recommendation of the Constable and Procureurs du Bien Public that the Assembly removes any restrictions to the existing recycling, workshop and storage areas, to allow these facilities to be used flexibly for the benefit of the Parish and parishioners, under the direction of the Constable and Procureurs du Bien Public.

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## **REPORT**

### **Background:**

On 30 May 2012 (P.02-2012) the Parish Assembly approved funding of a maximum of £1,185,000 for the construction of the new recycling shed at the Parish Municipal Services Depot at La Grande Route de St Jean. The building was completed in February 2013, costing £1,100,000.

The construction incorporated a large recycling workshop to enable household recyclables to be sorted, exported and sold. The building also incorporates five additional smaller workshops at ground floor level and two storerooms on the first floor which are used by the Parish Teams in Parks and Gardens, Vehicle Workshops and Maintenance.

The Refuse Team collects St Helier's household and business recycling every two weeks. It was previously sorted and bailed by Parish staff working in the Recycle Workshop, thereafter being shipped to France and sold.

In 2022, the Parish's recycling function processed over 865 tons of recycled waste materials at an overall cost to ratepayers of £270,000, averaging a little over £300 per ton. This cost was expected to increase to £330,000 for the current financial year in light of general inflation, wage inflation and poor commodity prices. At the 2023 Rates Assembly, ratepayers asked Parish Officers to explore ways to reduce the increasing costs of providing this service.

In parallel, the original plant and machinery in the recycling shed had come to the end of its expected operating life and required a further estimated £750,000 capital investment. This was at a time when it was known Government was developing a new waste strategy expected to bring about significant changes, including the introduction of new technologies and waste charges, and which could impact the Parish's existing recycling operations.

Considering this uncertainty, it was deemed prudent to pause the next round of capital investment until the future of waste management practices was clearer.

In addition, the Parish identified more efficient practices whereby the recycling function was transferred to Abbey Waste. This has resulted in an estimated annual saving of £185,000 per year whilst retaining the same providence and certainty over the end-destination of the Parish's recycled waste.

These changes were completed on 31 December 2023, with the only noticeable change to parishioners being the reintroduction of a two-bag system for household recycling collections.

### **Proposal:**

Having served the Parish well for over 10 years, the main Recycling Workshop and hardstanding storage area now stands empty and the immediate priority is to put this facility back to productive use.

The Assembly's permission is sought to remove any restrictions to the existing use of the Recycling Workshop and storage areas at the Municipal Services Depot and to allow these facilities to be used flexibly in the future.

Any subsequent changes to the use of these facilities will require the approval of the Connétable and the Procureurs du Bien Public, who will ensure that any future use aligns with Parish values, does not compete with existing Parish services, and does not significantly increase traffic or otherwise adversely disrupt the Parish services provided at the Depot.

Conclusion:

To date, the recycling facilities at the Municipal Services Depot have served the Parish well and, depending on the outcome of the new Government waste strategy may do so again in the longer term.

However in the short term, improvements to the way the Parish undertakes recycling means that the main recycling facility is now no longer being used and the Assembly's permission is sought to allow the Connétable and Procureurs to put it to more flexible use - either to support a different in-house function, or by leasing to a third party.