

Statement regarding Llangadog Recycling Centre - 14.03.17

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation being circulated regarding the position relating to the closure of Llangadog recycling centre. The closure has been effected by a series of events, however, we must be mindful of protecting the commercially sensitive confidential information relating to the contractual arrangements.

The site at Llangadog is privately owned and operated by AWS Ltd and as such is not therefore within the council's direct control. The contract to operate the site was due to be reviewed in March 2018, following an extension to the original contract in 2015. However, AWS Ltd, due to their own business reasons, served the authority with an ultimatum in the autumn of 2016 stating that unless terms could be renegotiated at that time, they would close the site with immediate effect. The council, in an attempt to keep the facility open, negotiated an interim arrangement whereby the site would remain open until March 2017. The basis of this decision was to provide an opportunity to undertake negotiations to secure the future of the site, potentially through the council directly leasing or purchasing the site with the purpose of operating the facility ourselves. In effect this meant that the original contract, relating to the original 2018 review date, was terminated in autumn 2016.

Council officers have in the meantime worked hard to negotiate with the site owners, but it is unfortunate that both parties have not been able to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome to provide a facility that is both fit for purpose and affordable. In particular the council has been concerned about the health and safety of operations of the site, as the site area offered by AWS Ltd for negotiation was smaller than the current site. Consequently, the agreement between AWS Ltd and Carmarthenshire County Council will terminate on the March 31.

Alternative arrangements have been made to provide additional recycling banks in Llandovery. An intense period of searching for potential new sites commenced once it became clear that no progress was likely to be made on the current facility. A new facility for clean recycling only has been secured at the Llandovery Rugby Club site, thanks to fruitful negotiations with the club's committee. The council is aiming for this new site to be open for April 1.

The new site at Llandovery will not cater for black bag waste, garden waste, electricals and wood etc and these items should be taken to the nearest recycling centre at Wernddu near Ammanford. However, it will provide additional recycling provision in the area to plug some of the gaps left by the closure of the Llangadog facility. We are however acutely aware that the facilities at the rugby club will not be like for like and will not serve the same purpose as the Llangadog site. Given the position outlined and the timescales involved, we have done our best in difficult circumstances. The longer-term needs and solutions will be considered over the next few months.

We realise that residents will be concerned about potential fly-tipping, and we share these concerns; unfortunately there is a minority of irresponsible people that choose to break the law in this way, regardless of the facilities we provide. We can assure residents that the council will continue to investigate and prosecute where possible those responsible for this type of environmental crime. Any information that residents may have relating to incidents of fly-tipping should be reported.

Some residents have raised concern that a report was discussed at Executive Board on Monday in private. We would like to make it clear that the subject of the report was regarding the council's long-term waste disposal and treatment contract which is currently with Cwm Environmental Ltd, and did not relate to any individual sites.