

Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council with Calne Mayor, Cllr Tim Havenith

Re Wiltshire Council Plans for Closure of Lower Compton HRC

Monday 10th August 2026, 10am at Bank House, Calne

Present : Mayor of Calne (Cllr Tim Havenith), Cllr Dave Grafton (Chairman Cherhill PC, Cllr Rob Pooley (Cherhill PC), Cllr Andy Sadler-Smith (Cherhill PC), Peter Johnson (Clerk Cherhill PC), Cllr Nathan Errington (Derry Hill & Studley PC), Mark Edwards (Business Manager Calne TC)

Discussion

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his approval of the leaflet circulated by Cherhill PC to it's residents. Calne Town Council has voted to oppose the proposals and no other parish Councils have approached Calne TC for a collaboration in this matter.

There followed a general discussion.

There was a fear or a perception that the decision by Wiltshire Council to close these HRCs may already be a 'done deal'. Despite this , there was much that could and should be done.

With reference to local MPs:

Brian Matthew MP for Melksham and Devizes had raised concerns about the proposed booking system, fearing it would increase fly tipping.

Sarah Gibson MP for Chippenham was known to be firmly against the closures and had criticised Wiltshire Council for a lack of transparency and for not communicating adequately or effectively with residents. She had spoken as a former Wiltshire Councillor. RWB comes under her constituency.

The proposed booking system was discussed. This is to be tested by a pilot scheme commencing 8th September, involving the HRCs at Devizes, Melksham, Stanton St Quentin and Salisbury. When this was used at Lower Compton during the pandemic it led to lengthy queues along the road leading to the A4.

Hills Waste would be unlikely to wish to engage in talks with Cherhill PC and/or Calne TC due to commercial sensitivity. They would probably not be keen to sell the 2 HRCs in question to Wiltshire Council.

Steps to be taken by Cherhill PC, subject to agreement by the council

- 1) An acknowledging letter to **Royal Wotton Bassett TC** re their open letter to Wiltshire Council of 31st July 2026. Also asking whether they have any proposals for an alternative site to the Marlborough Road location as announced by Wiltshire Council.

- 2) Letter to the new **Wiltshire Council Member for Waste and the Environment, Cllr Gordon King** asking the following:
 - a) When will WC publish a costs benefit analysis of the proposed closures of Lower Compton and Purton HRCs?
 - b) When is a carbon impact assessment to be published? This is especially important as the Council is committed to going carbon neutral by 2030.
 - c) Why has a distinction been made between the HRCs at Lower Compton and Purton, ie 3 years for Purton but only 1 year (on a rolling basis) at Lower Compton?
 - d) Why is there now reference on Wiltshire Council's website of a further 3 years at Lower Compton and 4 years at Purton and why is there still a difference of 1 year between the 2?
 - e) What would the suggested upgrades by Hills Waste be expected to achieve?
 - f) Are the recycling sites going to be fully open 7 days a week whilst a booking system is trialled/used? If not then how many days a week?
 - g) Is there any alternative to the RWB Marlborough Road site?
 - h) What are their proposals for ensuring better communication with other councils and the public?
- 3) Letter to **Sarah Gibson MP** to ascertain her present position on the planned closure and the opening of a replacement HRC facility in her constituency at RWB.
- 4) An updating Letter to **Purton PC** to maintain the already close collaboration in this matter.

Further suggestions:

The next issue of **Calne Connection**, published by Calne TC 3 times a year, is in October. There may be space (a half page) available for Cherhill PC to have a piece opposing the planned closures. This publication also goes to surrounding villages where there is usually greater reaction than from Calne residents.

The **next meeting of Calne TC is on 28th September**. It would be helpful if responses to these proposed letters were received and disseminated prior to the agenda being drawn up and published the previous Wednesday.

The **Calne Area Parishes Forum** should receive copies of the finalised letters.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.