

1st August 2024 – Hunts Waste Busters

Attendees and Introduction

Heidi – Waste Minimisation Officer, HDC
Auriane – Waste Minimisation Support Officer, HDC
Teri - Assistant Waste Minimisation Officer, HDC
Oana - Operations Technical Administrator, HDC
Jacqui – Brampton Parish Council
Liz – Wyton
Colin – Huntingdon
Melanie – HCR
Georgie – Huntingdon Town Council
Neville – Leighton Bromswold Parish Council
Chris – Huntingdon
Nicola – St Neots Town Council
Councillor Bullat – Cambridgeshire
Councillor Fraser– Buckden Parish Council
Councillor Gardener– Alconbury
Councillor Hunt – Huntingdon East
Councillor Wood – County / Yaxley Parish Council

Apologies

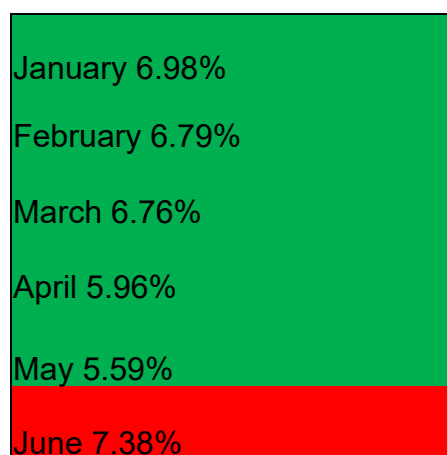
Alan - Southoe and Midloe Parish Council
Harriet - Climate Co-ordinator, HDC
Janice – Hemingfordgrey Parish Council
Margery - Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council
Mary – St Ives
Nick – Individual Person
Councillor S. Taylor – St Neots

Welcome

Heidi introduced Oana, the new member of the team who will primarily focus on the green bin subscriptions. Auriane (project-focused) and Teri (admin-focused), the two other members of the team were also introduced by Heidi.

Data & Trends

- The waste min team constantly use **data** such as recycling rates and bin rejections to measure our resident's behaviours. In June 2024, 56% of material collected was recycled or composted. This is lower than last year (62.5%), but higher than the average recycling rate in England (43.4%).
- The tonnes of **collected textiles** via our textile banks have plateaued (between 3 and 4 tonnes every month, except for a spike in January reaching over 5 tonnes). However, we are aware that other sustainable methods have emerged in recent years, such as online selling platforms for second-hand items. For example, ECBBD states that [68% of Gen Z and Millennials in the UK](#) have purchased a pre-loved item lately.
- **Rejects (contaminated blue bin)**: The main reasons for recycling bins being rejected are still black sacks, food, textiles and polystyrene. The crew is trained to refuse the bins if they find a contaminating item, which helps minimise contamination. Despite their effort, Huntingdonshire's contamination rate continues to flirt with 7%, a rate we aim to stay below as financial penalty occurs.



Contamination rate in 2024

Waste Analysis

We shared a 2021.2022 waste analysis demonstrating that an average household threw away 370 kg of waste in their grey bin. This included 36% of food waste (133 kg), 25% of general waste (92kg), 17% of recyclable items (63 kg), 17% of items that

could have been sent to a Household Recycling Centre (63 kg), and 5% of garden waste (19 kg). Of this composition, 25% is avoidable food waste, 5% is clothing and shoes, and 4% consists of nappies.

Garden Waste Initiatives

Compost bin offer: 261 home composters purchased since March 2024
Section 3 on [Garden Waste Community Initiatives - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Saturday Freighters: We did have 1721 visits and 47.93 tonnes have been collected, however only 6% of the capacity is used.

Free Soil Improver: All Parish Councils were contacted last week and 13 sites are already confirmed.

Some of our recent activities (finished)

- Presentation and Talks to Events and Schools
- Reusable wet wipes: 50 packs were given for free to residents in exchange for some feedback.
- Wormery
- Fight Food Waste Pledge. Residents who took the pledge and received our tips went from 1.2 -> 0.8 black sacks /week.
- With the aim to reduce cigarette littering, 10 cigarette buckets were offered to businesses in Huntingdon. The feedback seems to be mainly positive (only issue being the shovel being too big). This is part of the [Bin the Butt campaign ran by Keep Britain Tidy](#).
- St Neots Repair Café **Thank you to SNTC** for coordinating the event with us - 38 items repaired, 116kg of waste, or 553kg of CO2 emissions avoided.
- We are supporting the Enforcement team with their visit to ensure proper bin usage (currently on hold).
- Litter board made by Huntingdon's Cambridge Regional College is still available for events.

Ongoing activities

- WEEE bins, 1 486 kg of waste avoided from landfill (or about 44 bins) & more on the way
- Social Media
- Work on contamination rate / Communal Areas – door knocking

Offers to residents

Incentives

[10-25% discount on reusable period/incontinence products](#)

[10-25% discounts on reusable nappies](#)

[£20 off compost bins \(£16.99 left to pay\)](#)

Services

[WEEE bins available](#)

[Bulky Waste Collection](#)

[Litter Picking Utensils](#) (email

litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

[Free loose compost](#)

[Saturday Freighters](#)

Community green bins for parish councils (free) – up to 10 garden bins to be sited in a communal location. These bins will need to be accessible for local residents to use to deposit their garden waste and will be collected as part of the normal route scheduling for fortnightly garden bin collections.

It will be the responsibility of the parish council to manage these bins, the same as a household, ie no contamination, out for collection on the collection day. To request bins for your parish please contact wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Some of our activities (ongoing)

- Mattresses 75 kg CO₂e vs 3.875 kg CO₂e/mattress (122.9 t of CO₂ emission avoided per year)
- WEEE grants x 2
- KBT upcoming cigarette activities –

Cigarette Litter in Drains Intervention

- Sanitary Products Offer for residents in need
- Preventing Food Waste (Behavioural expert)
- Another Repair Café
- Waste to Hydrogen with Cambridge company

Any Other Business Comments from attendees

- The recycling workshop at the Education Centre, Waterbeach is planned for the 7th, 14th, and 21st of August. PDF to follow
- [Repair Cafes](#): St Ives Repair Café - Sat 28 Sep 2024, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- Coneygear Centre Repair Café - Fri 4 Oct 2024, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- [Braided rug making workshop](#) by The Refill Shop in St Neots September 5 · 7:30 pm - September 19 · 8:30 pm at the St Neots Museum

Q&A

Q - How much additional waste is going to county council / recycling centre? Is this a problem?

A – We are a Waste Collection Authority and Cambridgeshire is a Waste Disposal Authority, so all the waste we collect eventually goes to Cambridgeshire. To date an additional 288 tonnes have been received by the 3 recycling centres in Huntingdonshire compared to the same time last year. This is still a manageable volume for the recycling centres

Q – What percentage was the recycling rate last year compared to 56% of this year?

A – June 2023 reported a 62.5% recycling rate.

Comments from attendees

Saturday Freighters

- Some freighters, particularly in very rural areas, are located at an inconvenient places.
- Tilbrook layby location isn't used much and people can't seem to access it.
- Some residents, particularly in Brampton, are unaware of the SF, even now.
- A comment was made about putting posters at allotments.
- Consulting with Parishes the Saturday Freighter location might improve quality of selected location(s).

Other

- Some Parish Councils are still not aware of the free soil improver, despite the emails we sent.
- Positive feedback has been passed on to the Waste Minimisation Team regarding the cigarette litter initiative in Huntingdon.
- After seeing what is done in Australia, an attendee started a discussion around deposit return scheme (DRS) potentials. The WM team mentioned that this has been looked into in [Scotland](#). And a trial took place at Tesco in Bar hill.

Actions

- More efforts are needed to make residents aware of the SF and other incentives.
- Speak with the waste managers to see if some of the SF could be placed in more accessible locations (not on the layby) / invite Parish Councils to the discussions.
- Deliver a WEEE bin and pop-up banner for the Buckdon repair café happening on the 5th of October (Village Hall).
- Contacting all Parish Councils who asked to receive free soil improver.
- Send a copy of the summer activities, PowerPoint, and offers (sanitary products, nappies, composters, SF, WEEE bins, bulky waste, litter picking utensils, and free loose compost).