

Important information

Proposals for improved recycling and waste disposal facilities for residents

To improve the services provided for residents Walsall Council is proposing to make major improvements to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and waste disposal facilities in the borough.

This newsletter provides a summary of the proposals.

Background

The impact of waste on the environment, including climate change, is a big topic being discussed on a global scale.

The Government has set a target to recycle 65% of household waste by 2035. Our recycling rate is approximately 40% and these proposals will help us increase this and improve our overall environmental performance.

There are two HWRCs within Walsall, one at Merchants Way, Aldridge and one at Fryers Road, Bloxwich. Our waste transfer station is also located at Fryers Road. This is an enclosed building, where the contents of your wheeled bins are taken by bin lorries. Here it is loaded into larger lorries that transport it to other sites outside Walsall for recycling, incineration to create electricity, landfill or to be processed in other ways.



To help us make the improvements needed we have purchased a new site, at the former McKechnie Brass Ltd site in Middlemore Lane, Aldridge.

The proposals

The proposals are as follows:



Building

Building a new larger HWRC at Middlemore Lane, Aldridge. This is to replace the existing facility at Merchants Way, which will be closed once work at Fryers Road and Middlemore Lane is complete.

Moving

Moving the Waste Transfer Station (WTS), which is used by council vehicles, from Fryers Road to Middlemore Lane, adjacent to the new HWRC.

Upgrading

Upgrading the existing HWRC at Fryers Road in Bloxwich to provide bigger and better facilities for residents.



Site entrance



North East skip area

Benefits and opportunities

Our population continues to increase.

Our existing sites are in need of improvement, but do not have enough space to grow to meet future needs. The proposals give us the opportunity to:

- Provide more space, meaning residents will be able to recycle a wider range of items.
- Provide well designed, modern and easier to use facilities.
- Reduce the amount of Walsall's waste going to landfill and improve Walsall recycling rates.
- Introduce a facility for local small businesses to dispose of their trade waste responsibly.

- Introduce reuse shops at both sites.
 - Residents can take unwanted items which can be up-cycled or repaired.
 - Residents can buy pre-owned, repaired and refurbished items cheaply.
- Generate renewable energy by installing solar panels on both sites.
- Build flexibility to react to future government policies.

Public engagement and planning application

A planning application for the new site at Middlemore Lane is being prepared, including assessing a number of environmental matters to ensure that any potential impacts are minimised. Before this is submitted we would like to know your views.

You can comment on the proposals and view further details by visiting www.walsall.gov.uk/newhwrcs

We are holding public information events where you can find out more about the new facilities and speak to a member of the team. This period of engagement closes on Sunday 31 October 2021.

There will be further opportunities to comment as part of the planning process.

Aldridge Library

Saturday 09 October 2021
10.00am – 4.00pm

Wednesday 13 October 2021
10.00am – 4.00pm

Bloxwich Library

Saturday 16 October 2021
10.00am – 4.00pm

Wednesday 20 October 2021
10.00am – 4.00pm

Middlemore Lane site location



The land was previously occupied by the former McKechnie Brass works and is close to other industrial premises.

The site is bound by:

- The Daw End Branch Canal along the northern boundary
- To the east there are commercial sheds and warehousing containing businesses, alongside playing fields.
- Middlemore Lane is to the south with further businesses and industrial premises.
- Dumblederry Lane to the west including industrial units and Geddes Packaging.

Following the closure of the factory circa 2014 the site has not been used becoming largely derelict and subject to anti-social behaviour. Last year it was cleared prior to sale and currently the six hectare brownfield site in Middlemore Lane is empty and ready for development.

Our preference is always to focus on brownfield sites for re-development as our green belt is hugely valuable and our aim is to protect it.

Economy, Environment & Place

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