

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

New £3.5 Million recycling centre opens

The ribbon has been cut to mark the opening of a bespoke £3.5 million recycling centre and waste transfer station.

The Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station, situated next to the Birch Coppice Business Park off the M42/A5 Tamworth junction, was officially opened today by Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Corporate Business and the Environment, and Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet member for Economy and Infrastructure at Staffordshire County Council, ahead of the gates opening to the public on Wednesday 12 June.

Designed and built by Colas Construction Ltd, the split-level facility will handle 100,000 tonnes of waste and includes a charity re-use shop operated by Warwickshire Community Recycling. Serving the boroughs of North Warwickshire, Tamworth, and Nuneaton and Bedworth, Lower House Farm is jointly financed with Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Corporate Business and the Environment, said: "Recycling rates are on the up in the county and the opening of this fantastic new site in North Warwickshire is a sign of our ambitions to continue to provide superb facilities for residents to come and recycle as much household waste as possible.

"Sharing the development and operating costs of Lower House Farm between Warwickshire and Staffordshire has provided the best value solution for the residents of both counties, and ensures the site will be used to its full potential.

"Residents in North Warwickshire and their Tamworth neighbours will no doubt welcome the opening of a long-awaited recycling facility on their doorstep, and I am proud that it has now come to fruition."

Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for economy and infrastructure Mark Winnington said: "This new facility for people in Tamworth will boost recycling rates, support businesses and community groups.

"By pooling our resources with Warwickshire, we have been able to achieve a facility of the highest quality and at the best value for money. It will also complement operations at the new waste to energy plant at Four Ashes in South Staffordshire from next year – a facility which will save £250million over 25 years and create jobs locally. Lower House Farm will be good for people, the environment and the economy."

Lower House Farm replaces Grendon Household Waste Recycling Centre which closes on June 12. The new household waste recycling centre is capable of taking 10,000 tonnes of material a year and the proceeds from the purpose-built charity reuse shop will benefit local

community groups and good causes across Warwickshire and Staffordshire through the Heart of England Community Foundation and its sister, Staffordshire Community Foundation.

The transfer station can handle up to 90,000 tonnes of waste a year, of which 50,000 tonnes will be kerbside-collected municipal waste from the three collection authorities being delivered to Staffordshire's planned 'Energy from Waste' plant at Four Ashes, and the remaining waste capacity at the facility will help small businesses manage their waste.

LINKS

1. Tamworth Herald November 2011 - <http://www.tamworthherald.co.uk/Contract-awarded-new-recycling-centre-North/story-13875597-detail/story.html>
2. Tamworth Herald August 2012 - <http://www.tamworthherald.co.uk/North-Warwickshire-recycling-centre-set-open/story-16726339-detail/story.html>
3. Lower House Farm Reuse Shop – Flickr Set <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjG6MLue>
4. Lower House Farm Official Opening – Flickr Set <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjFPktt7>
5. Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station – Flickr Set <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjFP8GVC>
6. Construction phase blog at <http://lowerhousefarmhwrc.wordpress.com/>

BEST PRACTICE

Warwickshire and Staffordshire's partnership to develop and operate Lower House Farm HWRC as a shared service was cited as best practice in the recycling centre guidance published by WRAP (see www.wrap.org.uk/content/household-waste-recycling-centres-guide). The venture was also highlighted in presentations to the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) SOUTH/SOUTH WEST - Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing Advisory Group at Oxford and Bath as well as the 2014 National Civic Amenity Site Conference. Lower House Farm also featured in Warwickshire County Council's presentation 'New approaches to provide and commission services' at the APSE 'Innovation and Commercialism in Local Government' seminar held at London's South Bank on 23 May 2013. See <http://bit.ly/1es7jpO>

The Warwickshire / Staffordshire shared service was also exemplified as Best Value at Inside Government's 'The Future of Public Sector Procurement' Seminar (see <http://bit.ly/19zDnVR>) and formed part of an interactive case study at the Local



Government Procurement Network (LGN) Showcase 2013 (see <http://bit.ly/1cQctPf>).

AS SEEN ON TV



BBC TV's Breakfast Show Outside Broadcast Unit came to Lower House Farm on 27 March 2014 for live footage of the site's charity re-use shop plus interviews with

Warwickshire County Council representatives and its social enterprise partner. See www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26765510

RECOGNITION AND REWARD

The Lower House Farm project was Highly Commended in the Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2014/15 in the Collaborative Procurement Initiative of the Year category. At the awards ceremony the Chair of Judges said: "Our Highly Commended entry has not only rated highly in the GO Awards – but, if such a thing existed, would probably win the Public Sector Common Sense Awards too. This initiative has been coated in a thick layer of pragmatism and realism– but not just that; it also demonstrates commercialism and entrepreneurship too. It's full of 'isms.

Two authorities combining with a single purpose. A truly collaborative commissioning and procurement process. Straightforward allocation of resources. A sensible business model to ensure the fair attribution of costs. And all of this resulting in a facility that is vastly superior to what went before, and that is valued highly by those who use it and pay for it with their taxes. In short, one for the Daily Mail to choke on.

Highly Commended in the GO John McClelland Collaborative Procurement Initiative of the Year Award for Non Health organisations is: Warwickshire County Council.

Congratulations to Warwickshire County Council for its collaborative approach to creating a new Household Waste Recycling Centre, delivered in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council."

Meanwhile the scheme was a finalist in the National Recycling Awards 2014 in Efficiency Initiative of the Year category as well reaching the finals of the Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management 2014 in the Design of a Waste Management Facility category.

The Lower House Farm development is the third successful waste management collaborative procurement exercise for Warwickshire and Staffordshire – delivering significant year-on-year savings for both county councils. Scheduled Contract Management meetings for the three major waste management contracts plus almost-daily operational dialogue provide a platform for developing future procurements.



Highly Commended

GO / John F McClelland
Collaborative Procurement
Initiative of the Year Award
NON HEALTH AND NON HEALTH
RELATED ORGANISATIONS



FINALIST

