

**Item 3: HCC Update: In-vessel composting facilities**

This update follows the last of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

1. Currently Contracted and Operational Facilities

- Envar Ltd compost site near St Ives in Cambridgeshire - total quantity approx. 25,000 t/annum
- West London Composting Ltd compost site near Harefield - total quantity approx. 23,000 t/annum
- Cumberlow Compost Services Ltd compost site at Cumberlow Green - total quantity approx. 15,000 t/annum

2. Proposed Facilities

- The County Council's Development Control Committee resolved, on 16 December 2008, the following:

1. *That, for the reasons set out in the report, subject to (i) the application being referred to the Secretary for State as a departure application within the Green Belt and her not wishing to call the application in for a decision (ii) the submission of a satisfactory Flood Risk Assessment, (iii) the completion of a legal agreement dealing with securing additional land to widen Ridge Bridleway 13, the Director of Environment be authorised to grant planning permission ref 0/1711-08 for the proposed construction and operation of an in-vessel composting facility including reception building, composting tunnels and ancillary development on land at Redwell Wood Farm, Blackhorse Lane, South Mimms, Shenley, subject to conditions as set out below : -*

1. *time limit of development for 25 years*
2. *removal of facility and restoration and aftercare of land*
3. *limit on vehicle movements*
4. *hours of operation*
5. *control of dust*
6. *no mud/debris on highway*
7. *details of access improvements*
8. *advanced warning signs*
9. *rights of way matters*
10. *details of material of reception building*
11. *landscaping scheme*
12. *details of external lighting*

2. *In the event of a satisfactory Flood Risk Assessment not being submitted, the Director of Environment be authorised to determine the planning application following consultation with the Development Control Committee Spokesmen.*

Agrivert is confident that it can satisfy the conditions but is concerned that, in the current financial climate, due diligence work by the banks may take longer than programmed. Despite this, Agrivert have said that the original programme is 'theoretically achievable' which would mean that the plant could be ready to

accept green garden waste in the middle of May 2009 and mixed wastes at the end of August 2009. These dates should not, however, be relied upon until further information is available at the end of February.

- Cumberlow Compost Services Ltd has submitted a planning application to expand its existing in-vessel composting operation at Cumberlow Green Farm. This will involve the construction of additional vessels which will increase the capacity to a maximum of 25,000 tonnes per annum. If the planning application is successful, and to date there have been no objections, it is anticipated that the facility could be ready to accept mixed wastes at the end of October 2009 although, again, this date should not be relied upon until planning permission has been granted and a construction programme agreed.

### 3. Overall Service

- The situation remains the same as at the last update in that the provision of all the above facilities will allow all district councils to institute meat, kitchen waste and cardboard included organic waste collections. This should, in conjunction with the garden waste collections at the HWRC, enable the councils of Hertfordshire to recycle all of the organic waste arising in residents' homes and gardens thus contributing significantly to meeting the 50% recycling target in the Herts Waste Strategy.

For further information contact Mick Shaw on 01992 556164

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