

Why are these changes being introduced?

Until now residents from outside of West Berkshire have been using the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). In order to manage the cost of operating the HWRCs and the cost of waste disposal the Council is putting measures in place to ensure that they are only used by the residents of West Berkshire who fund them. HWRC permits will be issued to identify people who pay their Council Tax to West Berkshire District Council.

How does the Permit system work?

During September every household in the district will be sent a Household Waste Recycling Centre permit in the post. From Monday 26th September 2016 residents must display the permit in the windscreen of their car to access either the Padworth or Newtown Road HWRC.

For a temporary period after the 26th September alternative forms of ID, for example, a driving licence photo card and proof of address in the form of a Council tax bill, bank or credit card statement or utility bill, will be accepted if you have not yet received your permit or you have forgotten it. Please be aware that checking these documents will slow down access to the HWRCs and may result in queues so please use your permit if possible.

Only one permit will be issued per household and can only be used in the accepted vehicle types as listed in HWRC User Guide. The HWRC User Guide will be published at www.westberks.gov.uk/HWRCpermit when we start to deliver the permits.

How do I get a HWRC permit?

If you pay Council Tax to West Berkshire Council you will automatically receive a permit in the post. If you have not received a permit by Friday 23rd September then please visit www.westberks.gov.uk/HWRCpermit and complete the relevant form or contact Customer Services on 01635 519080. Once your details have been checked by Waste Management and we have confirmed that you have not previously been issued with a permit, we will send you one.

Is there a cost?

Your first permit will be issued for free, but charges may apply to replace lost, stolen or damaged permits.

Can people living outside of West Berkshire use the HWRCs?

From Monday 26th September 2016 residents from outside of West Berkshire will no longer be able to use the HWRCs at Padworth or Newtown Road, Newbury. Once this change has been implemented, the Council may consider a review of the situation to assess whether we would be able to admit non West Berkshire residents; this might include charging a fee for them to deposit their waste.

Can I use other HWRCs?

If you are a West Berkshire resident you can only use the HWRCs within West Berkshire. These are Newtown Road, Newbury and Padworth Lane, Padworth.

Will this cause a delay to my visit?

During busy periods, like weekends and bank holidays, delays already do occur due to the number of visitors. If residents are not displaying permits clearly and staff have to carry out ID checks this may cause further delays. To help the HWRC staff move vehicles through the site please ensure that your permit is clearly displayed in your windscreen.

What happens at other HWRCs?

Many other local authorities are already restricting access to their HWRCs.

Is there a risk of fly-tipping as a result of the changes?

Most people act responsibly when disposing of their waste. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and people who dump their rubbish illegally are liable to face prosecution, substantial penalties, seizure of assets and potentially even a prison sentence. Fly-tipping is monitored and investigated by the Council's Waste Management Team.

If you have information about fly-tipping within West Berkshire please report it at www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem or via Customer Services on 01635 519080 or customerservices@westberks.gov.uk

Will I get turned away from a HWRC if I do not have a permit or relevant ID?

The permit system is being enforced and you will be asked for your permit or ID by a member of site staff. If you cannot provide any of the required documents then you will be asked to leave without disposing of your waste. This process will ensure that only residents from West Berkshire are able to use the HWRCs.

I drive a van – Do I need a permit?

The HWRCs are for the disposal of household waste only. From 26th September 2016 commercial type vehicles will be restricted from using the HWRCs. If you have a van you will not be able to use the HWRCs with the permit that will be automatically issued. If the only vehicle available to your household is a commercial type vehicle then you may apply for a commercial type vehicle permit. The HWRC User Guide will explain which vehicles are allowed to use the HWRCs and further information about the commercial type vehicle permit scheme will be available soon.

Business and commercial waste is not permitted at any of the HWRCs and by restricting these types of vehicles we are aiming to stop this type of waste from being disposed of at the cost of West Berkshire Council Tax payers. If you take your business waste to any HWRCs you are not complying with the legal requirements of your Duty of Care and enforcement action may be taken against you.

Will I be able to dispose of general rubbish at the Padworth HWRC?

The Waste Management Team would like to extend the Padworth HWRC so that it can accept general household waste, but to do this the planning permission needs to be reviewed. If approved it is estimated that the upgrade will take approximately 6 months.