

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council

5th March 2020

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Portfolio Holder for Environment

SUBJECT: Question from Ann Rooney Evans

What will the Council do to initiate and support a trial at the recycling centres of allowing residents to take for re-use, any items that are useful, rather than see them thrown away for recycling or landfill; thus supporting the hierarchy of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle?

This would be a valuable step towards a circular economy, it would help to normalise the practice of offering things for re-use rather than throwing them away. I am shocked and dismayed by the perfectly good stuff that is thrown away, and that could be re-used. The staff at the recycling centre must be very frustrated by it too. You could ask for donations for items taken (voluntary). There are similar schemes running elsewhere that have overcome any perceived challenges around health and safety, or staff training.

Response

Our Household Waste Recycling Centres are currently operated under contract with the contractor currently entering into such a trial for re-use at the new site at Newtown with a local community group. A purpose built shed has been put in place at this site for this purpose.

Space is a limiting factor at many of our sites as re-use shops are popular with the public, which can result in congestion at the facilities. Other options are to take the material for re-use off site and this is what happens at our site at Lower Cwmtwrch.

There is a re-use area at Welshpool with income generated being donated to local communities.