

Full Council

Date:	18 June 2019
Title:	Bledlow Household Recycling Centre
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To provide background for a decision on whether to provide initial support to a proposal to re-open the Bledlow Household Recycling Centre as a commercial enterprise.

Background

2. At the Council meeting on 16 April 2019 a Member's question was raised about the closure of Bledlow Household Recycling Centre and its impact on Thame.
3. Various suggestions were made on how the impact on Thame could be alleviated (including CCTV monitoring of charity shops, extra publicity on alternative recycling locations, resurrection of the monthly skip at the cattle market), all of which were progressed with varying degrees of success.
4. It was also minuted that there had been an approach for support from a Buckinghamshire County Councillor for the Town Mayor to join a small committee of local leaders in their quest to chart a way forward. Buckinghamshire County Council have agreed to leave the site dormant for up to a year to allow a commercial initiative to be explored. Five other key parishes are already involved.
5. On establishing further details following the re-election of the Town Mayor, the next step appears to be establishing ongoing planning permission, which could cost in the region of £70,000. Support is therefore requested in publicising any crowd-funding campaign that may occur, following the petition signed by 4,500 people to keep the centre open.

Resource Appraisal

6. Initially just Member and Officer time, but it would also be sensible to allocate a sum of £500 from General Reserves, in the event of any unforeseen expenditure requirements.

Risk Assessment

7. The site is in Buckinghamshire rather than Oxfordshire, but was the most local to Thame.

Legal Powers: General Power of Competence: Localism Act 2011 ss 1-8

Recommendation:

That the Town Council authorises support for the campaign to re-open Bledlow Household Recycling Centre as defined in this report.