



Norfolk County Council

Your views on closing Mayton Wood Recycling Centre and moving operations to the new Norwich North Recycling Centre

Opens 15 May 2023

Closes 26 June 2023

Overview

Norfolk County Council continues to work in challenging financial circumstances. In February County Councillors agreed Norfolk County Council's 2023-24 budget which aims to tackle a £60m gap in finances and protect key services.

One way we have considered saving money in this year's budget is to look at how we run our recycling centres in Norfolk. Following public consultation in autumn/winter 2022 a proposal to close all of Norfolk's recycling centres on Wednesdays was not introduced, however, a proposal to align summer and winter opening hours for recycling centres was approved, so from 1 April 2023 recycling centres now close at 4pm all year round.

A further proposal to close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre to save £70,000 a year was also identified earlier when Cabinet met on 30 January 2023 so we are now consulting on this proposal.

Why your views matter

We now want your views on the proposed closure of Mayton Wood Recycling Centre and moving operations to the new Norwich North Recycling Centre.

We want to know your thoughts on our approach and the impact this would have on how you recycle, participate in reuse and dispose of your waste in the future.

We would like to hear how the closure and movement of operations to a nearby site would affect you, as this will help us to understand the possible impact the closure could have on residents, and we will use this information to help shape our plans.

The site operators, Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd (NEWS) will also hold a staff consultation for employees who may be impacted by the proposal to close the recycling centre and if the proposal went ahead the County Council would support NEWS in offering alternative employment within the service wherever possible.

Personal information, confidentiality and data protection

We will use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our budget proposals.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation. You can find a copy of our privacy statement at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privacy>

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You can choose not to take part in the consultation, to stop responding at any time, or to ignore any personal questions that you do not want to answer.

By completing and sending this consultation to Norfolk County Council, you are agreeing to the above privacy statement.

Our proposal

We are proposing to close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre and move operations to the new Norwich North Recycling Centre to reduce costs by £70,000 a year.

Since we opened the new Norwich North Recycling Centre in 2021 we have seen a significant drop in the number of people using Mayton Wood Recycling Centre – of just over a third.

The Norwich North Recycling Centre is a new site, at the A140/A1270 junction near Norwich airport, and it is home to the county's largest reuse shop where visitors can drop off items for reuse and also grab a bargain. When designing the site we asked what people would like to see in their new recycling centre, and that feedback was used to shape the design. People wanted easy access bins, smooth traffic flow through the site, no queuing and waiting at closed gates for bins to be moved, plenty of parking and a reuse shop, so all these are now part of the new recycling centre.

Our aim is to provide spacious modern recycling centres that help people to recycle and reuse as much as possible. However, we are unable to upgrade Mayton Wood Recycling Centre as expanding the site is not reasonably possible due to its location on a closed landfill and on a minor road. This means there's no opportunity to redesign the site to provide easy access bins with no steps, or a one-way system to cut queues. Due to the small size of the site we also have to regularly close the gates to allow access for lorries to change the bins which causes customers to queue at the front gate.

If we close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre people living in the area would be able to (approximately 10 miles or 15 minutes drive), or Worstead Recycling Centre (approximately nine miles or 20 minutes drive).

There are currently 20 recycling centres in Norfolk, and we're investing in a programme of upgrades to ensure we continue to provide excellent recycling and reuse facilities and provide an easy to use service for Norfolk's growing population. We're developing large new sites to cut queues, provide easier access bins with no steps, and improve opportunities for reuse by providing reuse shops on site.

Recent and upcoming steps in the recycling centre improvement programme include:

- Opening both the new Norwich North and Norwich South Recycling Centres in 2021
- A new larger recycling centre for the Wymondham area is planned to replace the existing site towards the end of 2024
- Plans to provide a new recycling centre for the Long Stratton area, to replace the current Morningthorpe Recycling Centre. We are currently searching for the right land to relocate this popular site to
- A new site for the North Walsham area to replace the existing Worstead Recycling Centre, expected 2025
- A proposed new larger recycling centre for the Sheringham area, to replace the existing Sheringham Recycling Centre, is currently in the planning process

Your views on the proposal to close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre

Which Recycling Centre have you used MOST in the last 12 months?

Please write the location in the box below

How often do you use Mayton Wood Recycling Centre?

- Daily
- Weekly
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Once every few months
- Very rarely
- Never

When you use Mayton Wood Recycling Centre, do you primarily use it as a...

- Member of the public
- Tradesperson disposing of trade waste
- I don't use Mayton Wood Recycling Centre

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Why did you say that?

If our proposal to close Mayton Wood Recycling Centre went ahead what impact, if any, would this have on you?

If you currently use Mayton Wood Recycling Centre How easy would it be for you to get to either Norwich North Recycling Centre or Worstead Recycling Centre?

The closest alternative sites to Mayton Wood are Norwich North, a six mile or 15-minute car journey, or Worstead Recycling Centre, eight miles or 20 minutes away.

The County Council is committed to delivering a programme of upgrades and replacement sites for the recycling centre service, a new site planned for the North Walsham area will become the closest recycling centre for most Alysham residents.

- Very easy
- Easy
- About the same as it would for me to get to Mayton Wood
- Difficult
- Very difficult
- Not applicable

Why did you answer the last question the way you did?

- Distance from my house/place of work
- Expense (i.e transport costs)
- Time (opening hours)
- Convenience
- I don't use Mayton Wood Recycling Centre

Other, please write here: (free text)

About you

To make sure we are learning from a wide range of people we'd like to ask some questions about you. These are optional questions (so you may choose not to give this information), but this information is helpful to help us understand who is responding to our consultations.

Are you responding as...? Please tick () one answer only:

- An individual/member of the public
- On behalf of a voluntary or community group
- On behalf of a statutory organisation
- On behalf of a business
- A Norfolk County Councillor
- A district or borough councillor
- A town or parish councillor
- A Norfolk County Council employee
- An employee of a recycling centre in Norfolk

If you are responding on behalf of another organisation, what is the name of the organisation, group or business?

Please write your answer in the box:

How did you hear about this consultation? Please select one of the following:

- Local media (e.g newspaper, radio)
- From a social media post (e.g Facebook)
- From a friend

- From a group I belong to
- From my place of work or education
- The Norfolk Residents' Panel
- District Council web page
- Norfolk County Council web page
- My Parish Council
- From an email I received

10.Are you...? Please tick () one answer only:

- Male
 - Female
 - Prefer not to say
 - Prefer to self-describe (please specify below)
- If you prefer to self-describe please specify here:

11.How old are you? Please tick () one answer only:

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 15
- 75-84
- 85 or older
- Prefer not to say

Next Steps

After the consultation is closed, we will take a report about the findings of this consultation to the County Council's Cabinet.

Our County Councillors will consider the consultation responses we receive very carefully. In particular, they will consider:

- The impact of any proposal on individuals, groups of communities and on people identified as having 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. As well as this equality impact assessment, councillors will consider the impact of proposals on rural areas.
- The views of people, partners and other stakeholders consulted.
- The evidence of need and what is proven to work effectively and well.
- The financial and legal positions and any constraints at the time.
- Any potential alternative options, models, or ideas for making savings.

Staff

There will be a staff consultation for employees of the site operators NEWS who may be impacted by the proposal to close the recycling centre. The County Council will support NEWS in offering alternative employment within the service where possible.

Should this proposal go ahead, the centre may close in October 2023.

You can send back a paper feedback form to:

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing,
County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

However, if you want to help the council save money please use a stamp and send to this address: Stakeholder and Consultation Team, Norfolk County Council,
Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH.

You may wish to keep a copy of your response to our consultation for your own records.



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please email us at haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk or contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.