

Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation

Headline Results



Introduction

- Public consultation ran between 5 December 2022 and 22 January 2023
- Mixed method approach – online survey and targeted surveys conducted at two main sites
- Promoted through a range of communications, aimed at both Staffordshire residents and businesses
- 1,002 responses received, with results statistically robust at a County level
- Of all survey respondents:
 - 97% responded as a Staffordshire resident
 - 4.5% in the capacity of a small to medium business
 - Half are 'regular' users of their Household Waste Recycling Centre
 - 13.7% (137) are regular users visiting in a van – a key audience impacted by proposals

Key Messages

- Responses predominately reflect the perspective of Staffordshire residents.
- Half of respondents stated 12 visits per year should be allowed with a van permit.
- Van users have a higher preference for 12 permits per year - 73% compared to 38% of car users. Despite this variation, both car and van users selected this as their preferred option.
- Key impacts of a van permit scheme: Reduced congestion & queues; unfairness and penalising residents with privately owned vans; concerns of increased fly tipping.
- More respondents (60%) supported the option to accept commercial waste from Staffordshire businesses only, at all sites, than any other. More respondents in Cannock Chase were supportive of this option - 73% compared to 60% overall.
- Respondents favoured prioritising Staffordshire's county boundary for the disposal of trade waste, however some concerns were raised regarding increased fly tipping.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Usage

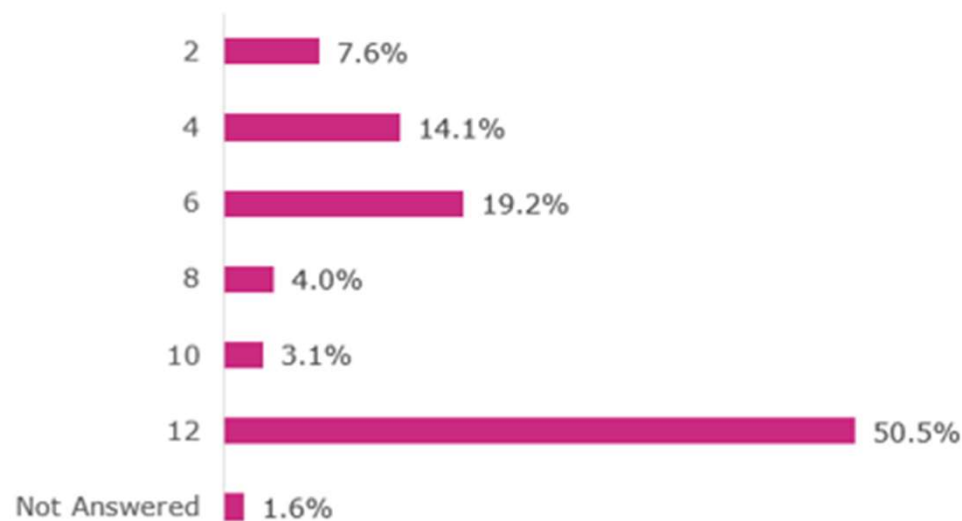
Centre	Respondents	Percentage Respondents
Stafford	176	17.6%
Cannock	140	14.0%
Lichfield	111	11.1%
Stone	78	7.8%
Leek	75	7.5%
Burntwood	50	5.0%
Burton	47	4.7%
Rugeley	45	4.5%
Biddulph	43	4.3%
Billbrook	40	4.0%
Newcastle	39	3.9%
Uttoxeter	39	3.9%
Cheadle	37	3.7%
Wombourne	31	3.1%
Other	17	1.7%
Not Answered	34	3.4%
Total	1002	100.0%

- Most respondents use their site to dispose of household waste from their residence (80%).
- Very few (0.4%) stated they used their main site to dispose of business waste.
- Frequency of usage is mixed – 49% visit their main site once a month or more, compared to 47% who visit less than once a month (of which 37% visit once every 3-6 months).
- 58% of respondents visit in their car and 22% use a van.

Views on the Introduction of an Annual Van Permit

- Van users have a higher preference for 12 permits per year - 73% compared to 38% of car users.
- Regular users of HWRCs (once a month or more) also expressed a higher preference for 12 permits per year at 63%.
- Respondents from all districts also preferred the option of 12 permits, although this ranges from 61% in Staffordshire Moorlands to 32% in Tamworth.

Preferred number of visits allowed per year with a van permit



View on the Introduction of an Annual Van Permit – Key Impacts

- Of the 750 analysed free text comments, key impacts included: reduced congestion and queues (14%); unfairness as penalising residents with privately owned vans (16%); and concerns regarding increased fly tipping (11%).
- Negative impacts were more likely to be made by non-car users (van, campervan, trailer etc) accounting for 68% of negative comments. Conversely car users made more positive comments.

Positive Impacts

"It would make it quicker and easier for car using residents to dispose of waste."

"Reduce queuing at recycling centre"

"Not being held up at the site"

"Hopefully it will stop people trying to use the recycling centres to dump trade waste."

"It should discourage traders who are taking advantage of all rate paying Staffordshire residents..."

Negative Impacts

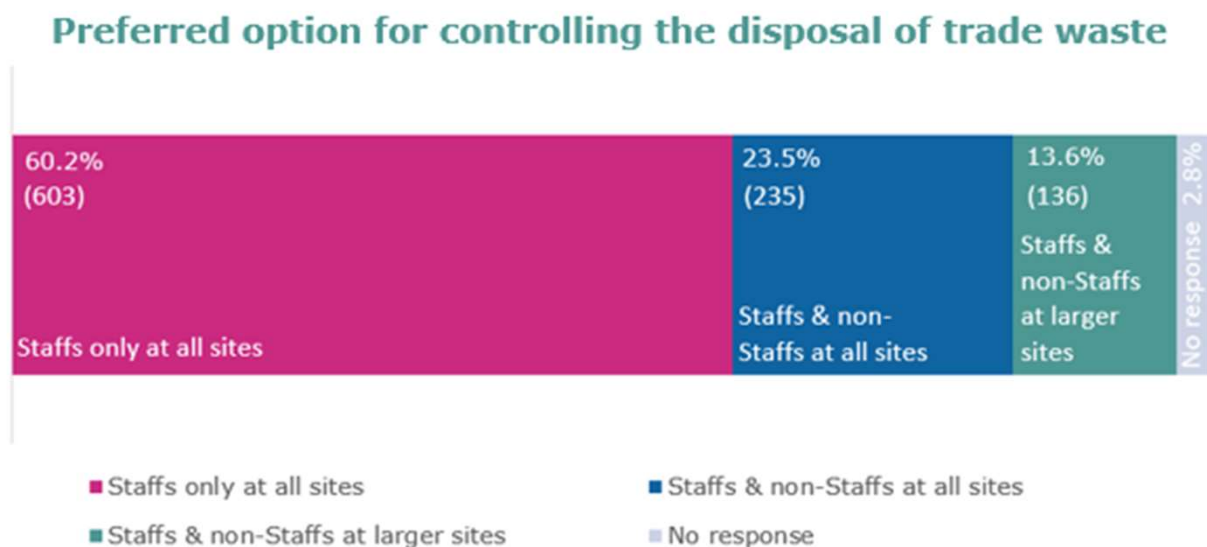
"It would be a big impact. We have 2 vans in our household and they are our only vehicles..."

"Badly, as its my only means of transport"

"I'm sure fly tipping will increase costing the council and tax payer even more"

"This would increase the amount of fly tipping. Please do not do this!"

Preferred Option for Controlling the Disposal of Trade Waste



- Accepting Staffordshire only waste at all sites was respondents' preferred option (60%). Prioritising Staffordshire's county boundary was the main reason given (305 mentions).

Higher than average support for this option in Cannock Chase (73%) and Stafford (69%) compared to 60% overall.

Accepting Staffordshire only waste at all sites was the preferred option regardless of vehicle type or frequency of use.

- Fly tipping was the main reason given for supporting commercial waste from BOTH Staffordshire and non Staffordshire businesses (115 mentions).