

Lochaber Community Council Briefing Note

Title: Re-opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

Phase 1

Date: 26th May 2020

Last week, The Scottish Government updated COVID-19 restrictions, permitting HWRC across the country to be re-opened from 1st June 2020, if safe to do so.

A phased approach to re-opening the HWRC across The Highland Council region has been developed, with strict controls to help manage social distancing and to ensure the anticipated high number of visitors and volume of waste of can be handled safely and efficiently.

In the initial phase, the sites are open for **essential waste disposal only**. Householders are advised that journeys to a HWRC must only be undertaken if their waste cannot be stored at home safely. By this we mean the waste cannot be stored without causing risk of injury, or harm to health.

Fort William Household Recycling Centre will open on the 1st June 2020. The revised opening times are as follows:

Monday – Friday 10:00 - 17:00

Phase 1

Restrictions will be in place to reduce the time spent at the sites by individuals, so that as many as people as possible can pass through the sites quickly and safely, enabling traffic to flow more freely. Severe delays and queues are initially expected.

Restrictions are as follows:

- Bagged household waste and garden waste only – **essential waste disposal only**
- Revised opening hours to ensure staffing levels can be maintained
- Cars only – no vans or trailers
- There will be reduced number of vehicles and strict number of visitors permitted on sites at any given time to ensure social distancing measures are adopted
- No commercial waste or recycling will be accepted.

The safe re-opening of the HWRC will be managed by:

- Site signage – A1 colour information signs will be located on the pavements/verges leading to the sites and at the entrance. Social distancing signs will be clearly displayed in the sites, and vinyl overlays will display the new opening times (covering up normal hours).
- Staff will be in place at the entrance to each site to speak with visitors and advise on waiting times and procedures on site. If a queue is too large, some vehicles may be turned away and asked to return later.
- Traffic management plans will be in place along with road safety signage
- All site staff will be trained to operate the sites safely and efficiently. They will be issued with appropriate PPE.
- Guidance on where to find information will be given through all publicity information

Communications

- Members & Community Council area briefing notes
- Website - HWRC pages will be updated
- FAQs will be available on the website – [click here](#)
- Infographic animation video will be posted on the website
- Customer Services staff briefing

Publicity will start week commencing 25th May 2020 and will include:

- News release followed by regular updates
- Social media messages with info graphics regularly issued on all channels
- Adverts (full colour) in local press publications
- THC Website will be updated [click here](#)

Phase 2

Phase 2 will see more types of waste being introduced to the list of items that are accepted at those sites which are open. However, this is dependent on the amount of waste and visitor numbers using the sites being at safe and manageable levels. Further updates will be provided when we are at this stage.