

Southwark Resource Programme.

Residents Frequently Asked Questions.

Final Version (5) - 24/08/07.

1) Why does the site have to be located near us? What's wrong with the current site at Manor Place on Walworth Road?

Manor Place is almost running at capacity in terms of the amount of waste that is allowed to pass through it – it was built at a time when we produced much less waste than we do now. The site is in a residential and shopping area and is difficult to access. There is an operational railway line running through the middle of the site and some listed buildings on the site. All of the above mean that we simply cannot expand the capacity of the current site at Manor Place.

Officers have spent several years considering all possible sites in the borough. The simple fact is that the old gasworks site is the only possible option in the borough. Building and developing a state of the art centre will enable the Council to divert most of its waste away from the current options of incineration or landfill.

2) Are you building an incinerator?

No, we are most certainly not building an incinerator and have never had any plans to do so.

3) What will happen on the site?

Waste on the site is likely to be processed using a method known as Mechanical / Biological Treatment (MBT).

4) What does MBT mean?

Mechanical Biological Treatment involves sorting waste to remove things that can be recycled. Once the waste is sorted as much material as possible is recycled - for example scrap metal will be sold, food and garden waste will be treated biologically to produce compost. Any waste that can't be recycled is broken down and turned into pellets that can be used for fuel.

5) What will happen to the residue from the process? Will it be incinerated?

Some residue will be sent for incineration at the SELCHP plant, in Lewisham, however the new site will dramatically reduce the amount we currently send.

6) Will just household waste be processed on the site?

The facility will take in household as well business and commercial waste.

7) What happens to materials that we put out for recycling? Where do they go?

Currently the materials we collect and recycle are sold onto manufacturers who process them into new products. Cans and tins made from steel and aluminium can be used for anything requiring steel or aluminium, but most likely more cans and tins; plastics are separated into different polymer types – milk, laundry and juice cartons are made of HDPE polymers which are used to make the raw material for agricultural or construction piping, plastic furniture and fencing; soft drink cartons and food trays are PET polymers, which can be made into bedding or fleece garments. Glass can be used to make new glass containers and bottles, as an abrasive in sand blasting or in construction and agriculture, while paper and card can be reused many times.

8) Can the plastic recycling bags that are used for collection be recycled?

Yes, the plastic recycling bags used in the doorstep collection can be recycled.

9) If we're building a new waste site why do I still have to sort my materials for recycling? Can't the council do it?

There won't be any major changes to the current arrangement of sorting out materials for recycling. The quality of the recycled materials is the key factor in the process.

10) What other activity will take place on the site?

It is anticipated that the majority of waste services run by the Environment and Housing department will operate from this site – certainly refuse collection, waste disposal and recycling activities. In addition, office space will be provided and an environmental education centre will be established. There will also be a public Recycling and Reuse Centre.

11) Will it smell? Will it be noisy?

No, the centre will be designed so that waste activities are contained within buildings on the site.

12) What about pollution in the area? Won't the site give off dangerous emissions/pollutants?

No, the waste and recycling centre will not present a health risk to people living in surrounding areas.

13) Won't the site release dangerous chemicals when we start building on it?

No - The site will be remediated in accordance with legal requirements.

14) Doesn't this mean that there will be extra traffic / noise in the area? How will the trucks access the site?

Trucks will access the site via the Old Kent Road and will use main roads instead of back streets.

15) There's too much traffic on the Old Kent Road now and Ilderton Road is a rat run for trucks going to the skip centre. How are you going to monitor traffic and noise?

We realise that the Old Kent Road is very busy currently however this site is the best and only option. We are committed to ensuring that no Southwark trucks will use rat runs. Having one site for waste and recycling will reduce the overall number of trips our trucks make through the borough. And, our environmental health team will monitor traffic and noise.

16) When will the site be open?

The building works, starting with an access road, will begin in 2008. We anticipate being fully operational in 2010.

17) How secure will the site be?

There will be 24-hour security on the site.

18) Will there be employment opportunities for local people?

There will be job opportunities at the new site, and we will be encouraging local people to apply. Jobs will be created during both the construction and operational phases.

19) What's in it for us? What gains will the new site bring?

The new site will enable the Council to divert much of the waste produced away from landfill and incineration, which of course is good not only for the local area, but the borough as a whole.

20) Will there be any green space incorporated into the new site?

The planning application for the site will include some public space adjacent to the site.

21) What else is the council doing to minimise waste?

The key to minimising waste is providing information to the public and businesses and we have a long term strategy to do this, based on encouraging residents to reduce the amount of rubbish produced, reuse materials where possible and recycle as much as possible.

We have education programmes running in local schools and we will be working with businesses. We are also subsidising other activities such as home composting, reconfiguring fridges and cookers, and recycling old IT equipment.

22) Will you be doing anything special with nappies?

We offer different schemes on real nappies and laundry services. These include a subsidy to help people get started with real nappies; a cash-back scheme for householders who choose to wash their nappies at home can claim up to half the cost of real nappy purchase up to £40; and there are a number of laundry services operating in the area offering money off if signing up to a minimum of two months. Further information can be found at www.southwark.gov.uk/realnappies

23) How will you keep me informed and at what stage can I get involved?

We will continue to keep local people informed through a range of activities including leaflets, public meetings, newsletters and a temporary visitor centre (“pop in” centre) in the Old Kent Road. Further details on this centre will appear on this website soon. There will also be formal resident consultation as part of the planning process.