



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Matthew Riddle – Leader of South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Heather Goddard – Chair of the Communities Committee
South Gloucestershire Council
Badminton Road
Yate
BS37 5AF

12th January 2015

THORBURY COMPOSTING

Dear Matthew & Heather,

I am writing to you on behalf of volunteers at the Thornbury Community Composting site in regards to the future of community composting in Thornbury.

I understand that this much valued project run by local people for the local community is the last of its kind within South Gloucestershire and that last year the Communities committee generously provided a grant of £10,000 to allow the site to demonstrate its viability as sustainable community project.

I am writing to you in support of the scheme as not only financially viable scheme in its potential savings to the councils waste disposal budget but also its viability as a community lead and run project that keeps green waste recycling local with an additional environmental benefit to the wider Thornbury Community.

In my visit to the site on Friday the 9th of January, the volunteers explained to me that that in order for the site to continue to provide the service until April 2017 they would require around £15,000 worth of funding. The group believes that almost half of this required funding will be met by the sales of recycled green waste in the form of compost and firewood back to the local community which the group estimates will bring in around £7,500 in revenue. This means that despite the sites success in sales of locally recycled products the group would require a further grant of £7,500 to continue.

I understand that in the current circumstances, where the Council is looking to keep making efficiency savings this sum may seem significant however I would like to ask this application is considered within a broad context of the actual and potential savings that the group can provide to the council in saved additional costs to the councils waste management contract.

It is my understanding from the group that the Waste management department has estimated that it costs the council around £25-£30 per tonne to dispose of green waste in its current tendered contract. The community composters have estimated that between 300 to 400 tonnes of green waste is processed at the site suggesting a saving in the council's contract of between £7,500 to £10,000. This is approximately the amount of funding or more that the group would require to continue providing a service that has the support of the community.

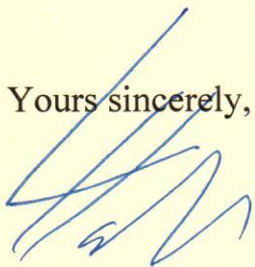
It is worth also noting the added value to the community that this project creates. The site is operated by 14 local volunteers who demonstrated to me when I visited how much they enjoy the service they provide.

I understand that the Chairman of Thornbury Community Composting, Mr John Wilson-Smith has also written to you to with the strong environmental and economic case for continued funding of the site.

I would like to finish my letter of support in asking that you strongly consider the case and work with Thornbury Community Composters to show that South Gloucestershire Council has confidence in the scheme which in turn provides confidence in other interested parties that may help to ensure that the future of the project is secured.

As ever, I greatly appreciate your time in reading this letter and hope that on the 20th of January the committee will decided to support this project.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Hall MP

Member of Parliament for Thornbury, Yate and the surrounding villages