**COUNCIL HOPES TO RESUME FULL RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICE BY JUNE**

Rutland County Council has confirmed it hopes to return to a full Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) service by 21 June 2021.

The Council is making clear that this is dependent on the continuing impact of COVID-19 and the Government’s spring roadmap for ending lockdown. If the Government does not meet the tests that have been set for easing lockdown and certain restrictions are not lifted as planned, it will not be able to restore the HWRC service as hoped.

The return to full service, which includes the reopening of Cottesmore HWRC on 17 May 2021, will take place in phases, to make sure all operations run as smoothly and safely as possible. This will include the introduction of a temporary booking system, with pre-booked time slots for residents to access HWRCs (first North Luffenham and then Cottesmore).

Lighter evenings and the seasonal change to HWRC operating hours mean that sites can now open for longer, from 10am until 6pm, reducing concerns about traffic volumes. The gradual easing of COVID restrictions also means that staffing can start to return to normal levels across the council’s waste services - freeing up staff to recommence operations at Cottesmore.

The temporary booking system to reserve a time slot at North Luffenham HWRC will go live on Monday 12 April 2021. From Tuesday 27 April, you will not be able to use North Luffenham HWRC unless you have booked in advance.

The booking system will allow six cars on site every 20 minutes at North Luffenham, equating to 18 cars per hour or 144 cars a day (North Luffenham HWRC is currently open six days a week, Tuesday to Sunday). Bookings can be made via the Council’s website or by phone from Monday 12 April.

Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services at Rutland County Council, said: “I know just how much people value our recycling centre service. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, it simply hasn’t been possible to operate a full service across both our sites at North Luffenham and Cottesmore. With COVID restrictions now being eased, we will soon be in a position where we don’t need additional staff to implement COVID-secure measures and provide extra cover for other services, like black and grey bin collections. This means that we can look towards lifting traffic restrictions around North Luffenham HWRC and reopening Cottesmore, albeit with some temporary measures still in place to make sure both sites can operate smoothly and safely.”

Following the switch to a booking system at North Luffenham HWRC from Tuesday 27 April, all temporary traffic restrictions currently in place around site will be removed, meaning two-way traffic flow will be reinstated along Glebe Road. The new exit gate at North Luffenham HWRC will also be brought into use for the first time.

Provided there are no issues with the new booking system and operations at North Luffenham HWRC are able to continue without disruption, the Council will review the current ban on trailers at North Luffenham HWRC in May.

The temporary booking system to reserve a time slot at Cottesmore HWRC will go live on Tuesday 4 May 2021. When Cottesmore reopens on Monday 17 May, you will not be able to use the site unless you have booked in advance. The booking system will allow three cars on site every 20 minutes at Cottesmore, equating to 9 cars per hour or 72 cars a day. Cottesmore HWRC will be open four days a week – Friday to Monday. Trailers will continue to be banned from Cottesmore HWRC when the site reopens on 17 May, although this will be kept under review.

Councillor Stephenson added: “From 21 June, in line with the Government’s proposed removal of all legal limits on social contact, we hope to lift all COVID restrictions across our two HWRC sites. The continuing need for a booking system to manage traffic at both sites will be reviewed, with the intention of removing this as soon as it’s safe. We don’t expect to lift the ban on trailers at Cottesmore HWRC by this date. However, these arrangements will provide for a seven day a week HWRC service across two sites and access for trailers at North Luffenham.”

For more information about Household Waste and Recycling Centre services in Rutland, including further details about the process to book a timeslot at North Luffenham HWRC from 12 April, please visit: [www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/recycling).