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From: Simon Payne [mailto:Simon.Payne@cambridge.gov.uk]

Sent: 17 July 2006 00:30

To: sirmichaellyons@lyonsinquiry.org

Cc: Jen Robertson; Roger Coey

Subject: Cambridge City Council

Dear Sir Michael,

Thank you for inviting me to the seminar last week and I very much enjoyed meeting you. I remember Selly Oak very well and the tensions of student accomodation in that part of the city.

Cambridge is doing some good work on waste management and recently achieved Beacon status on waste and recycling (along with the County and neighbouring authorities). I have spoken to colleagues on the points you put to me and this is their response:

In relation to transient populations, particularly university students and language students, Cambridge City Council is targeting these groups in order to encourage them to maximise their recycling using the following:-

- College Green officers that are elected each year by the individual colleges. These people act as champions within the colleges and promote recycling. We supply them with information, training sessions and general support so that they can promote our messages throughout the college.
- Posters - specifically aimed at younger people
- Stickers that go on each container with information translated into 10 different languages.
- Work with letting agents and other agencies that deal with short term lets and student accommodation
- Specific articles in our recycling magazine illustrating best practice and giving examples of what students can do to maximise their recycling and reduce their waste.

In terms of how we can incentivise residents to recycle, we have recently introduced alternate week collections of refuse and recycling which, as it limits the amount of rubbish that the council takes away, encourages residents to recycle as they don't have sufficient space in their bin unless they do recycle. We are optimistic that we will be able to report recycling rates in the 40's and above in the next 12 months as a result of this move.

We have tried a number of small incentive schemes in partnership with the county council. These have had limited success. I believe we need to look nationally at variable charging which gives residents a direct link to the amount of money they spend and the amount of waste they throw away.

I hope this is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel we can help at all and, of course, you would be very welcome to visit the city if you wish to look at any of the work we are doing.

Best regards,

Simon

Simon Payne
Director of Environment and Planning
Cambridge City Council