

# **RESPONSE TO COOPERATIVE SCRUTINY BOARD ON CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION REF E7 12/13 - REVISED HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING HOURS AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**



## **BACKGROUND**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered a call-in of the above Executive decision on the 16 April 2013 and following its review agreed that the decision be referred back to the decision maker (Councillor Vincent – Cabinet Member for Environment) to undertake -

- (1) a consultation exercise;
- (2) a review of the operational hours of the household waste recycling centres and detailed information is provided to support any proposed changes in operational hours;
- (3) a review is undertaken on the administration of the proposed inclusion of trailers in the household waste recycling centre permit scheme, with particular attention paid to how the scheme would operate for houses in multiple occupation.

## **RESPONSE TO O&S MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is thanked for its review and comments which the decision maker has subsequently considered. In light of the need to implement changes, not least to provide operational efficiency savings, the decision maker has decided to implement the decision but has taken the Board's specific referral recommendations into consideration as follows:

1. Following further review, a formal consultation exercise is not considered appropriate at this stage as it will not inform the decision which is being made on the basis of improving cost effectiveness by reducing opening hours and reducing illegal or uncharged for use of the HWRCs by traders and residents outside of Plymouth.

The revised opening hours have considered factual usage and survey data in their determination and waste acceptance criteria changes are made in light of known trade waste abuse, and operating policies and changes implemented by neighbouring authorities. However as with many changes, it is proposed to review the impacts of the decision between 6 to 12 months post implementation which would include surveys of users and the wider public, and analysing the impact of the decisions on waste disposal, recycling and fly-tipping trends.

2. Following Overview and Scrutiny recommendations, a further review of current operational hours and resident usage has been undertaken and more detailed usage information has been produced in graphical form to support the proposed changes to opening hours. This more detailed information is attached as Appendix A to this report and supports the premise presented in the original decision report, its referenced background report and at Overview and Scrutiny Board, that the proposed changes to operational hours will have very little impact on the majority of Plymouth residents and legitimate customers.

More simplistically put, by asking between 15 and 52 users in summer and between 4 and 30 users in winter per day (evening or morning) to adjust their visiting times at Chelson

Meadow, an operational saving of £179,000 can be made per year. The number of users affected by proposed changes at Weston Mill are fewer and it should be noted that the proposed revised hours include two late night openings at Chelson Meadow per week along with weekend opening which will cater for working families and other users who cannot access the HWRCs during conventional working hours.

3. A permit scheme along with its administration is already well established for vans and the decision maker considers that the inclusion of trailers within this scheme is necessary and appropriate to control illegal trade waste and wider abuse of the HWRCs. The operation of the scheme will follow similar principles to the successful van permit scheme and hence issuing 12 permits per year to any individual registered address is considered appropriate.

In recognition of the Scrutiny Board's concerns, the permit application form will be designed to enquire whether the application is from a multiple occupancy dwelling and hence further requests for permits from multiple occupancy dwellings can therefore be catered for on an individual basis. It should be noted that trailers (and vans) delivering only garden waste only to the HWRCs will still require a permit, but this will not count as one of the 6 or 12 allowed visits on the permit.

## Appendix A – detailed analysis of household waste recycling centres' site usage

### Overview

The household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) at Chelson Meadow and Weston Mill record all visits to the sites using an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR). This system confirms that on average the Chelson Meadow HWRC receives over 20,000 visits per month and Weston Mill receives over 12,000 visits per month. However when analysing the pattern of usage it is apparent that the sites are used much less frequently at the start and end of the current operational day.

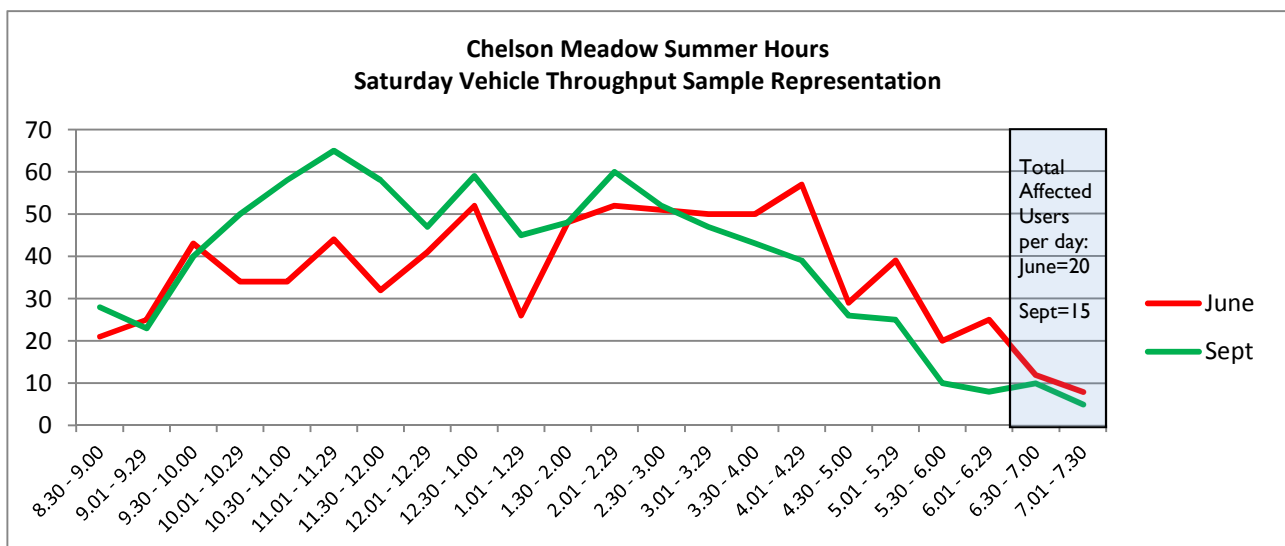
Using historic data from the ANPR system it is possible to estimate the likely number of users that will need to adjust their visit times to accommodate the proposed revised summer and winter hours. The graphs presented below have analysed a typical weekday (Wednesday) and Saturday in both summer and winter to estimate the number of users who would have to adjust their visit times to accommodate the revised opening hours. It should be noted that the Council operates its shorter Winter hours between November and February (4 months), and Summer hours between March and October (8 months) each year.

When considering the number of users affected by opening hour changes, it should be recognised that the population of Plymouth is over 255,000 and hence in saying that on average 50 users will be affected by a change each day, this actually equates to less than 0.02% of Plymouth's population ie 50 out of 255,000.

### Chelson Meadow

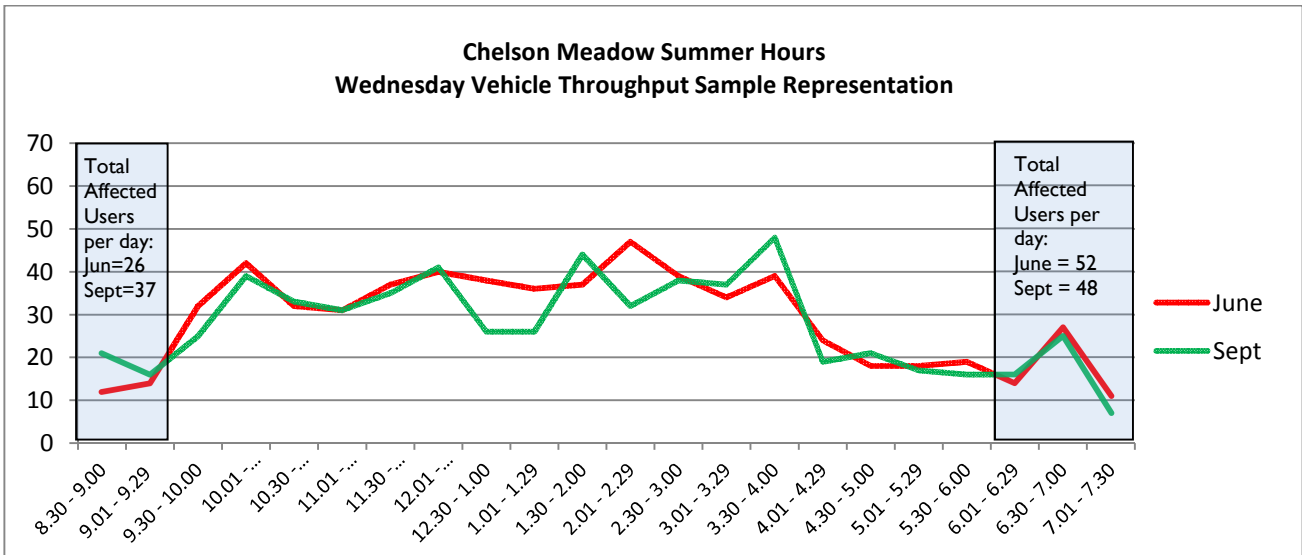
#### Typical Saturday user profile for Chelson Meadow in June and September

Operationally, summer is the busiest time of the year and summer opening hours are operated for 8 months. Saturday is generally the busiest day of the week with over 800 visits per day. The proposed revised summer opening hours will impact at the end of the day with 1 hour earlier closing at 6.30pm. This analysis shows that on average only 17 users per day would need to adjust their visit times.



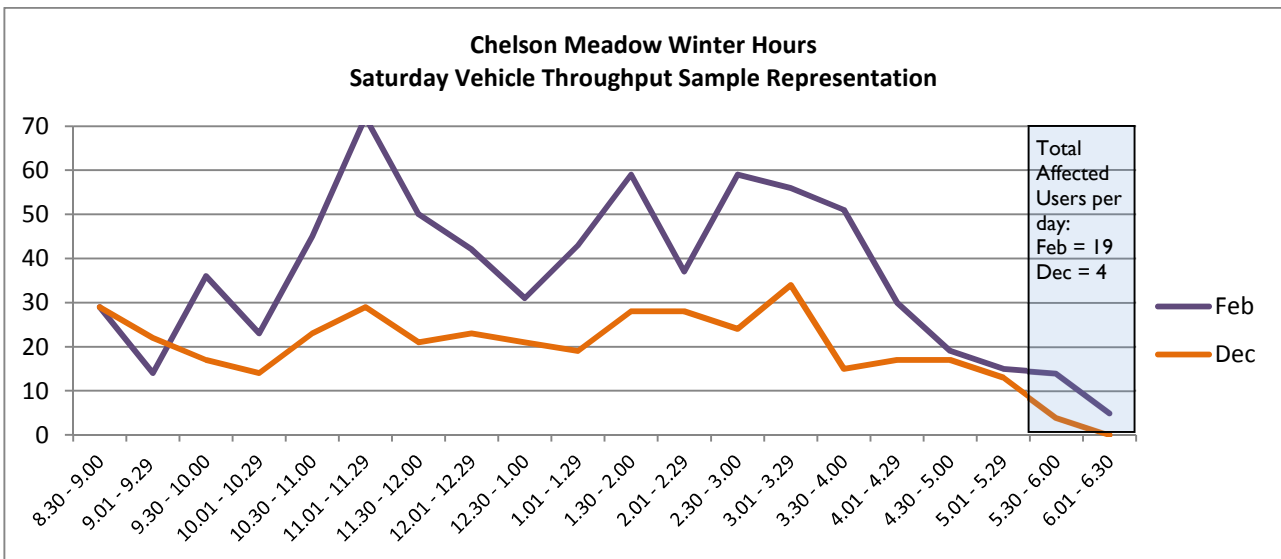
#### Typical Weekday user profile for Chelson Meadow in June and September

Wednesday is a typical weekday with around 600 visits per day. The proposed revised summer opening hours will mean that the site will open 1 hour later in the morning which will require on average 31 users per weekday to adjust their visit times. In the evening the site will close one and half hours earlier which require on average 50 users per day (Tues – Fri) to adjust their visit times noting that Monday which will be a late night opening.



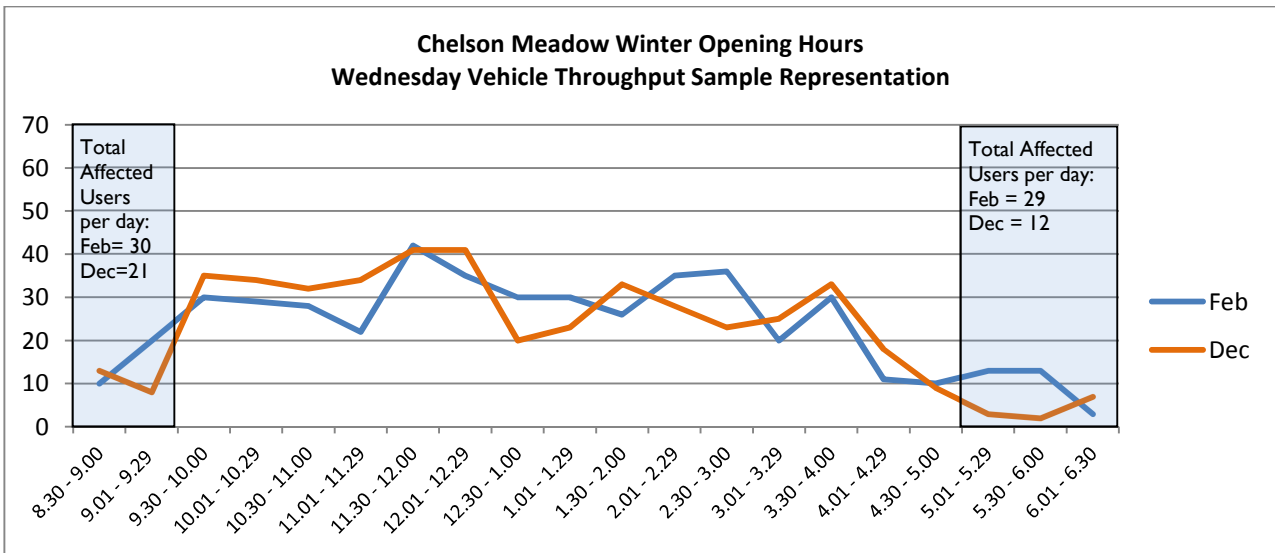
**Typical Saturday user profile for Chelson Meadow in February and December**

The operational winter months (4 months per year) are quieter albeit Saturdays remains the busiest day of the week with typically around 700 visits in February and 400 visits in December. The proposed revised winter opening hours on a Saturday will only impact on the site’s opening hours at the end of the day with a one hour earlier closing at 5.30pm. Analysis shows that on average this will require 4 users per day to adjust their hours in December and 12 users per day to adjust their hours in February. It should also be noted that it is not uncommon in December and January to have days that receive no visits between the hours of 5.30pm and 6.30pm.



**Typical Weekday user profile for Chelson Meadow in February and December**

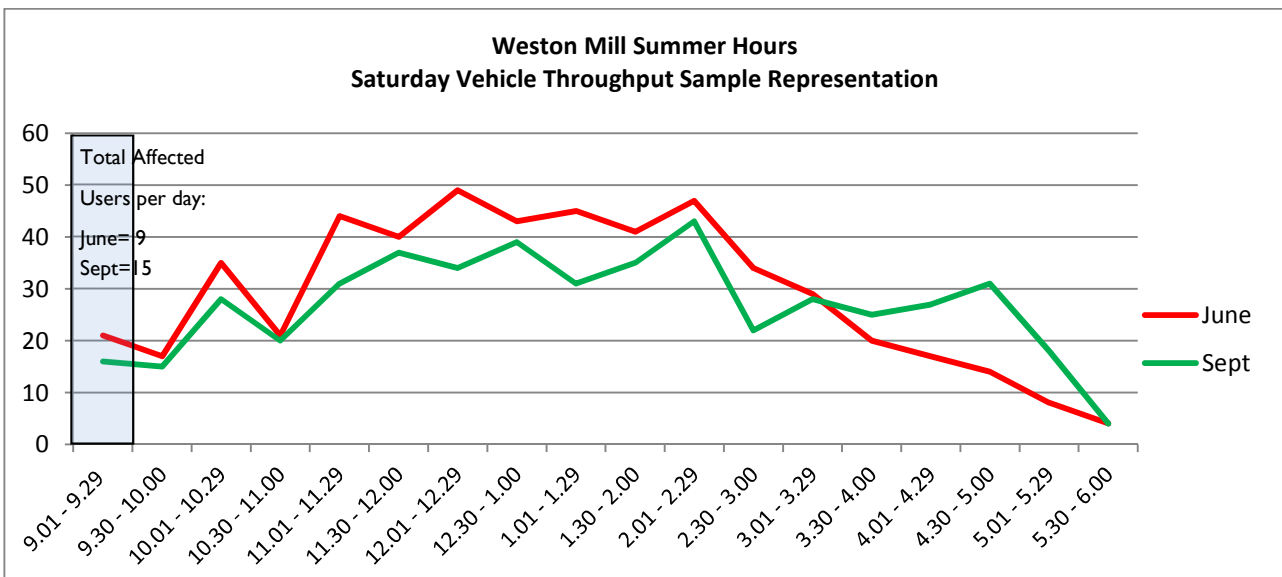
Weekdays in winter often receive around 500 visits per day in February and up to 500 visits per day in December. The proposed revised winter opening hours on a typical weekday such as Wednesday will mean that the site will open one hour later in the mornings which would require on average 25 users per weekday to adjust their visit times. In addition the site will close one and half hours earlier at 5pm which will require on average 20 users per day (Tues – Fri) to adjust their visit times noting that later opening provision is being made on a Monday each week.



## Weston Mill

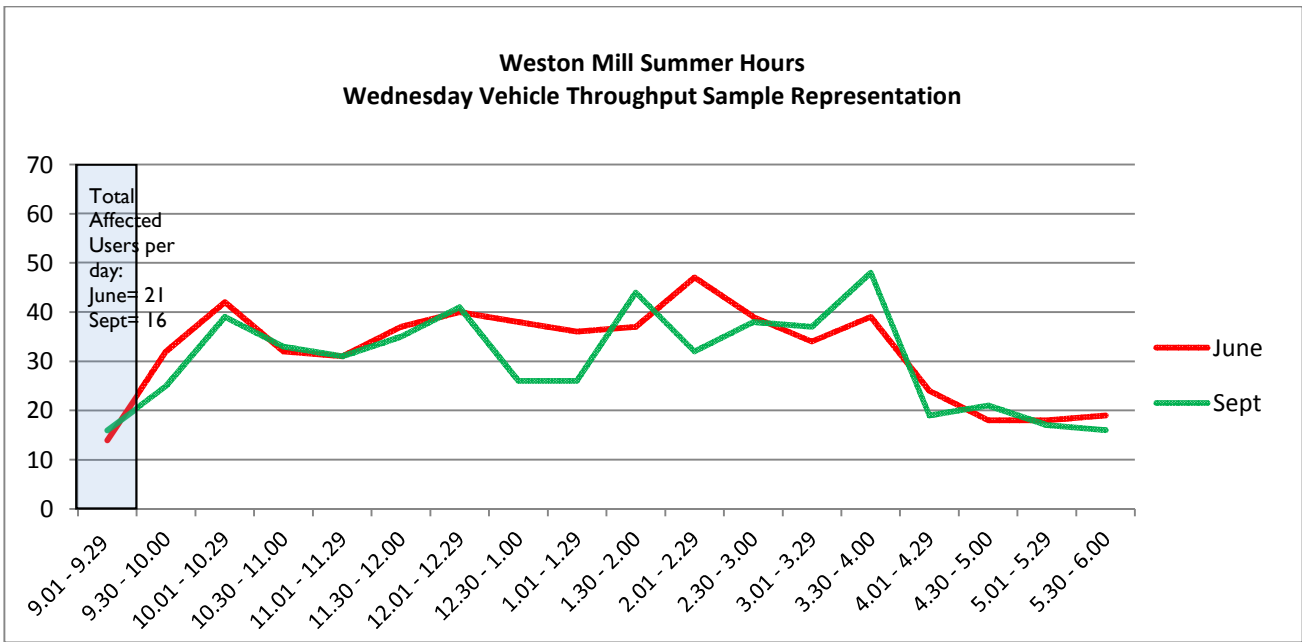
### Typical Saturday user profile for Weston Mill in June and September

Operationally, summer is the busiest time of the year and summer opening hours are operated for 8 months. Saturday is still the busiest day of the week with over 500 visits per day. The proposed revised summer opening hours will impact at the start of the day only with the site opening 0.5 hours later at 9:30am. This analysis shows that on average only 12 users per day would need to adjust their visit times.



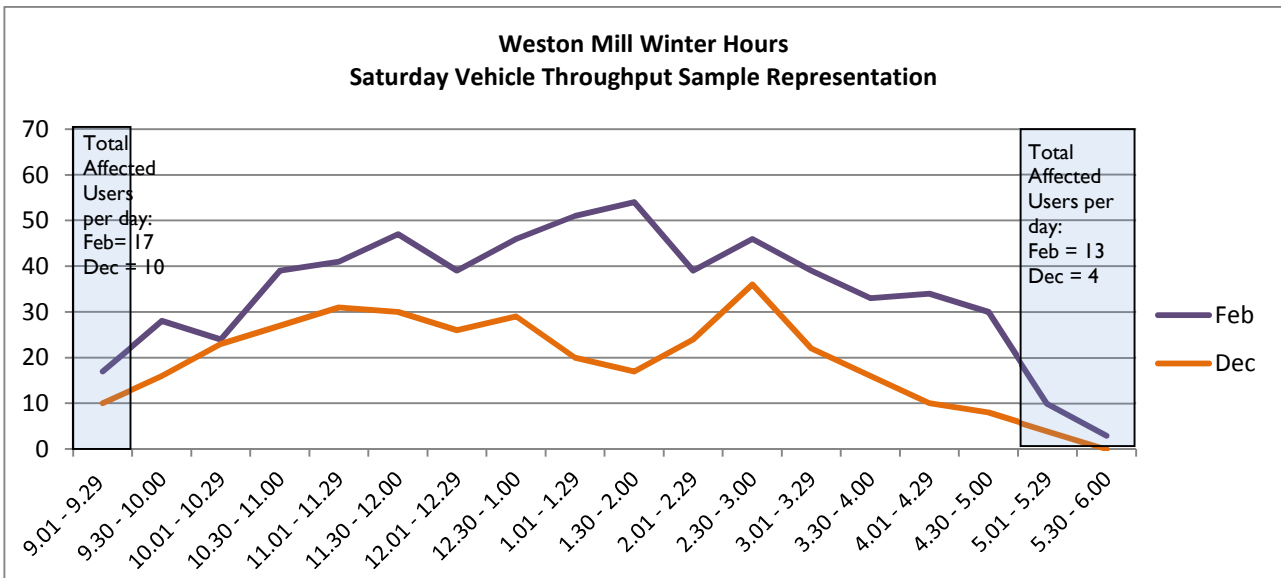
### Typical Weekday user profile for Weston Mill in June and September

Wednesday is a typical weekday with around 500 visits per day. The proposed revised summer opening hours will mean that the site will open 0.5 hours later in the morning which will require on average 18 users per weekday to adjust their visit times. See overleaf for graph.



**Typical Saturday user profile for Weston Mill in February and December**

Winter months (4 months per year) are quieter albeit Saturdays remains the busiest day of the week with typically over 600 visits in February and around 400 visits in December. The proposed revised winter opening hours on a Saturday will mean that the site will open 0.5 hours in the morning which would require on average 13 users to adjust their visit times. In addition the site will close one hour earlier at 5pm which will require on average 8 users per day to adjust their visit times.



**Typical Weekday user profile for Weston Mill in February and December**

Weekdays in winter often receive nearly 500 visits per day in February and up to 300 visits per day in December. The proposed revised winter opening hours on a typical weekday such as Wednesday will mean that the site will open 0.5 hours later in the mornings which would require on average 7 users per weekday to adjust their visit times. In addition the site will close one hour earlier at 5pm which will require on average 6 users per day to adjust their visit times.

### Weston Mill Winter Opening Hours Wednesday Vehicle Throughput Sample Representation

