

HAVERING FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

NOTES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

OCTOBER 30TH, 2012

1. Energy - Renewables

According to the recent Ofgem Report, by the winter of 2015 Britain runs the risk of not having sufficient power generating capacity. This will mean power cuts and rises in energy bills.

We think - the council should be making more capital investment in renewable energy. More council buildings need to be targeted for PV panels. Chafford and Whybridge Infant Schools should act as a template for the whole school estate in the borough.

2. Energy – Savings

In many low and high rise council blocks communal lighting is often left on for 24 hours a day with 28 watt fluorescent bulbs. LED lighting makes use of 15 or 11 watt bulbs.

We think - the council should be replacing all lighting in communal areas with LED lighting. TMOs can use match funding to ease the financial burden.

3. Recycling in Low and High Rise blocks.

Landfill Tax is now £64 per tonne. Opportunities for recycling need to be maximised if the council is going to reduce this penalty. Yet on one estate Orange Euro bins are overflowing on a daily basis. New schemes need to evolve to create the right ethos with tenants and housing officers.

We think - recycling needs to target high and low rise blocks, beginning with training for council officers who then need to reach out to TMOs and tenants via newsletters and meetings. A significant amount of tonnage is being wasted and this means greater financial penalties for the Havering council tax payer.