

# Bridgend Local Development Plan

2006-2021



## **Bridgend Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021**

### **Background Paper Six Waste**

**Revised May 2012**

**Development Planning  
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## **1. Policy context**

1.1 The policy context for waste planning is set by:-

1. Planning Policy Wales (WAG) - Edition 4 (February 2011).
2. "Towards Zero Waste" The waste strategy for Wales (2010)
3. Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (November 2001)
4. South West Wales Regional Waste Plan (November, 2003)
5. South West Wales Regional Waste Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Review (August 2008)

## **2. South West Wales Regional Waste Plan.**

2.1 The Regional Waste Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Review (available as a LDP library document on the BCBC website) assists the region in developing an integrated and adequate network of waste management facilities by providing strategic information on the types of waste facilities and the types of locations likely to be acceptable. The RWP 1st Review provides the strategic framework for the preparation of LDP's and constitutes a material planning consideration when planning applications are considered. Essentially there are two main themes to the plan; the RWP Spatial Strategy and RWP Technology Strategy.

2.2 Statistics contained in the South West Wales Regional Waste Plan (SWWRWP), of which BCBC is a constituent Local Authority member, confirm the administrative area of Bridgend generates approximately 65,000 tonnes of household / municipal waste per year and approximately 140,000 tonnes of industrial / commercial waste. At present, the bulk of the municipal / household waste is transported by road to the Tondy waste transfer site where recyclable elements of the waste are separated and despatched to recycling markets. Food/kitchen waste is transported out of the Borough at present because of the lack of a suitable facility in the area. The MREC plant in Crymlyn Burrows near Swansea continues to accept domestic residual waste from BCBC under a joint agreement (in place since 2003) and here it is processed to remove recyclables and the remainder is composted, with a relatively small amount of residual (left-over) waste taken to landfill (Pwlfawatkin landfill site in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council). A new Council waste scheme, implemented in June, 2010, allows the firm May Gurney to carry out waste collection under contract and includes the separation of household waste at source.

2.3 BCBC is committed to this joint venture with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the immediate future but the situation is constantly kept under review. Such household waste, however, only constitutes approximately 35% of the waste generated with the Borough. The remainder is waste generated by industrial and commercial premises including retail, agriculture, construction / demolition and hazardous waste. Whilst these types of waste are not the direct responsibility of the Council to dispose of, other than some commercial waste collection carried out by BCBC under contract, the Council nonetheless has to attempt to provide the opportunity for the private sector to

locate such facilities on allocated land/premises to cope with the demand for modern waste management facilities. This is a proactive and sustainable approach advocated by PPW and TAN21 to guide and assist the waste industry to suitable sites in the region. It also attempts to satisfy the main objective to reduce the amount of waste taken to landfill sites.

- 2.4 When the SWWRWP was reviewed for the first time in 2008, it was calculated Bridgend County Borough Council would need to provide between 7.7 and 11.9 hectares of land for new in-building facilities by 2013. It should be noted the performance provided by the RWP Technology Strategy will satisfy all current targets until 2020. In principle, the majority of waste management facilities (not disposal) can normally be accommodated on B2 / B8 class industrial sites, because they are similar in many respects to a normal manufacturing/storage process. A survey (BCBC Employment land survey 2009) was carried out to ascertain how much employment land was available and planned as part of the LDP process. This survey found there was approximately 56 hectares of land available on several industrial sites, which have been identified to accommodate any future need. Such sites have been surveyed and there are numerous plots of varying sizes to cover a variety of waste management facility uses. The plot sizes vary between 0.2 hectares to 2.5 hectares and are currently empty and available.
- 2.5 In accordance with the RWP 1<sup>st</sup> Review (2008) (available as a LDP library document on the BCBC website), an over-allowance has been made to accommodate a possible regional scale waste facility which may not just provide for local waste but also regional waste generation. Each unitary authority in the region has been requested to do this so a range of sites are available for the industry to choose from. Any such proposals that come forward, however, will notwithstanding any site allocation, be subject to rigorous examination on a case by case basis. Any regional facility would require a site which in extent would normally exceed the size of the plots readily available on normal industrial/employment sites. The employment land allocation in the adopted UDP at Heol y Splott, South Cornelly, however, does present an opportunity for a medium to large single user with approx. 4.5 hectares of land available for such use. Appropriate bunding / landscaping together with satisfactory environmental controls would however be necessary to help mitigate any possible adverse effects on the nearby community of South Cornelly and ensure that groundwater is protected by suitable impermeable surface treatment and interceptors, due to the nature of the underlying permeable limestone strata in this area.
- 2.6 As the SWWRWP 1<sup>st</sup> review concluded there was no single best public health strategic waste management option, a number of appropriate waste processing options to treat waste such as anaerobic digestion, mechanical biological treatment, etc have been considered to ensure flexibility. This approach has been the key driver in assessing a range of sites. At present the WG are supporting anaerobic digestion as the favoured process for biodegradable household / green waste but this approach may change over time as waste treatment technology develops. Bridgend CBC forms part of a joint working party with Neath and Port Talbot CBC and other authorities

seeking a sub-regional facility (AD hub). This work is currently ongoing but does not preclude the use of any other sites the private sector may wish to pursue subject of course to such facilities being granted planning permission.

- 2.7 In Bridgend, consent has been granted for a biogas/AD facility on land adjoining Stormy Down airfield. This is currently unimplemented but would have an operating capacity of 8,000 tonnes per annum with an estimated electricity generation capacity of approx. 2MW. In addition, an in-vessel composting facility with a capacity of 18,000 tonnes, has also been approved on adjoining land forming part of the former airfield. If implemented, this facility could possibly cater for BCBC's food waste arising from the new BCBC waste collection scheme. The total capacity of these facilities would, however, be insufficient to serve the requirements of the area covering the South-West Regional Waste plan as a whole.

### **3. Planning for waste facilities**

#### ***Search for landfill sites***

- 3.1 Current reports suggest the volume of residual waste from waste processing will be significantly reduced due to the various strategies which target waste minimisation; waste re-use; waste recycling; and energy from waste. Nonetheless, there will always be some residual waste which will need to be landfilled. Using the SWWRWP "Areas of search for open air facilities map facility" developed by the consultants RTS on behalf of WG, an assessment has been carried out to determine if there are any sites which are considered acceptable for landfill waste. It should be noted no "1<sup>st</sup> areas of search" have been identified in Bridgend CBC by the assessment. Such areas are defined as areas appropriate for waste management due to the presence of appropriate site characteristics and few significant environmental constraints. Having assessed the identified 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> areas of search on the RWP plans against a rigorous set of criteria (see matrix: Appendix A of RWP), the conclusion is that there are no sites which would be deemed appropriate for such use. Due regard has also been paid to the RWP advice to assess any heavy industrial sites/sewage works/existing landfill sites. At present, there are no significant heavy industrial sites in the Borough and the main sewage works at Ogmore is heavily constrained by adjoining environmental designations such as the Merthyr Mawr SAC/SSSI. There are also no existing operational landfill sites in the area.
- 3.2 It is also evident much of the County Borough is constrained by a number of environmental factors including National and European designations and other restrictive factors such as steep topography, large flood risk areas, proximity to settlement, and the highway network. Moreover, significant parts of the County Borough are designated as a primary aquifer as defined by the EAW. The former Tythegston landfill site, near Porthcawl, reached capacity several years ago, and no tipping of waste other than soil has been undertaken for several years. This site is within the defined aquifer area and because the site was never lined and configured to modern specifications, leachate issues continue to be of concern and are monitored by the EAW.

- 3.3 It should be noted the tonnage of waste calculated to be generated for landfill by the Bridgend area over the plan period is considered to be insufficient to sustain a new site. No other neighbouring authorities (NPT, RCT, and Vale of Glamorgan) have identified sites which may be suitable for a collaborative/shared approach close to the boundaries of the County Borough. Each have sought independent arrangements.

***Provision of a site for a regional waste facility***

- 3.4 Disused employment land allocated in the UDP at Heol y Splott in South Cornelly, has been identified as a potential site for a regional waste facility. This satisfies a number of criteria such as good access to the local and regional highway network. Any traffic travelling to and from the site would not have to travel through residential areas. The site is large enough in principle for such a facility and subject to appropriate landscaping / bunding and environmental controls, the amenity of village residents would be protected and any groundwater could be protected by introducing appropriate impermeable surfacing and interceptors. A current materials recycling facility (MRF) operates opposite the site at the inactive Grove quarry and a small recycling site has just commenced on adjoining land with a more restricted use of waste. It is acknowledged some improvements to the Smokey Cottage roundabout would be necessary to facilitate any new regional development facility in the locality.

**4. Hazardous waste**

- 4.1 The Hazardous waste interrogator 2008, produced by EAW, estimated there was 1142 tonnes of hazardous waste generated in the Borough in that year. At present there are no forecasts available to project this figure to the end of the plan period. The RWP acknowledges there are no sites present in South Wales. It is acknowledged there is a need for such a facility but the disposal of such waste is highly technical and demands costly infrastructure. Moreover such sites usually serve a regional or national scale of use which proves difficult to locate them in highly constrained areas. Much of this waste however requires specialist processing before it can be disposed of. Some specialist treatment facilities exist in BCBC e.g. near Coychurch, but these are not equipped to deal with all of the various types of hazardous waste generated.
- 4.2 The landfill search referred to previously included the potential for hazardous waste disposal but due to the stringent site requirements no suitable sites have been identified. Existing inactive/dormant quarries have been considered and whilst Stormy Down quarry was consented for landfill in the 1980's, but never implemented, it is constrained by a number of factors such as proximity to residential areas; the nature of bedrock which is permeable and it is a limestone aquifer (it is also currently flooded). Moreover, the quality of limestone is sufficient to warrant it being safeguarded for future quarrying. Similarly, other quarries in close proximity to Stormy Down, such as Grove and Gaens quarries, have similar constraints.

## **5. Inert waste**

- 5.1 There are no significant scale sites with planning permission to accommodate the deposition of inert waste in the County Borough. The number of proposals for tipping on farms has declined dramatically which may be a result in the recent change in legislation for previously EAW “exempt” sites and the growing recognition such waste can substitute for low grade aggregate use. Hence, a number of inert waste processing sites have been set up to recycle this material as a substitute for low grade aggregate.
- 5.2 The RWP, however, recognises landfill sites are required for such waste but the landfill search has not revealed any suitable sites. Some quarries in the Cornelly area may be suitable for such tipping in later years when the restoration phase has been reached but not within the current LDP plan period. Suitable waste may also be restricted to soils and not other inert waste such as brick/rubble etc. The nearest deposit facility is at Hendy quarry near Mwndy in Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC. This, however, is still an active quarry for stone extraction and this effectively limits the current capacity for inert waste tipping.

## **6. Commercial and industrial waste**

- 6.1 The RWP estimates there is approximately 185,000 tonnes of such waste generated in the County Borough per year. This figure is estimated to increase to 220,000 tonnes by 2021. Some of this waste is collected and disposed of by the Council under contract with operators. Some waste is recycled at MRF sites such as Grove quarry; Stormy Down quarry; the former Stormy airfield site; and Brynmenyn Industrial Estate. Other specialist industrial recycling facilities are found on a number of industrial sites and also remote sites. Landfill facilities that accept such waste are usually on a regional/national scale and the landfill search previously referred to under the previous paragraph has not identified any suitable locations.
- 6.2 The nearest landfill sites to accept such waste are at Bryn Defaid, Aberdare and Trecatty, Merthyr. These sites currently have the collective waste capacity to accommodate BCBC’s waste but the situation will be kept under review during the LDP Plan period.

## **7. Civic amenity (BCBC) sites**

- 7.1 At present, there are four civic amenity sites, which, according to BCBC’s waste strategy (this strategy is at draft stage) provide appropriate coverage for public use throughout the County Borough. These are at Penllwyngwent Industrial Estate, Ogmores Vale; Tythegston Waste Site; Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate; Maesteg, and Brynmenyn Industrial Estate.
- 7.2 The need for additional facilities is being kept under review but at present there is no perceived need for additional sites based on current capacity / future usage. No new sites have therefore been allocated in the plan. The draft BCBC Waste Management Strategy is being prepared and this will include details of all of the municipal waste management sites, other proposals and

initiatives required in the near future. The land use planning implications, however, are not considered to be significant and it is anticipated can be accommodated in the policy context of the LDP and on existing and proposed industrial land defined in the Plan.

## Appendix A

### (i) AREAS OF SEARCH – SITE ANALYSIS

- Area 1**      **Court Colman**
- Heavily constrained – historic park – Landscape Conservation Area – historic park essential setting.
- Area 2**      **Mynydd Baeden**
- Coalfield plateau. Recreational route – RC11 Watercourses.
- Area 3**      Coalfield plateau. Green Wedge EV11(2). Recreational Route (RC11)
- Area 4**      Green wedge EV11(8). Recreational route RC11 Coalfield plateau.
- Area 5**      Coalfield plateau. Part historic setting (Bryngarw County Park). No easy access T13(3)
- Area 6**      **Hirwaun Common – West**
- Coalfield plateau. Flat, poorly drained common land. Recreational route RC11 (perimeter of area). Highly visible. Adjoining SINC
- Area 7**      **Heol-y-Cyw**
- Coalfield plateau. Close to Heol-y-Cyw – access would probably be made through the village. Highly visible. SINC embraces most of area.
- Area 8**      **Mynydd y Gaer**
- Landscape Conservation area. Coalfield plateau. Poor access.
- Area 9**      **North of Wern Tarw**
- Coalfield plateau. Poor access. Highly visible.
- Area 10**      **West of Gilfach Goch**
- Coalfield plateau. Highly visible. Poor access. Rural area. No SINC.
- Area 11**      **North of Glynllan**
- Coalfield plateau. Not accessible to urban areas. Poor access.
- Area 12**      **East of Wyndham**
- Coalfield plateau. Isolated. Poor access.

**Area 13**      **North of Lewistown**

Coalfield plateau. Steep and poor access to main road network. Part in green wedge EV11(3).

**Area 14**      **West of Pontyrhyl**

Coalfield plateau. Recreational route – RC11. Poor access. Not accessible to urban areas. Part SINC. Landscape open and featureless – odd block of forestry.

**Area 15**      **East of Llangynwyd**

Coalfield plateau. Recreational route – RC11. Poor access. SINC covers part of area.

**Area 16**      Coalfield plateau. Forestry. Isolated. Poor access. No SINC.

**Area 17**      Coalfield plateau. Majority forestry. Isolated. Poor access. No SINC.

**Area 18**      **East of Maesteg Washery**

Coalfield plateau. Part regeneration area – Maesteg Washery. Poor access but close to Maesteg.

**Area 19**      **South East of Blaencaerau**

Coalfield plateau. Recreational route RC11 skirts the area. Part reclaimed land. Part regeneration area [REG 3(1)]. Part forestry.

**Area 20**      **West of Llangynwyd**

Coalfield plateau. Landscape conservation area. Recreational route RC10. Several SINC. Woodland.

**(ii)EVALUATION OF REGIONAL WASTE PLAN (SOUTH WEST) AREAS OF SEARCH - POTENTIAL LANDFILL SITES**

SITE NAME / NO.	LANDSCAPE						VISUAL IMPACT			RES. DEV.			ACCESS				ECOLOGY				HYDRO-GEOLOGY	HYDROLOGY			ARCHAEOLOGY				
	Landscape Conservation Area	Strategic Coalfield Plateau	Heritage Coast	Green Wedge	Coastal Zone	Historic Park / Landscape	High	Medium	Low	Within 100m	Within 500m	Within 1000m	A Road	B Road	Unclass	RC11(new route)	NNR	LNR	SSSI	SINC	Groundwater source protection zone	Stream	River	Ditch / Issue	Ancient Monument	Burial Site	Field Monument	Conservation Area	
1 Court Coleman	✓					✓				✓					✓							✓			✓				
2 Mynydd Baeden		✓				✓				✓					✓	✓						✓							
3 Nr Lewistown		✓		✓						✓					✓	✓													
4 Nr Tondu		✓		✓						✓					✓	✓						✓							
5 Nr Bryngarw		✓				✓				✓					✓						□				✓				
6 Hirwaun Common West		✓				✓				✓						✓													
7 Heol-y-Cyw		✓				✓			✓		□									adj		✓			✓				
8 Mynydd-y-Gaer	✓	✓				✓									✓														
9 North of Wern Tarw		✓				✓									✓														
10 West of Gilfach Goch		✓				✓									✓														
11 North of Glynllan		✓				✓									✓														
12 E. of Wyndham		✓				✓									✓									✓					
13 N. of Lewistown		✓		pt																									
14 W. of Pontrhyl		✓								✓					✓	✓				pt									
15 E. of Llangynwyd		✓				✓				✓					✓					pt		✓			✓				
16 Near Caerau		✓				✓									✓														
17 E of Maesteg		✓						✓							✓														
18 E of Maesteg Washery		✓					✓								✓							✓							
19 S.E. of Blaencaerau		✓					✓			✓						✓													
20. W. of Llangynwyd	✓	✓					✓			✓						✓				✓		✓							

