

Your Waste needn't be Wasted...

Richmond Council has recently launched a trial recycling service for the Borough's businesses, a service which could save your company money and help reduce the environmental impact of your waste.

The six month 'Business Recycling Trial' was launched in March 2007 and with almost a third of the required trial spaces already filled you should act now if you want to take part in this scheme.

The scheme will explore the feasibility of operating an efficient service that is cost effective for both the Council and participating businesses. Subject to the success of the trial it is expected that a full service will begin later in the year. So far participating businesses have helped divert almost 20 tonnes from landfill with a target of over 1000 tonnes by April 2008 - together with businesses like yours we can achieve this.

A collection service is currently offered for both mixed glass and paper and cardboard. Once you have registered an interest, one of our recycling advisors will be in touch to

discuss the service further and to arrange a time to assess your businesses individual needs.

In most cases the Council will be able to offer you a more cost effective alternative to a waste only collection. So, not only will you be able to make cost savings on your annual waste disposal and collection bill, but you will also be helping to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill from this borough.

To find out more and register an interest in taking part visit www.richmond.gov.uk/business_recycling_trial or call 08456 122 660

Go 'Green' and save your business money!

Sign up for your free Environmental Survey. ZWIN aims to help businesses in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames to develop sound environmental policies in order to reduce energy and water consumption, reduce waste production, encourage recycling and the efficient use of resources. This is achieved through a free non-intrusive environmental assessment, which is carried out on-site by trained volunteers. Where ZWIN's recommendations are put into practice, businesses can benefit from reduced operating costs as well as improved environmental performance.

Each business receives a confidential report, which contains easy recommendations on how to be kinder to the environment. We have experience in surveying a wide range of organisations from, retail offices, theatres, restaurants and factories.

For more information or to arrange an assessment visit www.zwin.org.uk or contact Hirsh Cashdan via zwin@talk21.com or call 020 8892 0329

Falls

Despite the Work at Height Regulations being in force in the U.K. since April 2005, to date 46 workers have been killed and 3,351 injured by falls from height.

Key to preventing falls is:

- Planning the work
- Risk assessments to identify and deal with potential problems
- Using the right equipment for the job

If you work at height, ask anyone else to work at height or are responsible for buildings where work at height takes place you have a duty to make sure such work is done safely.

CONTACT

If you would like further information about any of the articles in this newsletter please contact:

Commercial Environmental Health
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email: commercialeh@richmond.gov.uk
website: www.richmond.gov.uk
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Richmond
TW9 2RT

Business News

June 2007

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RICHMOND GOES SMOKEFREE ON 1 JULY



From the 1 July, this sign will become very familiar to everyone who lives and works in the Borough when virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces will become "smokefree", and must display the sign.

The Government is introducing the law to protect people from the effects of secondhand smoke. Smokefree premises will be healthier and cleaner

places in which to socialise and work.

Premises that are covered by the new law

All enclosed or "substantially enclosed" public places, and workplaces where more than 1 person is employed and public or work vehicles. For guidance on the terms "enclosed" and "substantially enclosed" please refer to our website at http://www.richmond.gov.uk/smokefree_legislation

Exemptions from the smoking ban

In hotels, hostels, guesthouses and members' clubs that have sleeping accommodation, some bedrooms may be designated as rooms where smoking is permitted, but the rest of the premises must be smokefree. There is no obligation for any premises to offer designated smoking bedrooms.

What the new law requires of businesses

Persons responsible for smokefree premises and vehicles must ensure:

- Nobody smokes on the premises or in a "workplace" vehicle and the appropriate signs are displayed

Please contact us at the address below if you need this in Braille, large print, audio tape or another language.

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به میز پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ
Telephone 020 8891 7445, Fax 020 8891 7448

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਉ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

Penalties

- Smoking in a smokefree place - fine £30 if paid within 15 days
- Failure to display signs - fine £150 if paid within 15 days
- Allowing smoking in a smokefree premises or vehicle - prosecution and a fine of up to £2,500

How businesses can prepare to go smokefree

- Make sure you and your staff are aware of the new law
- Display the appropriate signs
- Remove any "smoking rooms" but consider providing a smoking shelter, though there is no obligation to do so
- Introduce a smokefree policy and provide encouragement and help for staff to stop smoking - contact the **Kingston and Richmond Stop Smoking Service (0800 085 2903)**
- Develop a strategy for dealing with smokers
- Consider ways to minimise the litter caused by staff smoking outside

Associated issues

Litter - the new law may result in more litter outside smokefree premises, and Council enforcement officers will be expecting businesses to help provide a solution. For more information on this aspect please contact Roland Copley, Street Scene Enforcement Team Leader on 020 8891 7088 or r.copley@richmond.gov.uk

Noise - the smokefree law may result in more people outside pubs which could lead to an increase in noise and disturbance to residents. We will expect businesses to deal with these issues themselves, but the Council may consider action either using their licensing powers or legislation concerned with noise nuisances.

Planning and Building Control - the provision of smoking shelters may require both planning consent and building regulation approval - please see http://www.richmond.gov.uk/smoking_ban_pos_planning_guidance_april_07.pdf for guidance on these matters.

Smoke infiltration - care must be taken in siting smoking shelters to ensure that no neighbouring premises are affected by the smoke.

Further information

To discuss any of the issues raised in this article, or for more information, please contact the Council's Smokefree Project Officer, Eddie Stedman, on 0208 891 7434 or eddie.stedman@richmond.gov.uk

Myth of the Month

The Health and Safety Executive have started a campaign to dispell some of the more lurid myths that appear in the press these days. You know the ones "...they've banned tinsel in schools..." or "...ladders are illegal...". While these can be the basis of an amusing story, real health and safety is about making sensible decisions so people don't get hurt when they go to work.



Go to the Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk to see more.

BEWARE OF HARMFUL, HAIRY CATERPILLARS IN RICHMOND

Last Spring Richmond's Environmental Health team received complaints from residents on a housing estate concerning rashes and itching which they assumed were as a result of insect bites. Following an investigation, no biting insects were found, but a large number of hairy caterpillars were discovered feeding on the foliage of nearby oak trees.

Samples were collected and sent to the Natural History Museum for identification. They confirmed that the caterpillars were the larvae of the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), which is common in Southern and Central Europe, but until now had not been known to breed in the UK.

OPM larvae are a significant pest of oaks, which can cause complete defoliation of infested trees. They are called Oak Processionary Moths because the larvae travel in a procession from the nest to feed on the leaves.

The larvae are also of public health significance due to the thousands of poisonous hairs on each caterpillar, which are known to cause dermatitis, respiratory problems and conjunctivitis. Even more disturbing is the fact that these delicate hairs readily break off in the wind, become airborne and can cause an allergic reaction a considerable distance (over 20M) from the affected trees.

With the assistance of the Managing Agents of the housing estate, residents were warned to keep away from the area and keep windows and doors closed while Contractors carried out the removal of nests and larvae from the site.

This year we are concerned that OPMs may be breeding elsewhere in the borough. Larvae are active between April and July, during which time they will go through six larval stages and form nests on the trunk of the tree. In late June to July the larvae pupate in the nests and the moths emerge around August.

If you see hairy larvae, hairy larvae cases or woven nests containing hairy larvae on the trunk of oak trees, please contact Shaun Case at Environmental Health on:020 8831 6457.



OPM Larvae Cases



OPM Larvae feeding



Mature OPM nest