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12 September 2003

Dear Sir

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Suffolk Free Press for organising last week's meeting with a number of householders.

Secondly, I'd like to thank those householders for their time. The exchanges were direct and honest and whilst there may not have been a full meeting of minds, I felt that it was valuable for me to hear directly both their support for recycling as well as their concerns over the collection of residual waste. We will be reviewing their comments and those of other householders in the weeks ahead.

Thirdly, I'd like to take up on a few points in the letter (SFP 11<sup>th</sup> September) from Mrs AM Norman. I'm grateful to Mrs Norman in that she focuses upon one the key issue of waste minimisation. Simply put, Babergh's households produce 30% more waste than the national average. If you marry that to the fact that 60% of all domestic waste can be recycled, then it is clear that we can all do more in our homes to separate out recyclable material from the stuff that ends up in landfill. And believe me, the holes in the ground are filling up fast, which begs the question what will we do with our waste when they finally do fill up?

The TwinBin Scheme does, therefore, challenge households to stop and think before putting waste in their black (or green) bins and consider whether it could go into the blue bin instead. The delivery of an alternate week collection service is therefore directly linked to improving our recycling rates.

The various issues arising from the TwinBin Scheme have proven to be manageable by householders – as shown by its successful implementation in many other districts in England and Wales. Nonetheless, Babergh is committed to monitoring the scheme and will strive to balance the obvious advantages against any possible drawbacks.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Firth