# Harrow Council allocates funds for waste removal ahead of Byron Quarter development



Harrow Council is preparing to allocate nearly £350,000 for the removal of significant amounts of waste that have been illegally dumped on a site designated for development in Wealdstone South. The council's Planning Committee approved plans on February 6 to construct 149 new homes on what is known as Byron Quarter, a plot of land formerly used as a driving school and until recently served as a parking area for special needs minibuses.

The site, located adjacent to a leisure centre, has become a target for continuous incidents of fly-tipping in recent years. The recent council meeting, which took place on February 27, revealed that the cost for clearing the waste ahead of construction was estimated at £348,000. Opposition councillors have voiced concerns that this financial burden will ultimately fall on Harrow taxpayers, whom they accuse the current administration of neglecting.

Cllr David Perry, the Leader of the Harrow Labour Group, expressed criticism during the meeting, stating, “You are about to increase council tax by 4.99 per cent. Of that increase, the first £348,000 raised will, in the coming weeks, go towards clearing an absolute dump of a site at the old driving school where tonnes and tonnes and tonnes of waste has been fly-tipped.” He also pointed to potential environmental hazards, claiming that the pond on the site may be contaminated due to the nature of the dumped materials.

In response, the Conservative Leader of Harrow Council, Cllr Paul Osborn, defended the administration's handling of the situation, describing the fly-tipping as a criminal act conducted at an industrial scale. Osborn remarked, “The best way of securing these things and the best way of preventing it is to actually develop family homes and a nice development on that site.” He further noted that the previous administration had left the site vulnerable by not securing it once it became vacant.

The labour group’s former Leader, Cllr Graham Henson, countered Osborn's defence, asserting that it was the current administration's responsibility to maintain the site properly following its previous use as a vehicle storage area. Henson expressed that “it is his fault that he is arranging to pay all this money because he did not secure the site.”

The plans for Byron Quarter include a six-storey apartment block with 78 of the 149 total homes, while the remaining units will consist of two and three-bedroom terraced houses. Despite the promise of new housing, the proposed affordable housing component stands at only 27 per cent, which is notably below the council’s target of 40 per cent. Council officers attributed the reduced percentage of affordable homes to lower-than-anticipated profits from the development project.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/recycling-centres> - This URL supports the general context of waste management in Harrow, highlighting the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling facilities, which contrasts with the illegal dumping issues at the Byron Quarter site.
* <https://moderngov.harrow.gov.uk/documents/s32821/Harrow%20Draft%20Waste%20Management%20Strategy.pdf> - This document provides background information on Harrow's waste management strategies and efforts to reduce waste, which is relevant to the broader context of waste issues in the area.
* <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/planning> - Although not directly mentioned in the search results, this URL would typically provide information on planning decisions and developments in Harrow, such as the Byron Quarter project.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-management> - This URL offers general guidance on waste management in the UK, which is relevant to understanding the legal and environmental implications of fly-tipping and waste disposal.
* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> - This URL links to the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which addresses waste management and disposal regulations, providing a legal framework for dealing with fly-tipping.