

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

Comet series Letchworth, Hitchin, Stevenage.

Also in Welwyn Hatfield Times, Mercury Herts series (Bishop Stortford, etc), maybe others.

**SIR** - In response to the recent letter about the plans for a recycling and energy recovery facility in Hatfield, I would like to make a few crucial points.

Through the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, which involves all the councils in the county, we continue to promote waste reduction and reuse, as well as work to improve kerbside recycling around the county. We are on target to achieve our goal of recycling 50 per cent of our waste this year – eight years ahead of national guidelines – and we have ambitions to go even higher.

Whilst recycling all our waste may sound like the answer, in reality this is simply not feasible – neither financially ‘nor technically. The unavoidable truth is that, even with greater numbers of people reducing, reusing and recycling, there will always be some waste left over.

With landfill tax increasing to £80 per tonne in 2014, which will raise the cost of landfill to £100 per tonne, landfill is by no means a cheaper option. In fact, if we keep using landfill, this will cost Hertfordshire’s taxpayers an extra £544 million over the next 25 years.

We have to find an alternative to landfill that is not so costly, both environmentally and economically. Contrary to your reader’s assumptions, the proposed facility will save over £700 million over the time of the contract – both easing the burden on taxpayers and making more money available for other county council services.

We do appreciate residents’ concerns, especially in light of differing opinions, and urge your readers to refer to our website [www.hertsdirect.org/waste](http://www.hertsdirect.org/waste) for the facts about energy from waste facilities.

**DERRICK ASHLEY**  
**Chairman Hertfordshire**  
**Waste Partnership**  
**Hertfordshire County Council**