

Warp-it Recycling Network

How successful has it been so far?

As of Tuesday 2nd of December there are over 350 users of the portal. 311 are members of staff across the County Council; 243 are based in Cambridge, 34 in Huntingdon and the others made up of smaller sites. In addition to this over 50 schools have also signed up.

Outside of the county council 40 charities and community organisations have signed up to use Warp-it. As well as these 12 other organisations have partnered with Cambridgeshire County Council through Warp-it to share resources. These include Cambridgeshire University, Norfolk County Council, The Salvation army as well as some local businesses.

Over 2,000 items have been added to the site, the majority being furniture and storage, but there has also been stationery and a few bespoke items of which 1,033 of them have found new homes. 850 items so far have been re-distributed to 220 teams or services within the County Council, 83 items to 23 schools, 33 items to Community Centres and 67 have been donated to charities/not for profits: Blue Smile, Cambridgeshire Alliance, Lisa Kent Trust, Little Miracles Charity, Soham Museum and The Wildlife Trust.

If these items were bought for the Council new that would cost £33,000. If the Charities would have to have bought these items as new they would have paid £3,200. This has also saved us the potential waste from the clearance of Castle Court equating to 6.1 tons of waste (estimated as 18 tons of Co₂, which is 24 trees or 7 cars).

Why is it successful?

There are several reasons why Warp-it has been so successful in Cambridge shire:

- Excellent internal comms. This included identifying Key Users within each team to use Warp-it, with specific guidance on CamWeb and posters around Castle Court.
- Excellent external comms. This included a segment on the local radio and an article in the schools magazines. Specific organisations were also targeted.
- Being administrated by the project team rather than by procurement. Because a member of the Castle Court Closure Project has worked on the

use of Warp-it, this has meant more time has been dedicated to uploading surplus furniture, which is the majority (50%) of items uploaded to Warp-it so far.

Because of the increasing time pressures on the project team this has meant a lot of staff are dedicating their time to Project Work rather than “Business as usual” if it would have been administered by procurement. In addition to this it has been a success due to the general attitude of staff within the County Council to be green.

What issues have we encountered?

One of the problems is the amount of time it has taken to organise the collection of items. When staff have vacated an office, many simply left their draws full of stationery or disposed of things in the blue skip bins. This was probably due to timescales and the delay in implementing Warp-it so late into the move project.

Also the vast amount of claims compared to the number of people uploading is meant often there is a delay in collection. Typically furniture is uploaded by the project team in bulk and it is then claimed individually creating a lot of correspondence. Also some of the collections have had to be outside of office hours. A small issue is that some staff were unaware of the process and were removing items from offices and buildings without “claiming” them on Warp-it first, but comms and new signage on doors helped to prevent this.

Conclusion

Using Warp-it has been a great success, and many schools and charities have benefit from the surplus created by closing Castle Court. A lot of time has gone into it initially, but this is mainly due to the tight deadline of when Castle Court closes. This cost (although difficult to pinpoint) would have been much less than the quote from Premier Moves to clear the building. From a PR point of view, this is also better as even though Premiere Moves would have taken away our surplus, refurbished it and sold it on (for their own profit) that would take energy and create CO2 in the recycling process. Using Warp-it has eliminated that need to refurbish.

Not everything in Castle Court will make its way out via the Warp-it route, however a vast amount has and what is left will be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

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