

# Cremona council to discuss recycling centre

## *Staff time used to clean illegally dumped garbage*

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Cremona council is expected to discuss whether or not to keep the recycling centre in the village open for businesses and rural residents during tonight's council meeting.

Village residents currently have garbage and recycling rollout bins for curbside services and will be getting compost bins in the spring.

Luana Smith, chief administrative officer for the village, said there will no longer be a need to keep the recycling centre open, except for the few businesses in Cremona that use it, as well as rural residents.

"We spend so much time cleaning it because of all the abuse of garbage, barbwire, tires, oil – it's just become a dumping ground and we would like to close it," said Smith.

"We've been trying to work out different ways to provide a service to our businesses and still be able to close it, but the county approached the village to say 'please keep it open for our residents'."

The village proposed the following options to Mountain View County council: that the county pay a \$600 per month flat fee plus tipping fees at the landfill, plus mileage; that the county pay \$50 per hour for cleaning the centre plus any tipping fees at the landfill, plus mileage; that the county hire someone to run the centre or that the village hire someone and bill the county.

But county council decided during a recent council meeting to contribute \$600 a month without any additional money for landfill costs or mileage.

"We had asked for a little more mileage because sometimes our guys have to take garbage, because of the dumping, all the way to Didsbury's landfill,"

said Smith, adding sometimes they have to make three trips.

She isn't sure if \$600 would even cover the cost of staff time it takes to clean up the centre, but says she based the number on the average amount of staff time.

"The county's concerns are that if there's nothing there, no one will drive up to Water Valley to the transfer station, that they'll just dump stuff in the ditches," she said.

"But right now the Cremona residents are paying for rural residents' recycling and garbage that gets dumped there," she said.

"When our public works staff are spending two hours each day down there to clean up, it's taking them away from doing village work".

She said if the centre stays open, some of the bins would be removed, including the composting bins.