

Committee: Planning, Highways and Transport

Date: 1st August 2023

Title: Bins and waste Collection

Purpose of Report

For Members to receive information regarding provision of bins and waste collection carried out by Somerset Council.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to note the report.

Background:

1. Ilminster Town Council are responsible for replacing bins on Town Council land and the bins and dog bins in the town centre. Our grounds team are only responsible for emptying bins and dog bins on Town Council land.
2. The Street Scene team of Somerset Council empty the public bins around Ilminster and also take the waste that is collected on Town Council land. This waste is then taken to an incinerator in Castle Cary.
3. A report was submitted to the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee at the 4 July 2023 meeting regarding the siting of a bin along Canal Way. As a result members asked that further information was brought back to the committee.

Report:

4. On Friday 7th July 2023, the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Countryside Manager had an initial meeting with the Team Leader of Landscaping & Small Works, to discuss the future of waste collection, not only on behalf of the Town Council but also for any events that occur on Town Council land. Whether there would be future requirements for recycling public waste, and to understand how policy may be changing in the future.
5. The Team Leader explained how the creation of Somerset Council has led to a loss of staff and that there is a lot of reorganisation happening in the background because the four district councils worked in different ways, some charging for services while others had not. This has therefore affected services across the county. He explained that the Street Scene team are responsible for the town's waste, street cleaning, and applying weedkiller when required. He works alongside a Localities Officer, who is also the dog warden, and she can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) as an enforcement measure.
6. The team are now carrying out a review of all of the bins and dog bins for the towns. They are aware that some bins and dog bins are used a lot more than others and receive as many complaints about them too. As they are unable to

increase the number of times they visit to empty these particular bins, they intend to consider whether they can replace them with larger bins which they call 'co-mingles'. For example, where there is a 25L dog bin and a litter bin, they could be replaced with one 240L bin suitable for both litter and dog waste.

7. There are no plans to move to recycling of public waste at this time. Although Chard have installed recycling bins around the town, the waste is collected and taken to the same incinerator in Castle Cary. South Petherton have a contract with Biffa for waste collection. There are no recycling facilities that are able to take the amount of public waste currently generated.
8. There will also be a cost implication for the Town Council both for the weekly collection of public waste from Town Council land and any extra collections generated from events on Town Council land. The Team Leader is currently reviewing refuse charges, and more information will become available at a later date.
9. There may be opportunities for event organisers to obtain a discount for waste collections by Somerset Council in the future. There may also be an opportunity for the Town Council to benefit from a county wide discount scheme with the main supplier of bins used by the county, Glasdon.
10. A follow up meeting between the Deputy Town Clerk and the Localities Officer from Somerset Council, was held on Thursday 27th July 2023 to visit locations of bins and dog bins that the Town Council frequently receive the most complaints about. Frequently, there are dog waste bags left by the bins or household waste which is left in or by these particular bins and they become a hazard to passing pedestrians and the wildlife.
11. The locations visited are shown on **Appendix 6A**:
 - a. Bins along Shudrick stream from Abbots Close to Fairfield.
 - b. A bin and dog bin by the post box on Canal Way.
 - c. A dog bin besides the Greenfylde play park.
 - d. A bin by the bus shelter on Canal Way.
 - e. A bin on the path between the Archie Gooch Pavilion and the canal.
 - f. A dog bin on Old Road.
12. **Appendix 6B** 'Review and Recommend Bin Consultation gives further information of the review. So far, Somerset Council have only received positive feedback from the public about the co-mingle bins as there are no longer any smells, the bins are seagull proof, and the new bins are never full.
13. The co-mingle bins are large and can only be sited where the Street Scene teams can park a vehicle relatively close by, to enable them to wheel out the inner bin which is then emptied onto the back of their vehicle.
14. The Town Council would be responsible for funding the purchase of the co-mingle bins, and Somerset Council can order the bins on their behalf as well as

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installing the bins for free. Depending on the chosen elements of the bin, the maximum price at the moment is £758.00 per bin. The price of a normal size bin that we use around Ilminster is currently £708.37 without the fixings.

15. The Localities Officer will provide a report stating which bins will be suitable for a replacement co-mingle bin and which could either be replaced with the standard bins or re-sited.
16. Members to note the report.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
July 2023