

## WHEELED BINS REVIEW GROUP

20 November, 2012

**PRESENT** – Councillor Long (in the Chair); Councillors Francis, Harman, L. Hughes, Lawton, Lewis, McNab, E.A. Richmond and Wright.

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Cossins.

**OFFICERS** – Ian Thompson, Assistant Director, Community Services, Brian Graham, Head of Environmental Services, Mike Smith, Area Team Leader Central Ward, Steve Petch, Head of Strategy and Commissioning and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

**Purpose of the Meeting** – To receive an update on the position with wheeled bins and for Members to give feedback on consultations they had undertaken with residents within their wards.

### **Points Discussed and Considered -**

- Ian Thompson advised Members that following the report to Cabinet in October the procurement exercise had been completed and the supplier MGB will be delivering 50,000 wheeled bins in order to start the roll out of supply of wheeled bins to households in the Borough commencing 6<sup>th</sup> May in readiness for the first collection of Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- Mike Smith reported that he has received positive feedback from the residents he had visited across the Borough and has made personal visits to 76 households to date.
- **Councillor Wright (Central Ward)** confirmed that he had met with positive feedback.
- **Councillors Lawton and McNab (North Road Ward)** had identified some residents who wished to be placed on the Assisted Collections List and were working to identify the degree of assistance required and if these were genuine. The Councillors requested if it was possible to receive a list of those residents who were on the Assisted Collections List.
- **Councillor L. Hughes (Pierremont Ward)** advised that she had not received any complaints from her Ward Members only general questions.
- **Councillor Harman (Park East Ward)** reported that he had raised the question of wheeled bins with residents at every possible opportunity but has not had any negative feedback. His ward includes a number of Council properties.
- **Councillor Lewis (Mowden Ward)** had received no complaints from his residents just general queries.

- **Councillor Francis (Eastbourne Ward)** had received no complaints although he had some issues with Emley Moor Road and Holgate Moor Green which were being addressed by Officers.
- **Councillor Richmond (College Ward)** had only minor issues within his ward.
- **Councillor Long (Northgate Ward)** advised Members that there were a lot of issues in her Ward mainly to do with the back lanes and storage of bins and one issue raised by the Police was the risk of anti-social behaviour. The Chair asked Officers if they had liaised with CPO's and suggested that the Review Group meet with John Herdman from the Regulatory Team to discuss further.
- **Assisted Collections** - With regard to residents requiring Assisted Collections, Brian Graham advised Members that due to data protection and advice from the Legal Department, he was unable to circulate details of those residents on the list to Ward Members. Members were also advised that it has been anticipated that the number of assisted collection requests may increase, therefore officers will be visiting each resident to undertake a full assessment and take with them a wheeled bin to show the residents and to hopefully help to alleviate any concerns they may have.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the storage of wheeled bins at the end of farm tracks and similar households in the rural areas.
- Brian Graham also reported that it is the intention to distribute wheeled bins in key Council buildings to show visitors and it was also suggested by a Member that displays of the bins are also placed in supermarkets as a PA exercise. A Member also offered to take a wheeled bin to Ward and PACT meetings.
- A question was raised as to what happens if a wheelie bin was stolen and Brian Graham advised Members that there were no plans to charge residents for replacement bins.
- Some Members expressed concerns about the nuisance factor of leaving bins out in the back alley after collection as they may be at work and also the added risk of advertising that the house is empty by virtue of the fact that the bin has not been brought back into the property.
- Clarification was given to Members that the advice given to residents will be to place the wheeled bins at the curtilage of their property.
- Some discussion ensued on making it a recommendation that residents do not leave wheeled bins on the pavement outside their property and arrangements for houses in multiple occupation were being addressed. Brian also advised that alterations were planned to the bin stores in some council houses.

- **Publicity** – it was reported that on-going publicity was planned. Running up to 29<sup>th</sup> April there will be more enhanced publicity about changes to collection days leading up to the roll out of the wheeled bins on 17th June.
- Mike Smith advised Members that he was visiting all Council house stock to assess any potential problems with the bins and will be reporting back.
- **List of Problem Streets** - Members discussed the list of streets which presented problems and it appeared that some streets had now been removed from the list – in particular China, Ruby and Dublin Streets? Brian Graham advised Members that the list was a work in progress and issues were being continually addressed and resolved. Streets had been removed from the list because a solution had been found. It was proposed to present an updated list to Scrutiny at their meeting in December including these solutions.
- There was some discussion on the cleaning of the wheeled bins and some suggestion that there could be a business opportunity for establishing a cleaning business. With this in mind it was suggested that households be given some guidance on the potential increase in traders and that such traders require to be licensed.
- **Recycling** – Some concerns were raised regarding recycling and residents using the wheeled bins instead of recycling. It was suggested that the recycling rates be monitored to see if recycling rates decline and that a report be received at a future date, possibly after a year of operation i.e. 2014. It was confirmed by Officers that there are no changes planned to the Green Box and Blue Bag recycling facility with the provision of wheeled bins.
- There will be continual publicity to encourage people to recycle more and a suggestion was made to attach a sticker to the underside of the bin lid with the 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' message.
- **Size of Wheeled Bins** – A member expressed concern regarding the number of large wheeled bins that had been ordered and that in particular Cockerton East Ward and Bank Top Wards have a number of residents who have requested smaller bins. Members were advised that the bin would belong to the property and not the householder therefore to allocate a smaller bin now may not be the wishes of the household in future. Mike Smith advised Members that he was examining ways of properties sharing bins in some areas of North Road and Bank Top. It was the view of Officers that there was a greater problem of the bin being too small, rather than too large as side waste would not be collected and this could be a problem. It was also pointed out that such residents need not put out their bins every week and that the footprint of both bins were similar therefore the same space was required for storage purposes.
- **Training** – A question was asked regarding training of operatives on the future use of wheeled bins and Members were assured that all vehicles are to be fitted with lifts. New vehicles are being purchased and all staff will be

trained by the vehicle supplier and will be visiting neighbouring authorities who already operate wheeled bins.

- The Group were pleased to find the move to wheeled bin collections was universally accepted by the operatives and the general feeling was that the operatives welcomed the wheeled bins mainly due to removing manual handling issues.

**Future action –**

- Invite John Herdman to attend a future meeting of this Review Group to receive more information about the regulatory issues.
- Receive an updated list of streets including problems identified and solutions to Scrutiny on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.
- Receive a report on the possible impact on recycling rates in 2014 – a year after operation of the wheeled bins.