

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 30 May 2022

**Title:** Litter & Dog Waste Bins

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk - Adam Clapton

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### **Background**

At the meeting of this committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November, members resolved that no specific threshold be set for the placement of dog waste and dual stream bins with each application being decided on the basis of likely usage and distance from other bins.

The Town Council, through its contractor currently empties all litter and recycling bins on its land and the district empty dog waste bins. With the new bin scheme across Witney these dog bins have or are scheduled to be converted to litter/dog waste bins.

West Oxfordshire District Council was in the process of replacing all bins across the district at the time to dual use, higher capacity ones and subsequently adopted a new policy in December. This policy was to ensure litter bins were located in strategic locations, i.e., town and village centres, recreation fields, and areas of high footfall based on evidence they had gathered. The following two points outline why bins have been replaced/removed,

1. Generally, dual bins are not located in residential areas. Residents are encouraged to take litter and dog waste home and dispose of it in their grey bin.
2. Dual bins are generally not installed at bus stops unless they are busy town centre ones. There is no evidence that these reduce littering and there was very little litter deposited in them

### **Current Situation**

The audit/replacement of bins by West Oxfordshire District Council has now been completed and the town council is awaiting a map showing new locations. The above policies are contradictory to the Town Council's former resolutions on potential new bin requests and aims on providing them at bus shelters.

As part of the above process, officers have also been advised that several bins on town council land, where emptying has been carried out by and paid for by the District Council, that charges will be transferred to the town council in April 2023. As the Town Council currently empty bins on town council land, there is no foreseen reason that we would pay a separate contractor.

The District Council have confirmed with Town council officers that they will no longer be installing and serving single stream dog waste bins. Instead, they will only be installing the dual stream litter and dog waste bins of which some are on town council grounds. Officers are concerned by this as these dual stream bins reach capacity quickly and then dog waste gets left on the floor or on the surface of the bins. With the single stream dog waste bins this wasn't an issue and if so it was easily rectified by more frequent emptying.

The town council has several bin requests on hold and in addition, the number of litter and dog waste bin requests are likely to increase following the above change and reduction of dog waste bins in residential areas.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The decision to reorganise bin coverage was taken by the District Council but has implications for the town council. Residents are used to and expect litter and dog waste bins to be readily available; there are several comments in the resident's satisfaction survey on this committee's agenda stating Witney needs more, not less bins. The District Council's policy leaves all requests, whether for new bins or to re-install ones taken away with the town council. The cost of such requests needs to be considered against the needs of the community and the evidence that led the District Council to take agree its policy.

### **Financial implications**

➤ The cost of dual bin emptying by the District Council for 2022/23 is £7.62 per empty.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. As the cost for bin emptying on town council land is forwarded to the town council, the emptying in entirety is taken over by the council/its contractor.
2. The council make definition between a request for litter/recycle bins and separate dog waste bins. So, for all requests on town council land, the Council considers installing the appropriate bin.
3. That requests for areas in the ownership of West Oxfordshire District Council are forwarded to them for consideration.
4. That all other areas where requests are received are outside the scope of the above and therefore not the responsibility of the town council.