

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 17 July 2023

Title: Litter & Dog Waste Bins Review

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

At a meeting of this Committee held on 30 May 2022, the following resolution/policy was made in respect to bin emptying and provision of new litter and dog bins on town council land (minute SC263 refers),

1. That, bin emptying on town council land is taken over in its entirety by Witney Town Council and,
2. That, the Town Council considers requests for new or additional litter and dog waste bins on its land, differentiation made on each with separate bins as appropriate and,
3. That, requests for any bins on West Oxfordshire District Council land are forwarded to them to deal with, the town council declining such requests and,
4. That, requests for bins in other areas are not the responsibility of the Town Council and in line with the District Council's policy on bins in residential areas, will be declined and,
5. That, the above be reviewed in the next Council year to ascertain the current position.

The resolution was in response to a high number of requests from residents to install new bins following removal of many by West Oxfordshire District Council as part of its programme to streamline emptying and provide dual litter/dog waste bins. Further background information can be found in the report to that Committee meeting which is attached as **Appendix A**.

Current Situation

A year on and the town council is still receiving complaints from exasperated residents regarding the loss of bins across the town and requests for them to be re-installed, usually forwarded by the District Council. There are some District Council maintained bins which remain on town Council land, mainly at The Leys which tend to overflow during busy periods and other areas which had dog waste bins where mess is left on the floor.

The current map of District Council maintained and emptied bins can be seen by clicking on this link <https://shorturl.at/djyT6>

The town council has installed a number of bins on its land, predominantly at recreation grounds and plans to install more during the summer in line with the agreed policy. A current map of Town Council maintained bins is attached as **Appendix B**. The emptying of bins installed by the town council is in-house, as opposed to the District Council collectors.

Official bin requests falling outside of the above policy are listed in **Appendix C** for information.

Environmental impact

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

The town council is conscious of recycling waste as much as possible and has retained segregated bins on its land for general litter.

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.

No Council has a statutory duty to install and empty waste bins. The Town Council does so on its land for the benefit of users.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The Council has a Property Maintenance budget (4036/402). The annual budget for this centre/code currently stands at £2,600 and includes other street furniture procurement such as bus shelters.
- The cost of emptying of bins falls within the Grounds Maintenance recharges and waste charges and the actual amounts will be available once a full year's cycle of undertaking the GM work has taken place.

Recommendations

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

1. Re-affirming the above policy for new litter and dog waste bin requests and,
2. Continuing to invest in bin infrastructure on town council land.