

Appendix 3: Overview of Current Waste Collection Issues in SWW

1. Current situation

Currently 2223 households within West Lindsey participate in an authorised sack collection scheme for their waste. These are mainly difficult to access or remote properties, the majority (2015) of these are terraced houses in the South West and North Wards of Gainsborough. Collections in these 'ten foot' areas are carried out weekly, residual waste is collected from the rear alleyways on Thursdays with recycling collected in clear sacks from the front of properties on Fridays.

This collection system has been in place for many years and continued when wheeled bins were introduced on the early 2000's. At the time residents were surveyed and they overwhelmingly indicated they wanted to retain a weekly sack collection service.

Residents are provided with 130 blue sacks and 156 recycling sacks each year, these are bulk delivered to each property twice yearly. Households with five or more occupants receive 156 blue and 200 clear sacks per year. This gives residents similar capacity to wheeled bin users, however the material is collected weekly as opposed to the fortnightly collection regime operated elsewhere in the District.

On collection days, a large street cleaning operation including the use of five staff, one caged transit-style van, a compact sweeper and a hand barrow, support the three man waste collection team to ensure the area is left clean.

2. Issues

Fly-tipping and early presentation of waste

The areas suffer badly with early presentation of waste and fly-tipping. Numerous attempts have been made to resolve this over previous years using the Councils legislative powers. Recent initiatives include a Selective Licensing Scheme, use of enforcement powers to reduce the number of supermarket trolleys dumped in the area and an increased temporary enforcement presence using updated legislation. Officers have also recently improved signage in the area and will enhance the use of CCTV, both fixed and mobile.

Overall the situation has shown signs of slight improvement, although as evidence of fly-tipping and early presentation is difficult to find, in most cases the overwhelming burden still remains with street cleansing teams to clear the waste away in a timely manner. This has resulted in resources being moved from other areas to help deal with the issue, this obviously impacts the streetscene as a whole in West Lindsey.

Charge for bulky waste collections

The cost of a bulky waste collection is currently £30 for six points, equivalent to a large three piece suite or similar. The consultation will seek

to understand whether this level of charge is too expensive for residents in that area. A recent demand study identifies that just six requests (1% of all requests) for bulky waste have been received in the last six months from properties on that collection round which makes up 4.7% of properties in the district.

Safety

The waste collection methodology, which involves a large vehicle maneuvering in very tight spaces with lots of reversing, is challenging. The driver needs to fully concentrate in order to be aware of where his crew members are in order to avoid incidents. Recent innovations in vehicle technologies such as cameras, movement sensors and two way radios have improved safety and there have been very few minor, and no serious, safety related incidents on that round. However, any operation which involves large vehicles reversing into constricted areas will always carry some element of risk.

Also, sack collections in general cause more incidents than wheeled bin collections, especially incidents of musculo-skeletal injuries and piercing injuries from sharps sticking out of sacks.

Sacks

Currently, the Council provides residents with pre-printed blue and clear sacks in which to present their waste. Residents should be limited to confining their waste within the supplied capacity. In reality, crews remove all waste presented on collection day whether it is contained in sacks of the right colour or not. This is for the following reasons

- Vehicles reverse down most ten foot, full access is only possible if all waste is cleared
- Street cleansing crews would have to remove the waste anyway so teams apply a collaborative approach
- Clearing all waste allows access for a compact roadsweeper to complete the cleansing operation.

The Council spends an average of £21.5k on plastic sacks for residents to present their waste.

Residual waste and recycling performance

Residual and recycling collection rates are always recorded, the following information relates to data collected during a three month period from May to July 2018. On average, 14.8 tonnes was collected on each residual waste collection day with a low of 12.2 tonnes and a high of 20.5 tonnes.

Taking garden waste out of the equation, residents as a whole in West Lindsey recycle around 27% of their household waste, residents on this collection round recycle 22% (excludes Garden Waste arisings)

For reference, the national recycling target for recycling is 50% by 2020. West Lindsey as a whole last year achieved 46%, the highest in Lincolnshire.

Everything goes approach

The level of resources required in this area is higher than that needed in other parts of the District to ensure the highway is clear and clean. The ten foot area is classified as Highway and the Council, as a Waste Collection Authority has a duty to keep the Highway clear and clean. A daily presence is required to clear any early presented or fly tipped material. This level of pro-activity may add to the issue in the area as residents perceive that whatever is disposed of in the ten foot area is just collected by the Council.

Fly-tipping

Although this report primarily considers waste collection, it is important that fly-tipping and early presented wastes are considered. Some residents and stakeholders perceive that the current collection methodology encourages this activity. Rates over the last year have been reviewed with the following results;

A total of 890 fly tips were recorded in West Lindsey between April 1st 2017 and March 31st 2018, of these 172 were located in the ten foot collection route area, therefore 19% of all reportable fly-tips are located in the ten foot collection area.

Early Presentation

Early presentation of waste is a constant issue which impacts on the street scene and uses up valuable resources. In the 2017/18 year there were 185 reported incidents of early presentation of waste in the ten foot area.