

Environmental Services
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Report

Report subject: Parish Waste Skips

Report to: Western Area Committee

Date: 13th April 2006

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Current Situation

Parish & Town Councils were notified at the P&T Council Liaison Meeting on the 5th October 2005 that with effect from 1st January 2006 Wiltshire County Council will not accept waste from the parish skips.

They advised us that:

- The skips being directly ordered from private contractors by the parishes, means that the waste collected falls outside of the definition of municipal solid waste for which the County Council would have responsibility as a Waste Disposal Authority.
- The skips are not secure or attended, so neither the Waste Collection Authority (Salisbury District Council) nor the Waste Disposal Authority (Wiltshire County Council) can control their contents. There have been examples of inappropriate and hazardous materials found in the waste from these skips. (See Note 1)

Therefore as these skips are no longer accepted at Thorny Down the contractor has to take responsibility for the contents of these skips and take them to a commercial landfill site for disposal. This means that the contractor will have to include disposal costs in the charges to the parishes.

This effectively puts the cost up from around £80 to £140+ and parishes are then reduced to two skips per year. (See note 2)

Note1: Over several years there has been concern about the amount of waste that has unlawfully been deposited into these skips by commercial waste producers and on occasions asbestos and hazardous liquid waste has also been deposited.

Note 2 Parishes of less than 1000 population receive a skip grant of £386 pa from Salisbury DC.

An Option offered to the parishes (currently already used by some)

By arrangement, Salisbury District Council is able to provide a refuse collection compaction vehicle and driver on a Saturday morning at a cost of £ 300.00 (excl VAT). The vehicle is available on site between 8am and 11am for the collection of household waste only, but not white goods such as fridges, freezers and washing machines. The driver does assist loading the materials and ensures only permissible materials are deposited.

Issues Raised

Members raised the issues that:

- A reduction in the frequency of the skips was penalising householders in the rural areas who had further to travel to dispose properly of their waste than their urban counterparts and that householders in the rural areas generally received less services or had to travel further to gain benefit from those services and this was one of the few “plusses” they had.
- At £300 per visit for the SDC refuse vehicle parishes will only be able to afford one visit per year out of the Skip Grant and one visit per year is insufficient.
- Householders would not hold onto their refuse for a whole year and it is considered there would be a significant increase in fly-tipping as a result.
- It is now too late for parishes to increase the precept for 2006/07 to pay for a second visit.
- Could the £300 charge for the refuse vehicle service be reduced to enable parishes to receive two visits per annum.

Response

With the current emphasis on improving recycling, the bulk removal of general household waste does not encourage householders to separate waste that could be recycled. To offer a subsidised service not only adds to the cost burden of the council but does not directly contribute to the achievement of the council's stated intentions to improve recycling and waste management generally.

It is considered that those who would be inclined to fly-tip waste would not wait six months to legally dispose of their waste locally let alone twelve months.

Whilst it is understood that householders in rural areas have to travel further to access waste management facilities we are given to understand that the vast majority of the waste that arrives at these sites is brought in by car or pick-up that could be taken to the facilities at the household waste recycling centres. 85% of the materials taken to the household waste recycling centres are separated for recycling or composting.

It also introduces another variation in the standard of service provided by the council in as much as a number of parishes already use this service and pay £300 for it, (although it would certainly be preferable to be able to provide a facility for recycling) householders in the urban areas have to take their "non kerbside" waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Salisbury or Amesbury, or use the council's Bulky Household Waste (BHW) service and pay for it. This in essence is providing a “free of charge” bulky household waste collection service to householders in these parishes.

With the level of budgetary pressure, in general, upon us at the moment and with particular reference to the Bulky Household Waste Service (BHW), the provision of skips or a refuse compaction vehicles (RCV) for Parishes does remove a considerable level of income from the BHW account which is, at this point in time, already unlikely to reach the income targets set.