

## The Bins

### ANSWERSTO SOME COMMON QUERIES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN RAISED

Q1. I already recycle everything – why must I change to this new system?

A. We are very grateful for your contribution to help Worcester double our recycling rate – but despite all your and our efforts we have now stabilised at 17% - our target is 24%. We need everyone to take part in recycling.

Q2. So why not target those who are not recycling?

A. This will happen, this is a benefit of fitting the chips to the bins, in that we can target those with high weights of refuse or where they are not recycling via their green bin. It might be that at a later stage this could be part of an 'excess' charge that is made.

Q3. When was I consulted on these proposals?

A. You were actually consulted as part of the preparation of the Waste Management Strategy, and this way forward was subsequently agreed as part of the overall Vision for the County. Advice from authorities who have followed a similar route was not to consult – natural resistance to change.

Q4. This scheme is a waste of money - 1.

A. This view probably comes from the fact that a large amount of capital will be spent on buying the bins. The corresponding revenue cost of funding this purchase is the same as the annual cost of buying bags. The funding cost will however then stay the same over time, the cost of bags could continue to increase significantly each year.

Q5. The scheme is a waste of money - 2.

A. There are currently 3 separate crews collecting your black, purple and clear sacks – this will now reduce to a single vehicle and crew. Less people and vehicles are thus involved – and in addition less pollution by reducing the number of vehicles that are travelling around.

Q6. The scheme is a waste of money - 3.

A. It is very likely that penalties will be introduced if landfill limits are not met – these are then likely to be targeted to the areas/districts responsible. The scheme to be introduced has a very high likelihood of avoiding penalties for residents in Worcester.

Q7. What is the point of separating recycling now, if it all goes in one bin?

A. The current purple and clear recycling bags will continue to be taken to Hill and Moor, where they will then be further manually sorted along 2 separate conveyor belts. The mixed recyclable contents of the new recycling bin will be transported initially to a remote site, where they will be sorted automatically – using optical scanning. The County then have proposals to construct a similar local sorting facility in Droitwich.

Q8. There are other options available, that are better than this scheme.

A. The Working Party did look at all the various schemes that are operating, and came to the conclusion that this scheme provided the best value for money and the highest probability of meeting the recycling targets.

Q9. Why not recycle green waste, and this would help meet targets?

A. The authorities that are currently achieving the highest levels of recycling do currently have separate collections of green waste. This would be a very popular service for residents.

However, in addition to the recycling target, the Waste Strategy has also included as a priority the principle of waste minimisation – hence the policy of encouraging composting, shredding etc.

At the present time the annual projected figures for kgs per head collected are:

Worcester – no green waste collections – 367 kgs

Bromsgrove – green waste collections – 512 kgs

There is a corresponding increase in recycling – but at a high cost.

Q10. Why is lifting bags suddenly a problem for the binmen - they have been doing this job for years now?

A. There is a considerable increase in the rules and regulations with regard to manual handling, and this is a much more important issue. However, a more significant issue is that of discarded needles within the refuse and a number of cases have arisen where collectors have been injured by these needle points. It is a very anxious period of time awaiting the results of tests, to see if there are any long term consequences arising from this injury. Bins will significantly eliminate this problem area.

The manual handling issues are beginning to generate problems with the continuing use of boxes for recycling collections.

Q11. Your leaflet states 'put your waste directly in the bin, rather than putting it in refuse sacks first.' I want to keep my bin clean, but this instruction is not helpful.

A. We have realised that this particular part of the Guide, is not as clear it was hoped, and will be changed in future.

The position is:

a) With your black bins please feel free to put your day to day refuse in containers such as black sacks, plastic bags, supermarket bags etc. before these are then placed inside the black bin itself.

b) With your green bins we would prefer that recyclable items are placed loose directly into the green bin. In this instance, as the materials should be clean, they will not dirty the inside of the bin and this will also then assist considerably with the disposal process.