



**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 19TH
FEBRUARY 2003**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FROM 24TH – 28TH FEBRUARY 2003



MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2003	AT 10 AM	CABINET (Contact Officer Susan May)	COUNCIL CHAMBER
	AT 2 PM	INFORMATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER MEETING	ROOM 132
TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2003	AT 2 PM	HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER MEETING	ROOM 317
WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2003	AT 10 AM	CABINET/COUNCIL MEETING ON CORPORATE OBJECTIVES (Contact Officer Susan May)	COUNCIL CHAMBER
THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2003	AT 10 AM	SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO HOLDER MEETING (Contact Officer Maggie Jennings)	COMMITTEE 2
	AT 2 PM	COUNCIL (Contact Officer Susan May)	COUNCIL CHAMBER

Wheeled Bin Service

The attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been drafted to assist Members in dealing with the broader type questions that your constituents may ask. We would ask that at this stage Members do not proactively publish these, as a full communication and publicity programme is due to be implemented in June 2003. This will provide a lot more of the detailed information the public will need and allow us to effectively resource dealing with the large volume of queries expected. The FAQs sheet will be updated as and when other details are firmed up and when more FAQs come to light.

Please note that some answers are subject to final Cabinet approval.

Frequently Asked Questions

South Cambs is changing the way it collects your rubbish. The Council is changing from the black sack collection service to a new alternate weekly waste and recycling (green, kitchen and cardboard materials) collection service using two wheeled bins per household in addition to the existing green box scheme.

The Council is changing to a wheeled bin service as part of wider directives from the EU that requires less recyclable and biodegradable waste to be landfilled. An alternate weekly wheeled bin service will also provide a higher recycling percentage, and should bring the district's recycling rate to around 40% making it one of the best in the country, as well as being a practical, sensible, environmentally friendly and cost effective method.

South Cambs was recently awarded a grant of £1.88M from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which will help towards the implementation of the scheme.

Are all houses in South Cambridgeshire going to get wheelie bins?

Yes, the council is changing the way it collects your rubbish. Instead of plastic sacks, all households will be issued, free of charge, two wheeled bins: a green bin for green waste e.g. kitchen & garden waste and cardboard collected one week together with your green kerbside box, and a black bin for other waste that cannot be recycled which will be collected the next week.

When is this all going to happen?

The bins will start to be delivered from mid-August onwards in a rolling programme. All households will have received their bins by just after Christmas. Collections will start a few weeks after each household has received its bins. We will be implementing a full communication and publicity campaign kicking off in earnest in June 2003. This will include leaflets, publicity, media interviews, road shows, information packs and stickers (within the bin when it arrives) explaining the scheme and arrangements in detail.

Are you stopping the Green Box Scheme?

No, the green box scheme will continue to operate as it does now. There maybe some changes to the collection days but that is all.

Will there be enough capacity in the bins to take all my rubbish?

Yes, if all of the recycling schemes are used appropriately. On average, each household puts out about 2 sacks each week. A wheeled bin can hold 3 sacks; in addition, households also have the green box to use for cans, glass, paper and textiles.

Do I need to be at home when the bins are delivered?

No, the bins will be left at your property. Look out for the helpline number and more information in the summer issue of South Cambridgeshire Magazine.

What happens if there is no room to store a bin e.g. in flats or where houses front straight onto the pavement and there is no side/rear access?

We will be identifying all such properties before the scheme starts and making alternative arrangements. Also blocks of flats may be issued with commercial bins if there is space. We will visit you if there is a particular problem with space and agree what arrangement is best for you.

I currently have my sacks collected on an assisted collection, will this continue?

Yes, if you currently qualify for an assisted collection from us we will be in contact with you to confirm the new arrangements.

What happens if I live a long way from the road?

We will also be identifying these properties before the scheme starts and if necessary, making alternative arrangements.

Will my collection day change?

It is possible your collection day may change. We will be issuing the "recycling collection day calendars" to everyone to advise you of the collection days and arrangements. Look out for further information in future issues of South Cambridgeshire Magazine.

Will I get my own bin back after each collection?

Yes, but please do not individualise your bin except with your house name or number.

Why is the Council changing from sacks to wheeled bins?

Many residents have told us that they not only want to recycle more paper, cans and glass but also other materials as well such as cardboard and green waste.

We want to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle, as recycling not only conserves valuable resources (to recycle an aluminium can uses 95% less energy than making a new one) but also helps reduce pollution.

The Government has also set all Councils a target to increase the amount of household waste that is recycled. South Cambridgeshire aims to recycle 25% by 2003/04. The only realistic and cost effective way of meeting the demand for increased recycling, and helping achieve our 2003/04 target and the even tougher targets for 2005 and 2010 is using wheeled bins.

For the new materials we will be collecting, wheeled bins have a number of advantages over sacks; they are easy to move, requiring no lifting just pulling out, have close fitting lids to cut down spills and smells, and are less likely to be damaged by sharp objects, animals or birds. They will also make the job of the refuse collector safer and cleaner, avoiding the risk of injury from broken glass or sharp objects. They are also reusable; having a life of many years and so will save hundreds of tonnes a year of plastic from being landfilled.

Isn't this really about the Council trying to save money?

Providing additional recycling services in the short to medium term does not save money, it costs in terms of paying contractors to collect materials, providing new vehicles, bins etc. In the longer term as landfilling waste becomes ever more expensive, it makes sense to recycle as much as possible and to try to start reducing the amount of waste we all produce.

The current refuse collection service and the greenbox recycling scheme together cost each household in the district on average approximately 62 pence per week. The new kerbside green waste service, including changing over from sacks to wheeled bins will cost each household on average an additional 10 pence per week from 2004/05.

Isn't the service in actual fact being reduced from weekly to fortnightly?

No. In actual fact the service is being enhanced. An additional kerbside collection of green waste and cardboard is being introduced. Every household will continue to receive a collection every week; one week (the recycling week) the green bin and the green box will be collected, the next week everything that can't be recycled will be collected in the black bin.

Will you recycle Cardboard as part of the new scheme?

Yes, cardboard can be put in the green bin along with your garden and kitchen waste.

What will I be able to put in each bin?

Look out for information in future issues of South Cambridgeshire Magazine, you will also get a leaflet before the scheme starts explaining what to put in each bin.

What if I put rubbish in my green bin used for the recyclable waste?

Your green bin will not be collected. We will have a strict contamination policy so that the processor can deal with the material and the compost produced is suitable for use.

How will I know which bin to put out each week?

The calendar in South Cambridgeshire Magazine will show you which week to put out your green bin, black bin or green box.

If I can't fit all my rubbish into my black bin can I leave it next to the bin?

No. Side waste will not be collected under any circumstances. This is because the new vehicles fitted with bin lifting equipment have a much higher back than the old vehicles. It would be unsafe for refuse collectors to repeatedly lift rubbish over the high back. In addition, we believe this policy will encourage everyone to not only recycle more but to try to minimise the amount of waste produced in the first place.

Can I put plastics out for recycling?

No. We are not able to include plastics in our recycling schemes at the moment. Recycling plastics can involve excessive costs to both local councils and the environment. It can cost up to £250 to collect, clean, sort and bale each tonne of waste plastics. The average value of one tonne of plastic is £110. Therefore it could cost the council approximately £140 to recycle each tonne of plastic.

There are however no facilities in South Cambridgeshire able to sort, crush and bale plastics. This would mean transporting a low weight, high volume material long distances, which would cost too much money for fuel and have an adverse environmental impact through air pollution. It is not a viable material to recycle in this area at the moment, but the council will continue to investigate options.

Will Parish Councils still get money for recycling?

Yes. Parish Councils and community groups currently receive £5.85 for every tonne of material collected under the green box scheme and this will continue. This is a proportion of the money saved in not having to landfill the recycled material. So the more material recycled, the larger the community payments.

Initially it is expected that no additional money will go to Parish Councils for the material collected in the green bin as the costs of processing are anticipated to be higher than the recycling credit. However SCDC will pay money to the Parish Councils in future years if the processing costs become lower than the recycling credit paid.

Where is my nearest recycling centre?

Contact the Recycling & Waste Minimisation Officer at the Council (Tel 01223 443000) for information about sites in the district. If you have access to the Internet one of the best ways is to look at the council web site www.scambbs.gov.uk or use the Recap website www.recap.co.uk

In the summer isn't the black bin going to smell?

The experience of numerous other councils throughout the Country indicates that this should not be a problem. The close fitting lids of both the green and black bins helps stops rain, flies and other vermin getting in and smells getting out

Are you going to provide a bin cleaning service?

No, not directly, but there are already a number of private companies in the area who provide this service. We want to concentrate on providing a first class collection service.

I don't want a wheeled bin. Can I stay on a sack collection?

No. In order for the scheme to be as successful as we all want, everyone who can use the scheme will have to do so.

What happens to the green waste collected?

The green waste is composted and mainly used for land restoration

What happens if I need another bin?

Large households or households that can demonstrate the need can purchase an additional 180 litre bin for £25.00 unless the household is on housing or council tax benefit and/or income support in which case the addition bin will be free. Only bins supplied by SCDC will be emptied.

Will the Council still collect bulky items free of charge?

Yes, as now, most bulky items will continue to be collected free of charge. There is a charge of £20.00 per item for fridges; however, you can take fridges and freezers to the household waste recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow where they can be left at no charge.

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Housing

Subject	Decision	Reason
Housing allocation appeals, and management transfers.	(1) Ref 5/03/001 Mrs C requires a transfer for Medical reasons.	This tenant requires a transfer for medical reasons.
	(2) Ref S/03/002 Mr F requires a transfer, as his accommodation is unsuitable.	Mr F requires a transfer to meet his special social and medical needs.

Subject	Decision	Reason
Right of Way over Council verge at end of Chapelfield Way, rear of 20 Churchfield Avenue, Sawston	To refuse a vehicular Right of Way over the Council's verge from the end of Chapelfield Way into the rear of 20 Churchfield Avenue, Sawston	Occupiers of neighbouring sheltered bungalows could be disturbed by increased traffic at the turning head, end of Chapelfield Way Granting access could set a precedent for neighbouring occupiers of Churchfield Avenue

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Planning and Economic Development

Subject	Decision	Reason
Little Abington: Proposed pedestrian refuge	Support the proposal as far as it provides for pedestrians. However, there is concern over whether these measures form part of a wider comprehensive road safety review along the A1307. I object to the proposal in as far as it does not make adequate provision for cyclists.	The proposal will improve pedestrian safety crossing a busy road. It is unlikely that cyclists would use such a small stretch of dual-use path, particularly if it is not well designed and constructed to allow continuous movement without slowing down (i.e. flush entrance/exit with suitable slips) as it will be easier to stay on the road. A dual-use path or on-road cycle lane should be provided along the length of the A1307 to provide a continuous route for cyclists instead of piecemeal stretches that would break up a journey.

Grant Agreed by Community Development Partnerships Manager

Applicant	Description	Benefits
Philip Biggs Brass Festivals	To award an Arts Capital Grant (AP27) of £1,500 to allow the Sonar Brass South Cambridgeshire Brass Day and Flying workshop visits, at Cottenham Village College, on 28 th March 2003.	The event brings together brass musicians of all ages from schools and community groups in a masterclass and performance. This year the flying visits are added to increase the range of participants across the district.

Grant Agreed by Conservation Manager

Applicant	Description	Benefits
Mr Nodes 21 Mill Lane, Arrington	To award a grant of £51.70 from the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme to allow the introduction of 100 plant plugs of ten different flower species to a small private meadow. Yellow rattle seed is also to be introduced.	The trial introduction of plant plugs will enable the diversification of the botanical interest of the meadow to be assessed. Further details can be sought from the Ecology Officer, Rob Mungovan.

Call-in Arrangements

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Committee Manager must be notified of any call in by **5pm Wednesday 26th February 2003**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on Thursday 27th February 2003.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.