

I have sought a response from officers within Waste Services to your concerns regarding the use of the wheeled bins in Batley Road.

Responses to each of the six points you raised are set out below:

1. At this time we are unable to confirm wheeled bin information for the properties you mention in your petition. The properties will need to be assessed on the same basis as all other properties within the borough prior to any service change. This assessment would confirm the most suitable service we could provide each property. Batley Road will be assessed during 2011. Unfortunately, due to the Enfield Council budget consultation process, we cannot be more specific at this moment in time. We expect that this consultation will be complete at the end of February, before confirming the next phases of the wheeled bin assessments and deliveries.
2. Operational efficiencies would be taken into consideration when making any assessment. However, I would like to point out that once your area is on the wheeled bin scheme it would not be possible for the crews to continue the current service and empty all your small bins into a wheeled bin. The reason being the new vehicles are equipped to collect from wheeled bins and will not be able to carry 'slave bins'.
3. The household assessment would only consider the front garden space and appropriate space for each property. Residents are not allowed to store or place bins for collection on the public footway. Only those properties with adequate storage will be provided with the full complement of three wheeled bins. An alternative sack service will be provided to houses as assessed by the Council not suitable for wheeled bins.
4. Unfortunately a dual collection system of smaller old containers for some properties, and wheeled bins in others, is not an option for the Council. For the large majority of households in Enfield the old system was not adequate. Following consultation with 14000 households and taking into account the feedback we had from the specific survey for small fronted properties and the residents' satisfaction survey, the new system will better suit the needs of the majority.
5. The collection teams are responsible for returning the bins inside of the boundary of the property. Therefore access issues and security issues should not be a concern. During the wheeled bin pilot we have not been made aware of any security issues caused by wheeled bins either through feedback forms or formal reports.
6. Your petition also expresses concern about the loss of the garden collection service under the sack scheme. It may interest you to know that we also offer residents, who do not get the garden collection service, a free compost bin to enable them to deal with their own green waste as effectively as possible. Alternatively, residents can bring their garden waste to Barrowell Green Recycling Centre. We do agree with you that sacks are not an ideal option but they can be recycled and will only be provided to residents where it is absolutely necessary.

By way of background, the decision to introduce wheeled bins has been based on research against other Boroughs where waste sent to landfill or incineration has decreased and recycling rates have increased. Also on the evidence gathered from an extensive 10 month trial in Enfield.

A survey was also conducted specifically focused on small fronted properties. The results were overwhelmingly in favour of the bins with 83% of respondents either very satisfied or satisfied with the new service.

We also provide free assisted collection to any household where all residents have difficulty moving bins due to ill health or frailness. This means that our collection crews will move the bins from an agreed spot in the garden empty them and then return them to the same spot. Hence the resident will not need to move the bins at all.

Wheeled bins are now the most popular form of waste container in the UK and most Local Authorities see large increases in resident satisfaction levels once the bins are introduced despite some initial concerns from householders.

The introduction of wheeled bins will help us to make Enfield a cleaner, greener, sustainable Borough. The new service will allow residents to store waste more easily, recycle more and improve the standards of cleanliness in the Borough. Independent studies in the pilot zone showed that litter has decreased by 60%.

Whilst I realise that you may still have reservations regarding sacks and wheeled bins, when you do receive one of the new collection methods, I would encourage you to make the full and best use of the scheme.

In view of the reasons set out above, the Council is unable to adopt the measures sought in your petition, but I hope that the information provided explains the rationale behind this decision.