

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2017
title: WHALLEY DOG WASTE TRIAL
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the success of the trial of dog waste collection from litter bins by refuse staff.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources in the provision of parking.

2 BACKGROUND

In September 2015 a trial was initiated, at Members behest, of the public using litter bins to deposit their bagged dog waste and then be collected by the refuse department as part of their normal rounds.

This scheme is not intended to replace the existing systems that are in place for dog bins.

24 litter bins were used all around the Whalley area. Children play areas did not form part of the trial.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Concerns were originally expressed about the difficulties in cleaning the Refuse Collection Vehicles and the increased threat to the health and safety of the refuse loaders handling the mixed waste.

Concern was also expressed about the location of the litter bins being used for the trial. The concern was the smell from the bins and the potential proximity of the bins to food outlets, playgrounds and seating areas.

Furthermore the above would depend upon the temperatures of the summer weather and the number of times the bins were emptied.

4 Conclusion:

There were very few complaints from the refuse crews about collecting the mixed waste and the cleaning of the vehicles was less onerous and hazardous than was at first thought.

There were no complaints from the public about the mixed waste being in litter bins or indeed any smells emanating from them.

However, the trial did take place over a particularly poor summer and therefore it is considered the trial did not give a true representation of the situation.

4. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

Resources – None

Technical, Environmental and Legal – None

Political – None

Reputation – None as other district councils have adopted this way of working or are in the process of adopting it.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Extend the trial to cover another summer in an attempt to obtain the true implications of the proposal.

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REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 11.10.16