

Changes to your recycling and rubbish services autumn 2017

Introduce ourselves and explain that this is an initial briefing and we will be back with more details as the plans progress. Explain that we may have to take some of their questions away and feedback at future meetings.

What is changing?

In July the Council approved plans to make changes to your recycling and rubbish collection service.

Starting in the autumn of 2017 we will give you and your residents a wheeled 140 litre bin for your rubbish which we will collect every other week. We realise that one size does not fit all so in a small number of cases where a 140 litre wheeled bin is not suitable for the property, or family situation we may provide a larger bin or a gull-proof sack to contain rubbish for collection - we have already introduced these successfully in some areas to help tackle the problem of gulls scavenging rubbish bags and making a mess in our streets.

Collection days may change as we will need to redesign the routes for our vehicles.

What is staying the same?

We will collect food waste and recycling every week as we do now, and in addition are very happy to provide extra containers to help you recycle more. If you subscribe to our garden waste collection we will also continue to collect this every other week.

Why are we introducing the changes?

1. To keep our streets cleaner

Containing rubbish in a bin or bag will prevent animals and birds ripping open bags and making a mess which is unpleasant for everyone and costs us to clear up.

2. To recycle more

We have a very comprehensive recycling collection where you can already recycle 17 different types of household waste every week. We know that our residents can recycle more than they are currently doing – about 75% of a household's waste can be recycled using the current collections but we still find that over half of an average rubbish bag consists of items that could have been recycled. Our local research shows that if you recycle all you can you will still have space left in your rubbish bin when collected every other week.

Show bin (and how 3 bags will fit in) and gull proof sack. Also show 3 ways you can use to contain your food waste in the caddy – compostable liners, wrap in newspaper (fish and chips style) and everyday plastic bags).

The change will help to encourage everyone to use their food recycling collection – only about 50% of households currently use this. 30% of the waste in black sacks currently is food.

3. To save money

Every lorry load of waste costs £1000 to dispose of whilst every lorry load of recycling earns an income of £100, so reducing the amount put out as rubbish is essential.

We want to continue to provide a first class collection service with one of the most comprehensive recycling services in the country, but we are also dealing with reductions in funding from national government.

Timescales

We are still in the planning stages for introducing these changes and we will need time to procure new vehicles and plan the operational changes.

2017

January/February – we will write to let you and your residents know whether you will receive a standard 140 rubbish bin or gull-proof sack (our research has already shown that over 80% of homes should be suitable to receive a standard 140 litre bin). If residents feel they will struggle with the type of bin, they can contact us and we will provide advice over the phone, and we can send someone to assist and to determine the best solution if they meet criteria for requiring more space.

During the **spring and summer** we will be organising plenty of road shows, talks to community and resident groups and door knocking, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Our ‘bin doctors’ can visit homes to give one-to-one advice and support. We will also be providing an extensive publicity campaign with updates through our website, news releases, Connect magazine, weekly council emails, community newsletters, and social media.

We will send a leaflet around 6 weeks before the bin or gull-proof sack is delivered with more information and confirmation of collection day.

Autumn (dates tbc)

The bin will be delivered with a full instruction pack, advising the date the new collection starts and a calendar to show forthcoming collection dates for the year.

We need your help to get everyone ready for the change – 3 steps to better recycling.

The main message is to start now – try to get into the habit of recycling as much as you can so that when the new bins arrive, residents are already going to be prepared and find it simple to manage.

1. Recycle more – find out what you can recycle including the things you may not regularly throw away such as batteries and small electricals. You can order an additional green box for free from Council Connect to help you – mix cans and squashed plastic together in one box and paper and glass etc in the other.
2. Start using, or make better use of your food recycling bin – don’t put any food scraps in your rubbish. Help spread the word that you can now use plastic bags in your kitchen caddy.
3. Make sure you put your recycling out by 7am on your collection day only and bring your empty containers back in to keep our streets tidy.

You can find out more at www.bathnes.gov.uk/recycle - regular updates will be provided as we confirm more details.

Please get in touch if you know of any community groups/meetings you would like us to visit, any community events where we may be able to hold a road show or other ways you could help us get all of our residents ready for the change. Contact wastecampaigns@bathnes.gov.uk

Any questions?