

## FIONA CARNIE

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I would like to talk to you about the Council's proposals for changing the arrangements for refuse collection. In Rockliffe Road in Bathwick we have been told that we will all be allocated wheeled bins and myself and many neighbours are unhappy about this. A number of residents have requested black gull proof bags and have been told that we cannot have them.

I have carried out a survey of those terraced houses in Rockliffe Road that do not have access to their back gardens and out of 28 such houses, 13 - **almost 50%** - have registered their strong opposition to the proposals. Opposition is based on the following reasons:

- There is little room in our front gardens for a wheeled bin
- It is not easy to wheel the bin through the house to store at the back (as has been advised by officers)
- The street will look ugly if there is a bin in every front garden
- We do not believe that the scheme will increase recycling.

I forwarded the results of the survey to Bath-based Councillors and 5 have responded to me that they also object to the scheme, and that a number of residents in their areas have also objected.

The Council says that they have consulted on their plans – but we do not recall any such consultation. In fact a number of households have not received letters about the change. At least one household received an incorrect letter from the Council telling them they had been allocated a re-useable bag. This mistake only came to light as a consequence of our joint activity on this issue. How many other Bath households have either not received letters at all or received incorrect letters and so have not registered their opposition to the scheme?

**I should say that we fully support the Council's aim to encourage recycling, but it is unclear how the new arrangements will achieve this.** Instead it will make it easy for people just to fill up their bins. I was informed yesterday by the Director of Environmental Services that two households in the road have requested larger bins and that this request has been agreed. If the Council is serious about increasing recycling rates surely such requests should be turned down.

We also feel that significant natural resources will go into the manufacture of such bins. At a time when there is so much in the media about the need to reduce plastics, Bath should be leading the way in finding alternatives to plastic.

So, as you can see, there is considerable opposition to the plans in Rockliffe Road with a number of residents remaining adamant that they will not use a wheeled bin. We have been told that there is similar opposition in other areas. If wheeled bins are delivered against our wishes there are plans to dump them at the Guildhall.

**Nobody has explained why we cannot have a choice of bin or bag - and that is what we are asking for.**

Below are some of the responses received from neighbours in Rockliffe Road:

*I am not happy with this situation since I recycle a great proportion of my waste, live in a mid terrace house with no side access and do not want a larger than I need wheelie bin in my front garden.*

*I live in an inside terrace with no back entry, I have 5 steps up from the garden to my rear door, carpeted breakfast room & then 5 steps into the carpeted hall, then 2 steps to the front path, I shall be 84 when the changes take place, I will not drag a wheeled bin from my rear garden, nor will I leave a bin in my front garden. I require AND will get a refuse bag.*

*We oppose these plans and we did not know anything about it.*

*I and my husband disagree strongly with the proposals and would prefer to use a reusable rubbish bag*

*I suddenly have been allocated a wheelie bin when the letter of 9th March 2017 from the Council clearly stated that I was being given a 140 litre re-usable rubbish bag.*

*I have not received any letter informing me of these changes – but I am completely against them. I do not want a bin as we don't have very much rubbish*

*Surely the Council is not going to go ahead with this. It is madness and I do not want a bin. I don't have space for it.*

*It is such a waste of money and precious resources to be forcing bins on people who don't want them. Re-useable bags are much less resource-intensive.*

*In a city as beautiful as Bath I don't understand why the Council hasn't come up with a more imaginative solution.*