

Geoff Raw  
Chief Executive Office  
Brighton and Hove City Council  
Hove Town Hall  
Norton Road  
Hove, BN3 3BQ

25 September 2019

**LETTER TO ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Dear Geoff,

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting of 08 October 2019.

For many years Councillors have received complaints about wheelie bins that are being left out on the pavements permanently, and thus blocking the footpaths. Often this narrows the pavements to a point where wheelchair users and people with pushchairs are unable to use the footpath, forcing them to move onto the street. This is an equality and a safety issue on a city-wide level.

Wheelie bins should be moved to the front of a property on the day the rubbish is collected and should be taken back onto the property as soon as possible after the collection has taken place.

I do acknowledge that wheelie bins cannot be stored on the property in every case. However, many properties have a space to store their wheelie bin safely and should therefore use it.

The only action Cityclean is currently taking to remediate this problem is to write letters to households who leave their bins on the pavement, reminding them to clear their bins from the pavement after collection day. Unfortunately, this has little to no effect. When one of the residents in my ward contacted Cityclean to ask for further action, she was told that Cityclean is unable to take further action against repeat offenders. Cityclean does not enforce this or charge any penalties against any offenders.

I ask the Members of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee to discuss options to improve the situation, so that people with and without disabilities can use the city's pavements.

Other Councils across the UK have already policies and procedures in place to deal with this problem. Some Councils put stickers on wheelie bins, reminding residents to take their bins back in after collection day. Other Councils issue fines to repeat offenders (e.g. Gwynedd Council & Nottingham Council) or remove bins that are blocking the pavement (e.g. in Fenton, Cobridge and Hanley), returning them for a fee.

I ask the members of this Committee to explore options, such as stickers on bins or a council-organised campaign, to encourage residents to take in their wheelie bins after collection day. Since not every resident is able to move their bins off and back onto their property, I also feel that there is a need to promote services like assisted collections so that residents are aware they exist and can make use of them if needed.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Marianna Ebel  
Goldsmid Ward