

Subject:	Communal Refuse Collection in Hanover, Elm Grove and The Triangle Areas		
Date of Meeting:	6th February 2013		
Report of:	Director of Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jan Jonker	Tel: 29-4722
	Email:	jan.jonker@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	Hanover & Elm Grove/ St Peters & North Laine/ Queens Park		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Large parts of Hanover & Elm Grove and The Triangle Area consist of properties which have no frontage. These areas are unsuitable for wheelie bins as residents have no room to store them. Refuse is still collected in black sacks or in some instances 'Binvelopes'
- 1.2 Black sacks are often ripped open by wildlife scavenging for food resulting in litter strewn streets. While Binvelopes contain refuse they are not very user friendly as they require the resident to take them in through their house after refuse collection day. They have a limited life span compared to wheelie bins and are relatively expensive.
- 1.3 In October 2012 Environment & Sustainability Committee approved proposals to consult residents in parts of Hanover and the Triangle regarding proposals to install communal refuse bins. This report sets out the results of the consultation and makes recommendations based on the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the outcome of the consultation in the Hanover area which is inconclusive. Recommendations for this scheme will be brought to a later committee meeting pending the outcome of a public meeting.
- 2.2 That the Committee approves the implementation of communal refuse collection in the Lewes Road Triangle area as set out in Appendix 3, with the exception of Park Crescent and Park Crescent Terrace.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In Hanover and Elm Grove refuse is collected in black refuse sacks, or to a lesser extent contained in 'Binvelopes'. Most properties do not have storage for a wheelie bin. Refuse sacks are prone to being ripped open by wildlife even when put out on the correct collection day. Split sacks result in litter strewn streets.
- 3.2 Binvelopes are collapsible containers that will hold two refuse sacks. They should be put out on collection day and taken back in by the resident after collection. They are not very user friendly and many residents don't like to bring them back indoors as they tend to get dirty. They are not particularly robust and have a much shorter life span than wheelie bins.
- 3.3 Because of the problems with refuse sacks in Hanover, Binvelopes have been trialled in a few streets over a period of time. They have not been particularly successful at containing refuse for the reasons set out above.
- 3.4 Communal refuse containment has been trialled on small scale in Coleman Street and Washington Street in Hanover and in Park Crescent Road in The Triangle. The trials, which were established with the help of the Hanover LAT and The Triangle LAT, have been in place for approximately a year and informal feedback has been positive.
- 3.5 In light of the positive response to the trials Environment & Sustainability Committee granted permission to consult on communal refuse containers in October 2012. The consultation has now been completed and the results are set out below.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Methodology

- 4.1 Early consultation took place with ward councillors and local residents groups who were supportive of the proposals to consult. Consultation documents were sent out to households in the streets that were being considered for communal refuse containers. The information contained details about the proposed scheme, including bin locations and sought views from residents about the principles of the scheme and on proposed bin locations. People were able to respond by returning hardcopies or completing the consultation on line. An exhibition was held in both areas to enable residents to meet officers to ask any questions they might have. The consultation ran for a period of four weeks and closed on the 3rd December 2012.

Consultation Outcome - Hanover

- 4.2 The area consulted is shown in Appendix 1 and Consultation Report is attached as Appendix 2. Consultation documents were sent out to 1,367 households and 605 responses to the consultation were received, a response rate of 44%. In addition a number of petitions against the scheme were submitted within the consultation time-frame. The petitions, with a total of 414 signatures against communal bins, were noted but were not included in the overall consultation response.

- 4.3 The headline results were that 48% (292 respondents) of respondents preferred communal bins, 46% (280 respondents) were not in favour of communal bins. 5% stated they had no strong view either way and 1% was returned with no response. The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed bin locations (50%) whereas 40% disagreed. 10% stated they either had no strong view or did not respond. If residents disagreed with the proposals they were asked why they disagreed. The main reason for disagreeing was concern over loss of parking followed by concern that the bins were not in keeping with the surroundings of the street.
- 4.4 The consultation results are not conclusive either way to inform any decision about the scheme at this stage. Following discussions with ward councillors letters will be sent to all residents informing them of the outcome of the consultation. The letters include proposed changes to the scheme as a result of the consultation and photos showing the exact location of proposed bins. The letters will invite residents to a public meeting to discuss the scheme in more detail. Recommendations will be brought back to this Committee following the public meeting.

Consultation outcome Lewes Road Triangle Area

- 4.5 The area consulted is shown in Appendix 3 and the Consultation Report is attached as Appendix 4. Consultation leaflets were sent out to 1,154 households in 18 roads and 225 responses were received (a response rate of 19%). 51% of respondents were in favour of the scheme with 44% wanting to keep the existing collections. The remainder had no strong view either way or did not respond. The majority of respondents (51%) agreed with the proposed bin locations, 39% disagreed. Concerns about bins being too far away and concerns about loss of parking were raised the most frequently, by 20% of respondents. 16% of respondents felt the scheme was not in keeping with the surroundings of their street.
- 4.6 In response to the consultation it is proposed that the scheme is implemented. However it is recommended that Park Crescent and Park Crescent Terrace are excluded for the following reasons:
- The majority of properties do have storage room for a bin to the front of their property
 - Existing parking arrangements have caused access problems for the emergency services in the past. The proposed bin locations could add to the access problems.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The costs of the consultation have been met from the Communications budget, and any costs associated with implementation of the communal refuse collection in the Lewes Road Triangle area will be met from within existing City Clean revenue budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw

Date: 07/01/2013

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The council has powers to specify and provide the types of receptacles to be used for depositing waste for collection and may also require particular locations, including the highway, to be used. There are no adverse Human Rights Act implications to be taken into account.

In carrying out consultation the Council is under a general duty to ensure that any consultation is fair. This means that it must be carried out when proposals are being formulated, that adequate time and information about proposals must be given to consultees to ensure that they can provide a proper response, and that any consultation responses must be properly considered in reaching the decision.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 14/01/13

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Communal refuse collection has been assessed through the Equalities Impact Assessment process. Refuse collection services need to be easily accessible to all residents and assisted collections would be provided to residents who struggle to use the communal refuse bins if the scheme is implemented. Residents on an assisted collection have their refuse collected from their property an allocated day of the week.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Based on experience elsewhere in the city communal refuse collection will result in significantly improved street cleanliness.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no implications for crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Communal collections are tried and tested in the city. If the scheme is rolled out in response to the consultation the risks are considered to be low.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Containment of refuse will significantly reduce wildlife scavenging for food and will improve street cleanliness.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 None

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Options for refuse containment in this area are limited. Binvelopes have been trialled but have not been very successful for reasons set out in the body of this report.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations are based on the outcome of the consultation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Hanover: List of streets consulted and map of area
2. Hanover: Consultation Report
3. Triangle and Lewes Road List of streets consulted and map of area
4. Triangle and Lewes Road: Consultation Report

