

Muswell Hill Area Forum 12.01.2012

Agenda Item 1.b. Fortnightly non-recyclable Rubbish Collections

In response to a presentation from Veolia and Haringey officers 'Changes to the Waste Collection Service', available on the Committee website, the following are informal notes on questions and issues raised:

The Chair paraphrased three emails she had received on this topic from people who could not attend the Forum: two opposed to the introduction of fortnightly collection of non-recyclables and one asking about provisions for smelly waste.

Q: How much money will be saved?

A: £900,000 per annum - £300,000 on operational costs, £600,000 on reduced landfill charges

Q: How do you measure increase in recycling?

A: Results of recycling measured by weight and not volume

Q: Is this all part of the Veolia contract?

A: Fortnightly is part of the contract with Veolia

Q: "Can't see fortnightly working, especially with HMO's"

A: Property audit will have identified HMOs

Statement from Resident: "Long time coming; excellent idea"

Q: "What about smelly waste?"

A: Food waste will be collected weekly. Other smelly waste should be double wrapped.

Q: Can we still use green boxes?

A: Green boxes can be kept by residents but they won't be collected - it is bins or bags

Q: "our large front garden is blocked with bins."

Q: "Really worried about environment with doubling of wheelie bins; small households won't need these bins"

A: Just let us know and we can look at bags

A: We will try to provide smaller bins for certain households - just let us know.

Q: "We tried putting out kitchen waste but fox gets it. Why not maintain weekly service?"

A: Use the big green food bin and close it effectively and this will stop foxes.

Q: Can bones be recycled?

A: Bones can now form part of food waste, collected weekly

Q: Are there smaller bins for both types of rubbish?

A: Contact us if you need a smaller bin

Q: "I live in a shared house with four very large wheelie bins already. What about HMOs that don't look like HMOs?"

A: Let us know if this is the case.

Statement from Resident: "There was no question about fortnightly in the 2009 survey; there was no consultation on introducing these service changes."

A: There was no specific question on the consultation on fortnightly collection, and there has been no further consultation since decisions were made

Q: Are the bags recyclable/reusable?

A: Good idea - We will come back on that

Statement from Resident: "The amount of food we waste is a serious problem for sustainability. We should: Use less packaging; Do more composting; Throw away less food"

Statement from Resident of apartment block: "The service for us is not good and already there is no food collection."

A: All blocks of flats get dry recycling but not food waste. There are no plans to introduce food waste collection for blocks of flats, but would hope to extend in future. Would need to do a pilot first. Collections for flats, the same as now

Q: What is collected in fortnightly?

A: Anything non-recyclable (this includes nappies)

Statement from Resident: This is unhygienic.

Q: I am a keen recycler and 55 litres is inadequate. But all those wheelie bins will be unsightly and might not get put back in gardens. And what is to happen about the different types of plastic?

A: With 240 litre bins, going in to 21,000 properties, try it for a few weeks and if not happy contact us and we will work very hard to get a solution

A: We have to be careful about what we recycle. The range of plastics has increased to food trays. We are working with NLWA on what can and can't be included

Statement from Councillor: We need to move towards recycling glass back into glass and not roadfill. What about carbon savings? If glass was correctly recycled and collected as glass this would help.

Statement from Resident: Conservation areas need flexibility, both for startup and for reviewing the system. We have contacted Veolia about bags but are waiting to hear from them.

Q: Will you give us labels on bins to say if you want a smaller bin contact this number?

A: It's about capacity, not aesthetics.

Q: Can we request smaller bins in advance?

A: We will tell people they can have smaller bins in the letter we are sending out before delivering the bins

Q: "Savings of £600,000 pulled out of the air."

A: Calculation based on difference in waste charges: £90 per tonne for landfill; £40 per tonne for recycled waste

Q: Why is Haringey not taking up some of the funding being offered by the Government to keep up a weekly service?

A: It costs far more to revert from fortnightly to weekly; Haringey is dealing with this though London Councils