



Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

07 July 2023

Cllr Sarah Conboy, Leader HDC

Concerns Regarding Green Bin Charge Announcement

Houghton and Wyton Parish Council (HWPC) are writing to express concerns about the recent announcement made in the Hunts Post by the Joint Administration on the intention to make Green Bins a subscription only service.

Our initial thoughts were that this was part of a wider environmental strategy which we have been consulted on, but having watched the O&S Joint Committee meeting from 6 July, it was made clear this is purely a financial decision.

Though there have been numerous consultations on matters such as EV chargers there has been none on this matter with us, a tier of local government, who will have direct impact from it, or more importantly our residents.

Areas that were lightly touched on last night without deep analysis or support and which we would like greater understanding of are as follows:

Environmental

Both HDC and HWPC have recently recognised a climate emergency. Therefore, will there be a thorough assessment to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the proposed scheme?

This assessment should consider factors such as additional journeys by residents to dispose of waste, the potential increase in vermin from waste and compost sites, and the risk of larger methane emissions from landfill sites due to the inclusion of garden and food waste in black bins.

Furthermore, we kindly request details on the evaluation of the current bin lorry trips compared to the proposed changes, with a focus on efficiency and potential environmental implications. Added to the above, we would like you to address the practical implications mentioned, for example policing the sharing of bins, managing queues at waste disposal sites etc.



Cost of living

However you brand this, it is a major tax hike (on those who choose to pay) and a regressive tax being a fixed one-off fee, irrespective of property size. Considering the financial impact on residents, we want to understand what assessment has been taken to evaluate potential discounts or exemptions for vulnerable groups. This includes elderly residents, those in lower band housing, individuals living alone, and occupants with complex needs.

Alternative plans and modeling tolerances

The meeting yesterday gave some examples of other councils and impacts on CO₂ and composting. Please can you reference your sources and calculations behind those arguments given to justify the positive outcomes you claim.

What alternatives were looked at to address the financial situation – such as One Leisure or the Commercial Property portfolio?

In the modeling, you have made some bold assumptions of take up, use of technology to mitigate fly tipping and environmental impact – what tolerances have you taken for worst case and best-case scenarios and how will you deal with them if your assumptions are incorrect in practice?

Yours sincerely

Miss Lois Dale

Clerk, On behalf of Houghton & Wyton Parish Council

Cc: Cllr L Davenport-Ray
Cllr S Ferguson
Cllr M Hassall
Cllr B Mickelburgh
Cllr B Pitt
Cllr T Sanderson
Cllr S Taylor
Cllr S Wakeford
Democratic Services, HDC
Houghton & Wyton Parish Councillors