

Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership – 6th March 2017

Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership – 23rd March 2017

Report from Bristol Waste Company

Summary and Recommendation

This report updates Neighbourhood Partnerships on the Stapleton Road recycling and refuse collection pilot project that both meetings considered in October 2016.

Following the 12 week pilot project Bristol Waste Company's (BWC) recommendation is that the communal bins in the pilot area are not reintroduced and the collection methodology used during the pilot is now adopted for the longer term. Bristol Waste will, however, keep the frequency and methods of collection under review.

Background

Working in partnership with Bristol City Council (BCC) and local communities, BWC removed 164 communal bins from the pilot area (Stapleton Road and 34 surrounding streets) in October last year. 1000 households were put on a regular, fortnightly refuse bin and weekly recycling box collection where their properties allowed for this. In other cases (c400) properties a three times a week (Monday/Wednesday and Friday) bagged waste collection was offered. This applied largely to properties above shops and where there is no storage for bins and boxes.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project was to respond to complaints and issues raised by elected members and residents of the area mainly around fly tipping near communal bins and generally poor waste management in the area. These issues were seen to be contributing to a poor street scene. There were also suggestions that some traders were abusing the communal street bins and perhaps did not have appropriate commercial waste contracts in place. BCC's Enforcement team undertook to support BWC in assessing the situation.

BWC was also keen to increase the recycling rates in the area and move towards a unified service that reflected the offer in place across the rest of the city.

Supporting Actions

BWC has committed significant time and resource to supporting the project. Residents have all received written communications explaining the pilot in detail and offering advice on how to recycle where appropriate. The company hired in specialist support in terms of a community worker able to speak Somali to work with that particular section of the local community. His work has included ongoing liaison with traders as well as residents. There have been two drop in sessions in the local area which encouraged landlords, residents and business owners to come and give their thoughts and feedback on the pilot. Information has been shared on BWC's website and social media.

The company has been supported by BCC’s Enforcement team who have been visible in the area. At the start of the trial BWC was clearing illegal fly tipping from the area on a daily basis. During the trial we decided to draw attention to the scale of the problem by leaving the waste and sticking the bags. Enforcement officers subsequently searched the stickered waste for evidence and the results of that are shown below.

Outcomes

Headline figures (as at end January) from the trial are below:

Service	Pre Trial	Post-Trial	Change
Recycling	7.14	8.70	21.8%
Refuse	25.30	14.66	-42.0%
Recycling Rate	28%	59%	110.2%
	During Initial Trial Weekly average	With Education & Enforcement weekly average	
Street Cleansing	6.3	3.86	-38.7%

Enforcement figures for trial period:

62 notices served on individuals on how to present waste

16 Fixed Penalty Notices on individuals

35 ongoing investigations on domestic properties

8 Fixed Penalty Notices on businesses

7 businesses being investigated

Summary and Recommendation

The trial has generated mostly positive feedback from local residents who report that the streetscene is improved by the removal of the communal bins. Some residents from neighbouring streets have asked that we consider expanding the area of the trial. The increased recycling rates are heartening as is the reduced residual waste. Enforcement officers continue to make inroads in to the issue of commercial waste from traders on Stapleton Road.

Taking all these factors in to account BWC recommends that the new collection methodology is adopted for the longer term in this area. Bristol Waste will, however, keep under review the three times a week collection frequency with a view to potentially reducing this to twice a week as residual waste levels continue to decrease. In due course, we will also review the ongoing provision of the free of charge grey refuse bags that we have been providing to participants in the trial.