

**Fordingbridge Town Council's response to
New Forest District Council's Draft Waste Strategy
December 2020**

Introduction

This response is submitted alongside a response from a local resident, property owner and developer in Fordingbridge. Fordingbridge Town Council is in agreement with these views on this subject - please see page 2 of this report.

Summary

Fordingbridge Town Council supports the introduction of a weekly food collection. FTC supports increasing recycling rates by increasing the range of items that can be recycled. FTC opposes the introduction of wheelie bins. Option 3 would be the preferred option of the four presented.

Food Waste

Fordingbridge Town Council supports a weekly collection of food waste and is pleased that all four options provide this service. This would seem to be the thing that reduces residual waste the most and could be done alongside the system we have at present.

Recycling

FTC is in favour of increasing recycling rates. Fordingbridge Town Council would like NFDC to recycle a greater range of items and to offer this increase in service as soon as possible. Increased recycling could be achieved by NFDC offering facilities to recycle more materials using the current bags. Most other councils will recycle more forms of plastic and other materials than NFDC. The work by Fordingbridge Greener Living (a local environmental group) has shown that residents will recycle more waste if the facility is available. Greater clarity in what can and what can't be recycled by NFDC is requested.

Wheelie bins

Fordingbridge Town Council opposes the introduction of wheelie bins for the following reasons:

- Appearance – unsightly around the streets and in the countryside, not an attractive addition to any area, in fact they can be an eyesore.
- Storage – many properties, especially in the town centre, have insufficient storage space for wheeled bins. Areas with flats have to incorporate lots of bins and those above High Street properties would or could cause real disruption.
- Access – some properties have no side access and residents may struggle to get the bin to the front of the property.
- Vulnerable people - People who use a walking aid to help put out their rubbish would not manage and so the bin would permanently be left in the front garden. This is not a good look and may also make someone aware that a vulnerable person might live there.
- Narrow pavements - our pavements are not wide enough in many places for day to day use, without adding bins into the mix. If wheelie bins are used, even where they can be put away, they will often be on the street for 24hours, residents who are out at work cannot retrieve them until the end of the day.
- In their favour, wheeled bins may cut down the number of rodents, especially in areas close to food outlets.

NFDC Waste Strategy Options

Of the four options available, Option 3 was preferred as it is cheaper than the other options. It was noted however that this option requires residents to sort rubbish, and while the majority can and will do this, it only takes a few not to comply and the rubbish is contaminated.

Further comments

FTC would like to know whether there will be a requirement for monitoring or control over residents' waste and recycling habits?

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Local Resident's response to the Draft Waste Strategy

As a resident, property owner and developer in Fordingbridge with a family history of over 250 years building and developing in the Town, I write to express my extreme concern over some elements of the proposed Waste Strategy Plan.

Whilst fully aware of the need to recycle as much as possible and at minimal cost we have to weigh up the negatives of introducing wheelie bins and other collection containers to a Town like Fordingbridge, in particular the Town Centre conservation area.

As a family and a Company we have spent many years trying to support the Town in how it looks and thrives. I believe it currently looks the best it has done for a long time.

We are now talking about introducing an army of wheelie bins that will visually blight the Town.

I list the following detriments and concerns.

- *There are numerous off-street developments in the town.*
- *There are numerous residential properties above many of the retail premises in Town.*
- *Most of these do not have space or anywhere to store such bins.*
- *On a collection day an army of bins will appear on the pavements.*
- *Our pavements are non-existent in places and we are already warning drivers and pedestrians of our inadequate pavements.*
- *The collection bin lorries will take longer to empty these bins as everyone has to be attached to the vehicle to empty. There will be more traffic delays at peak times.*
- *These bins will be put out in the evening before collection day and with people at work or not getting round to it the bins will still be on the pavement a day later.*
- *Once bins are emptied by the bin men they will still be there but with the bag system it is done and finished in one go.*

I note with interest the recent signs on the approach roads into Town and in Town warning of the narrow pavements due to Covid etc. There will need to be signs saying 'Caution, pedestrians in the road, avoiding wheelie bins'.

This problem will be the same in many of the NFDC area towns.

I therefore urge Councillors to carefully assess these proposals as once it is done there will be no going back on the decision.

It would also be interesting to know whether NFDC Conservation Officers have been consulted over the proposals.