

LITTLE WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO
REFUSE COLLECTION QUESTIONNAIRE (DRAFT) September 2021

1) What is/are the specific problems with bins and refuse collection in **your** area.

The bins are often left out on the sidewalk and are often overflowing. It can be seen that the green bins are often filled with inappropriate waste. Formerly the bins were always at the back of the properties but now with houses being turned into flats this is not always possible leading to unsightly bins on the front streets on Clarendon Road, Kelso Road and Woodsley Road. Green bins not emptied frequently enough and left in an untidy fashion. Not cleared away after collection. The specific problem is bins being left on the street. I think bins on streets applies to ALL of the streets in LW. To my mind the operatives are as much to blame as anyone else since I believe they are on a 'job and finish' contract which means they are sloppy, since the faster they get the round done the quicker they can get home, or on to other jobs they hold. Overflowing green bins is a clear problem in Woodhouse Square and the Claremonts. The periods between green bin collection are so long that the bins are overfilled and spill onto the street causing littering.

The green bins always overturn when there are high winds.

When green bin collections do take place littering always follows when some of the contents blow away while being loaded into vehicles

Effectively as a result of all of the above the litterer is Leeds City Council.

Many bins are not replaced in gardens by owners especially in student areas like

Not enough green bins.

Most houses return bins to front gardens in my area, but this is not the case a few streets away.

Many bins have lost their lids – This leading to visits from rats and also causes the bins to fill with water, probably caused by the emptying mechanism on the rear of the wagons.

Hanover Square green bins are regularly over-flowing in term time with amazon boxes. Most of the green bin collections in this area have to be sent to Veolia for incineration as many residents don't use them correctly!

High proportion of annual tenants (not all students but local landlords also set short term tenancies for non-student tenants

Lack of storage / bin lorries unable to access back areas

Bins are permanently left out on the street

Green bins are contaminated with non recyclables

Overflowing bins cause litter and rats!!

In some areas no-one puts out or takes back their bins (except back Claremont Grove).

People do not understand what to put in green bins.

The unsightly

rows of bins create a poor impression of an important heritage area to new tenants setting a bad example to follow. Little Woodhouse is not a 'brown bin' area so people with gardens etc can't get a brown bin. The advice is to put the cuttings etc in bin bags and let the council know and they will try to collect, or take them to a recycling centre – neither practical for some people so cuttings etc end up in Black bins and they are sometime not emptied if operatives consider the bins to be full off cuttings etc, so how do we get a brown bin ?

- Bins left on streets
- Green bins not emptied frequently enough
- Contaminated green bins
- Bins (esp green bins) overturning in high winds and littering
- As green bins are being emptied, contents can blow away
- Not enough green bins
- Job and finish contract – who checks compliance ?
- Contamination of green bins

- Bins without lids
- Overflowing bins encourage rats and litter
- No access to Brown bins so grass cutting etc end up in black bins

2) How widespread do **you** think these problems are (ie what streets are affected) ?

We feel that this problem is only in student areas, eg, where there are 8 or 10 people who do not pay Council Tax living in the same household. Other areas of Leeds do not have this problem. Woodhouse Square is particularly bad – bins left in clusters. This applies particularly to Moorland Avenue, but I think also to St. John's Terrace. Belle Vue Road. Clarendon Road is another problem area. Mainly (but not exclusively) in the streets of Victorian Terraces and especially with HMOs. PBSAs tend not to be a problem as they have a commercial collection. **End of Back Claremont Grove** (a cul de sac untarmacked) – half of the houses are long-term occupiers so there is some regular putting out and return of bins to the end of the lane joining Claremont Avenue, but green bins misuse is common and the bins are also used by tenants from Hanover Square litter is a constant problem.

Bottom of Brandon Road (unadopted, setted but uneven surface) has a bad problem of litter, unofficial parking and use by street people – backs of Hanover Square – large number of tenants in these houses are supposed to take and collect their bins to the bottom of Brandon Road – so the bins either accumulate there and/or people put rubbish in Claremont bins. ***The row of bins greets the entrance to Hanover Square, one of city's Georgian Squares.***

Top side of Woodhouse Square – accumulation of bins often overflowing and blocking the whole pavement, forcing pedestrians into the road – presumably used by both Claremont Villas and Claremont Avenue (I think all of these are tenanted) The setted back lane between the two is left clear. ***This row of bins spoils the view of one of the city's Georgian Squares***

Claremont Avenue (lower)– gable end of 2Claremont Grove/Claremont View (a back to back block) has a permanent row of usually overflowing grey and green bins with mixed contents, typically blocking the whole pavement and forcing pedestrians into the road. Used by people in both sides of the block and by Claremont Avenue houses opposite. ***This is a hazard to pedestrians and a permanent eyesore, encouraging vermin and giving a negative impression of this heritage Victorian estate***

Back Claremont Terrace /Claremont Avenue – through back lane with setts, bins are left outside each backyard and emptied by bin lorry.

- Areas where student live in HMOs, esp Woodhouse Square, Moorland Avenue, St John's Terrace, Belle Vue Road, Claremont Avenue, Clarendon Road, Back Claremont Grove, bottom Brandon Road, .
- Mainly Victorian Terraces which have been converted to HMOs or student houses.

3) What are **your** preferred resolutions? (e.g. Should wheelie bins be replaced by a communal bin in a bin yard or do you have other suggestions) ?

A 'bin yard' is definitely not the answer in this district as I don't think people will use it. The apartment block to the rear of our house has one which tends to overflow all over the place at times. This bin yard sometimes becomes a tip and is definitely a place for vermin to gather, as would a communal one, probably to a worse extent. Stronger enforcement against landlords could be an answer (how many have been prosecuted?) A visit to the area two days before bin collection and two days afterwards to see if they are still there could probably work.)? Yes if possible or in back yard. Education of the residents. A lot are transient and therefore unaware of the 'rules' – Landlords should be encouraged to get their tenants to act responsibly. I'd be in favour of having large communal bins at the end of the street, though up to half-a-dozen bins might be required, given the density of population in

these two streets and the amount of household waste generated each week. The other option is to try a compromise system for a trial period, whereby the residents would still have to put their wheeled bins on the pavement for collection but the refuse collectors would return them to the properties. In theory this would almost eradicate the problem, apart from those residents who might get the day wrong and put their bins out too early in the week. Big bins at the bottom of the road collected as and when required for each area would save time, money and visual chaos as well as physical barriers on our pavements. As long as we have an itinerant community in our area, I don't believe it is possible to educate them on a rolling basis so they will never put out and put back bins when requested. The bins need to be more stable so they don't blow over. Design collection process so it does not lead to littering.

Refuse employees should collect bins from the back door and replace them there. Education and enforcement – needs to be face to face and with landlords, repeated annually. Including encouragement to generate less waste (with unions?) Remove all bins and agree a designated place for every household to keep their bin (their **own** backyard should be used). Where this is not possible (the six back to backs) agree an alternative. Eg a large bin to share between 3 houses. Or at least, remove all bins left out and obstructing pedestrian pathways. Removal of all green bins unless requested – supply lockable bins? Or communal recycling point(s) for the area, emptied regularly (like glass banks)

- Bin yards would not work (2 people)
- Bin yards might be the answer in some areas (4 people)
- Landlords to be responsible for their tenants re bins on pavements
- Refuse collectors return bins to residents properties
- Checks of the area to see if bins have been returned to properties
- More stable wheelie bins so they don't blow over and litter
- Collection process to include capturing rubbish that blows away during collection.
- Education to minimise green bin contamination
- Removal of bins obstructing pedestrian pathways
- Removal of surplus green bins
- Brown bins for those that need them, or clear policy on using black bins.

4).What would be **your** preferred frequency for collecting Black bins and for collecting green bins – if this aspect is an issue ?

Preferred collection - we would be quite happy to have a green bin collection once a month, a grey bin collection once a fortnight interspersed with a fortnightly brown bin collection. Black every two weeks Green every two weeks The answer is not to have more bins but more efficient use. I don't see collection frequency as an issue for us, so I'd stick with the weekly collections for the grey bins and fortnightly for the green. Weekly for all bins. Frequency of collection for Green and Black bins not a problem for me. A suggestion could black bin collection alternate with green bin? so then we have 2 collections a month of each bin. My black bin is nowhere near full each week.

- Not flagged as an issue by many, weekly for black bins OK
- Green bin collections not sufficient, but clear split between west of the area (sufficiency OK) and east, (not OK). Hanover Square mentioned as particular problem area. NOTE somebody suggested they had a fortnightly green bin collection - is this correct ?

5) What other issues do **you** believe rubbish bins and refuse collection cause us? (eg flytipping, collection of large items)

Fly tipping seems to be on the increase, especially in the back streets. Bins left the way they are give an uncared for ambience. Whether or not we had communal bins, I'd like to see a facility for the regular removal of items too large for normal collection, e.g. a small enclosure where furniture, cookers, etc. could be left for a weekly collection. This system seems to operate well in parts of Amsterdam. A phone call or email to wnwaction will get items collected but may be charged, which I think would be much better than having white goods and detritus stacked up on the streets. In Barcelona, if anyone leaves anything on the street, by the next morning it has invariably been magicked away as so many people there are into recycling, re using and re inventing goods. Sadly we haven't got to that yet, but perhaps one day... Have replied before to these issues before. Also besides the issues you raised I have another one that if bins are not full they seem to get left I have been in touch via facebook with this the reply was they are always emptied even half full ones I did reply to this and 'begged to differ' never got a reply. Flytipping has been very expensive for me because when the flytipping is on my land I have to pay for its removal. Coca cola, McDonalds etc should be subject to a tax covering the cost of their litter and its removal. A small number of properties have nowhere to leave a wheelie bin apart from the pavement. This includes a small number of properties on Clarendon Road (but NOT all), the through Terraces in the Claremonts and the properties on Belle Vue Road to the north of McColls corner shop on the east side of the road. Although these are a very small proportion of the properties in Little Woodhouse, if these are not resolved their wheelie bins will remain on the road and act as a bad example to others.

- Flytipping on the increase
- System for removing large objects (eg white goods etc)
- If bins are only half full, not always emptied but left.
- Small number of properties have nowhere to store wheelie bins off-street.

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