Litter & Dog Waste Bin Policy



Document Control

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- Author: Waste Projects & Compliance Officer
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1. Introduction

1.1. Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) has no legal duty to provide litter and dog waste bins, but it does have a duty to keep Council-owned land and public highways clear of litter and refuse as far as practicable. Following changes to the classification of various waste materials, dog waste can be put into litter bins, and disposed of in the same way.

1.2. Litter bins are provided, maintained, and emptied by Gravesham Borough Council as the primary means of controlling the litter or dog waste problems that many areas experience. There are approximately 800 litter and dog waste bins of various types across the borough.

1.3. Litter bins in the past, have been provided, maintained, and emptied as the main way of controlling the litter and dog waste problems that many areas experience. There are approximately 800 litter and dog waste bins of various types across the borough.

1.4. Whilst the Council is committed to providing sufficient litter bins to help discharge its responsibilities under the Environmental Act 1990, bins will be located in suitable areas where it can be demonstrated that a litter bin is required to would remedy a cleansing issue. All locations must be approved by the Street Cleansing Manager.

1.5. This policy helps to support Government advice in developing an integrated strategy for dealing with the problem of litter and cleanliness that includes defining standards and working in partnership with local communities.

1.6. This policy has been written to complement the Council's pledge to become a carbon neutral borough by 2030. The standards defined in the policy will support the public to be able to recycle as much of their litter on-the-go as possible. By having the appropriate number of litter bins with sufficient capacity in strategic locations, the efficiency of our Street Cleansing fleet can be optimised in order to reduce the number of vehicle journeys, further reducing our carbon footprint.

2. Purpose of Policy

2.1. The purpose of this policy is to detail how the Council will deal with:

- Requests for new litter bins
- Positioning of new litter bins
- Emptying and maintaining litter bins
- Replacing and removing existing litter bins
- Dual dog and litter bins
- Recycling on-the-go bins
- Large Park bins and bin housings
- Preferred style of litter bins
- Requests for temporary litter bins for community events

3. Requests for New Litter Bins

3.1. Bins will only be supplied, installed, maintained, or emptied if they are on land for which GBC has responsibility, or if the landowner employs the Council to empty the bins on their land. This includes streets, parks, and green spaces, but doesn't include private land such as schools.

3.2. All requests for new bins must be submitted using the online form (available at www.gravesham.gov.uk/keeping-gravesham-clean/litter-dog-bins). The request must demonstrate why there is the need for a litter bin in the location requested and detail the nearest alternative litter bin(s).

3.3. Gravesham Borough Council will carefully consider the suitability of the location of the requested litter bin. If the location is deemed to be unsuitable for reasons of safety (such as

stopping to empty a bin, proximity to housing, or installation difficulties) an alternative location may be suggested.

3.4. This policy does not suggest public consultation on the installation of bins in general. However, in some circumstances, consultation is recommended, such as when bins are proposed near houses.

3.5. Due to the costs of installing, maintaining and emptying bins, we will fully assess all requests for new bins using the criteria detailed below:

Site Survey:

A site survey will be completed and will consider:

- The suitability of the location including the need to reduce street clutter, particularly in more sensitive locations such as Conservation Areas and near to listed buildings.
- The scale of the litter or dog waste problem - will it make a positive impact on litter, or can this be addressed more efficiently in other ways e.g., by enforcement?
- The number and location of existing bins in the area.
- Accessibility for disabled people.
- The cost of installation.
- The costs for emptying the bin e.g., those in more remote areas can have disproportionate transport costs.
- The possibility of valid objections from neighbours.
- Whether the placement of a litter bin in the location may encourage behaviours such as rubbish dumping.
- The environmental impact of travelling to empty the litter bin.

Alternative Arrangements:

Possible alternatives, including:

- Changing the size / type of existing litter bins in the area (e.g., dog bin to dual dog and litter bin).
- Moving an existing under-used bin to a more appropriate location.

3.6. Where appropriate, litter bins with recycling facilities may be installed instead of, or in addition to, standard litter bins.

3.8. Bins will only be installed on sites which are safe and where there is a genuine need for a bin. We will not install bins on private land or in a location which may encourage the disposal of trade waste. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the collection and disposal of commercial waste.

4. Positioning of New Litter Bins

4.1. New free-standing bins should always be positioned out of the main line of travel or grouped with other existing street furniture, so that they do not present a collision hazard for vehicles, pedestrians, and people with sight loss, or reduce the usable width of the footway for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids or guide dogs.

4.2. New post-mounted bins should not protrude into circulation space as a cane or guide dog could collide with the bin.

5. Emptying & Maintaining Litter Bins

5.1. Bins will only be supplied, installed, maintained, or emptied if they are on land for which Gravesham Borough Council has responsibility, or if the landowner contracts the Council to empty the bins on their land.

5.2. Bins will be emptied on a frequency that will prevent them overflowing. Litter bins will be emptied at least once a week but will be emptied more frequently depending upon on their location and intensity of use. The frequency will also vary according to the time of year and for special events. Monitoring will ensure that the collection frequencies are sufficient.

5.3. All bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose and any graffiti on the litter bins will be removed when reported by Operatives or members of the public.

5.4. When a bin is damaged or stolen it will be replaced only if it meets the criteria above for new bins. Bins that have a history of constant vandalism will not be replaced and investigations will be carried out to identify the perpetrator.

6. Replacing and Removing Existing Bins

6.1. The Council will aim to improve the effectiveness of individual bins through a program of removal and replacement, using larger capacity bins where required or combining separate dog and litter bins into one.

6.2. We will continually monitor the usage of bins to determine their viability. Bins not being used or being used infrequently may be removed.

6.3. Where individual bins are repeatedly targeted with vandalism, a flexible approach to finding a suitable solution should be found. This may include using a different type of bin, moving the bin to a nearby location or removing the bin entirely.

7. Dual Dog & Litter Bins

7.1. There are more than 180 dog waste litter bins installed across the borough and dog owners are encouraged to use the dog waste bins where provided.

7.2. All dog and litter bins are collected by the same round for each area and the waste is taken to the same disposal point. It therefore serves no purposes to split this waste before collection.

7.3. Dog owners should be advised that dog waste in bags can also be put in any public litter bin, reducing the need for specific dog bins. There are many dog and litter bins in the district which have been located next to each other.

7.4. A review of bin locations could identify dog waste bins which could be removed and a dual-purpose bin with enhanced capacity installed nearby instead.

7.5. Specific dog waste bins will be focused on areas such as open spaces where dog walking is more common.

8. Recycling Bins

8.1. Much of the waste collected in litter bins could be recycled. The recycling of this waste will both benefit the environment but also reduce waste collection costs.

8.2. The Council will consider the installation of dual compartment recycling bins (one side recyclables the other for non-recyclables) in appropriate locations, such as in parks and leisure areas.

8.3. Appropriate signage will clearly mark which compartments of the bin should be used for which waste type. When Operatives empty the dual compartment recycling bins, if the recycling compartment is found to be contaminated then the waste will be rejected and will instead be disposed of as residual waste.

8.4. We will continually monitor the usage of street recycling bins to determine their viability. Street recycling bins that are consistently contaminated and mis-used may be removed and re-located to a more appropriate site.

9. Large Park Bins and Bin Housings

9.1. Where greater litter bin capacity is required, such as in leisure areas and open spaces with high footfall, larger 1,100-litre bins may be installed at entrances / exits in addition to pre-existing litter bins. This approach will ensure that leisure space users have ample litter bin capacity to dispose of their waste on-the-go.

9.2. Large park bins will be positioned on the periphery of footpaths so that they are out of the main line of travel, or are grouped with other existing street furniture, so that they do not present a collision hazard for people with sight loss, or reduce the usable width of the footway for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids or guide dogs.

9.3. The bins will be presented in housings to improve the appearance of the bins and to prevent the bins being used for the disposal of household waste in black sacks.

10. Preferred Style of Litter Bins

10.1. Where a request or requirement for a new bin has been deemed successful, a new bin will be installed. This bin will, as far as practicable, be a standard design and style which is consistent across the borough. Examples of the standard bin type and design can be seen in the images below:

10.1.1. Standard Street Litter Bins





Glasdon Plaza Litter & Dog Waste Bin

10.1.2. High Profile Area / Recycling ‘On-the-Go’ Bins:



Broxap Single Litter & Dog Waste Bin



Broxap Dual Litter & Dog Waste and Recycling Bin

10.1.3. Parks Litter Bins



Streetmaster Cardiff & Brecon Litter Bins

10.1.4. Dog Waste Bins



Melba Swintex Dog Waste Bin

10.2. To ensure ease of use by the vast majority of the general public, the litter bins used should be as accessible as possible for all users and so consideration of the height of litter bins will be made prior to procurement.

10.3. The litter bins should be colour contrasted to their surroundings while street recycling bins should use coloured apertures, which are shaped according to the different waste streams for ease of use by visually impaired persons.

10.4. There may be projects which require a different style of litter bin to match its surrounding, such as in playgrounds.

11. Requests for Temporary Litter Bins for Community Event

11.1. Temporary bins will be provided for community events in the borough, at the discretion of GBC, provided adequate notice is received to make the necessary arrangements.

11.2. This will usually be a minimum of 10-working days however, the Council is keen to promote sustainable events and every effort will be made to assist if a shorter notice period is given.

11.3. Should these events be held on land for which Gravesham Borough Council is responsible, the provision of a suitable number and style of recycling and litter bins will be provided, including emptying at appropriate intervals.