

Milly Southworth

From: Jane Pascoe Buchanan <Jane.PascoeBuchanan@cornwall.gov.uk> on behalf of Cllr Carol Mould <cllr.carol.mould@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2022 09:34
To: admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Update on public recycling banks

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

Dear Town Council

I am writing as you expressed an interest in the reinstatement of recycling banks in your community.

At last week's meeting of the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny meeting I reluctantly confirmed that, due to budget pressures and a duplication of services, we will not be offering to reinstate public recycling banks.

I know the decision not to support the reinstatement of recycling banks is disappointing for some, but we have to be pragmatic in the face of huge budget challenges and, as there is already a good service in place to collect recycling, cut our cloth accordingly.

Public recycling banks in car parks and other public spaces - most of which were removed at the end of last summer - duplicated the recycling service that the Council already provides and only accounted for 1% of Cornwall's total recycling. When the recycling banks were removed the banks were sold as scrap and recycled, many of them were very old. In order to reinstate the service, we would have to procure a new contract.

Residents are instead using the regular kerbside recycling collection service or taking their recycling to one of the fourteen Household Waste Recycling Centres which are open seven days a week.

As you know, the Council is facing unprecedented budget challenges and we have to use our limited resources wisely.

We already collect recycling direct from outside the homes of our residents as well as provide Household Waste Recycling Centres, open seven days a week.

Some businesses, including holiday lets, were using the recycling banks to dispose of their waste when they should be paying for commercial waste collection and not burdening local taxpayers.

In some cases, recycling banks were also a magnet for fly tipping and other unsightly littering.

However, although the Council cannot afford to reinstate recycling banks, we are of course willing to have conversations with local members and town and parish councils who may wish for advice and assistance in order to potentially deliver the extra service themselves or look at other solutions.

Communities who are keen to recycle more are asked to contact our Waste Service team who can provide them with support and assistance CornwallRecycles@cornwall.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Carol

Carol Mould
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Cornwall Council

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