

Three Rivers District Council Garden Waste Survey

Introduction

Due to reductions in Central Government grant, Three Rivers District Council is looking to make savings of £1.2 million over 2 years from its annual expenditure. This means that the Council has to either reduce its services, or the quality of them and/or introduce/increase charges. In order to minimise service reductions, a number of proposals are currently under consideration. One proposal would see garden waste reverting to a chargeable service (as it was until 2006). Before 2006, the Council collected garden waste in green 80 litre sacks and residents paid for each sack to be collected. The sacks were disposed of to landfill and not recycled.

The cost to the Council of disposing of garden waste is approximately £95 per household per year. In order to help meet the budget deficit, the Council is investigating a proposal to revert to a chargeable garden waste service to residents (albeit this time, the garden waste would be recycled and not go to landfill). The Council wants to understand the implications of this proposal to residents, including what methods customers would use to dispose of the garden waste and what proportion of residents would use a chargeable garden waste collection.

1. Do you have a garden?

- Yes
- No

2. How often do you put your garden waste bin out for collection (brown bin)?

- Fortnightly
- Monthly
- Every 6 weeks
- Every 2 months
- Less than once every 2 months
- Never

3. Why do you never put out your brown bin for collection (tick ALL that apply)?

Put it in the general waste collection (green bin)

Compost at home

Take the waste to the tip/recycling centre

Have a very small garden or no plants in the garden

Other (please specify)

4. How full is your garden waste (brown) bin at the fortnightly collection?

- Empty
- A quarter full
- Half full
- Three-quarters full
- Full bin
- Overflowing

5. Thinking about the amount of garden waste that you wish to put in your brown bin, do you consider your bin to be:...?

- Too small - need 2 bins
- About right
- Too big

6. How do you currently dispose of your garden waste (tick ALL that apply)?

In the garden waste collection (brown bin)

In the general waste collection (green bin)

Composting at home

At the tip/recycling centre

Other (please specify)

7. How often do you currently visit the tip/recycling centre with **garden waste**?

- Fortnightly
- Monthly
- Every 6 weeks
- Every 2 months
- Less than once every 2 months
- Never
- Don't know

8. Before Three Rivers District Council brought in free garden waste collections in 2006, how did you dispose of garden waste (tick ALL that apply)?

Using the chargeable garden waste sacks

In the general waste collection

Composting at home

At the tip/recycling centre

I did not live in the Three Rivers Districts prior to 2006

I did not have responsibility for garden waste disposal prior to 2006

I did not have garden waste to dispose of prior to 2006

I used other methods of garden waste disposal (please specify)

9. Under a new Council proposal, the collection of garden waste in the brown bin would cost approximately £35 per year (this equates to approximately £1.35 per fortnightly collection). To put this in context, the cost to the Council for disposing of garden waste is approximately £95 per household per year. In order to manage the Government budget cuts, how reasonable or unreasonable do you feel it is to charge for garden waste removal?

Very reasonable

Reasonable

Unreasonable

Very unreasonable

Please provide any comments you wish relating to this question

10. How likely would you be to use the Council's garden waste service if this fee was implemented (£35 per year which equates to £1.35 per fortnightly collection)?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

Please provide any comments you wish relating to this question

11. If you would not use a chargeable Council garden waste service, how would you remove your garden waste (tick ALL that apply)?

In the general waste collection

Composting at home

At the tip/recycling centre

Don't know

Not applicable

Other (please specify)

12. The Council are proposing that if a second garden waste bin is collected then this would cost an extra £70 i.e. the total fee for **2 bins** would be **£105** in total **per year** (this equates to approximately **£4.04 per fortnightly collection**). How likely would you be to order a second brown bin if this fee was implemented?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

Please provide any comments you wish relating to this question

13. If you have any extra comments regarding the garden waste proposals, please use the space provided

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About you

14. Are you...?

- Male
- Female

15. How old are you?

- 16 to 24 years
- 25 to 34 years
- 35 to 44 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 65 to 74 years
- 75 years or over

16. How many people aged 16 or over live in your current home?

17. How many children aged under 16, if any, live in your current home?

18. Do you own or rent your current home?

- Own with a mortgage or loan
- Owned outright
- Rented from a Council, Housing Association or another Registered Social Landlord
- Rented from a private landlord
- Part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership)
- Living with others (e.g. living parents, grandparents or friends)
- Other (please specify)

19. Where do you live?

- Abbots Langley
- Bedmond
- Carpenders Park
- Chorleywood
- Croxley Green
- Eastbury
- Langlebury
- Leavesden
- Maple Cross
- Mill End
- Moor Park
- Oxhey Hall
- Penn
- Primrose Hill
- Rickmansworth
- Sarratt
- South Oxhey
- Other (please specify)

20. What is your ethnic group?

- White - British
- White - Irish
- White - any other white background
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Mixed - Any other mixed background
- Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian or Asian British background
- Black or Black British - Caribbean
- Black or Black British - African
- Black or Black British - Any other Black or Black British background
- Chinese
- Other ethnic group (please specify)

21. Are you currently employed, self employed, retired or otherwise not in paid work?

- An employee in a full-time job (30 hours or more per week)
- An employee in a part-time job (less than 30 hours a week)
- Self-employed (full or part time)
- On a government supported training programme (eg 'Modern Apprenticeship' or 'Training for Work')
- In full-time education at school, college or university
- Unemployed and available for work
- Permanently sick or disabled
- Wholly retired from work
- Looking after the home
- Doing something else? (please specify)

22. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

- Yes - limited a lot
- Yes - limited a little
- No

23. What is your total yearly household gross income (i.e. before tax deductions?)

- £0 up to £5199
- £5200 and up to £10,399
- £10,400 and up to £15,599
- £15,600 and up to £20,799
- £20,800 and up to £25,999
- £26,000 and up to £31,199
- £31,200 and up to £36,399
- £36,400 and up to £51,999
- £52,000 and above
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say