

Geoff Raw - Chief Executive
Brighton and Hove City Council

28 September 2017

Dear Geoff

We are submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting of 10th October 2017.

We write having spent the past two months knocking on doors in the Poets' Corner area of our ward following the roll-out of the new grey wheelie bins for recycling. Several themes and questions have arisen.

In the first instance, it is immediately clear that the bins are totally unsuitable for certain streets within the area. Houses on Stoneham Road, for example, are fronted by a narrow strip garden with waist-height walls along the pavement and knee-height walls along front paths. Some houses have steps. Where were residents expected to store these bins given that they are large, incredibly heavy when full and difficult to manoeuvre?

As the default bin is the larger size, tens of residents have requested a smaller replacement. However, few were aware of this option prior to our visits and of those who have requested a replacement, most waited for weeks (or are still waiting) for their new bin. Why was it not made clearer to residents that a smaller bin was available and why were preparations not made to cope with the inevitable swap requests?

Some residents have found it necessary to get rid of their grey wheelie bins entirely. They have been assured by City Clean that black boxes containing general recycling will still be collected in the usual way, as have we. However, arguments seem to be ongoing with operatives over whether or not black boxes will be emptied. Can we have a reassurance that black boxes will still be collected in the usual way, and confirmation that unwanted black boxes will be picked up soon?

Finally, some residents have taken little interest in the process to date and have simply left their new bins on the pavement without weighing consideration for pedestrians (or for the look and feel of the area generally). We have had many reports of obstructions including one report from a disabled wheelchair user who had to turn around and go all the way back to the bottom of a street because her way was blocked entirely. Pedestrians need the backing of City Clean in calling for pavements to be kept clear. What is the plan in that regard?

Thank you in advance for your response.

Cllr Robert Nemeth
Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn

