

Proposed Communal Recycling Containers Trial Consultation Report

Background

In October 2011 information leaflets and questionnaires were sent to addresses in 23 roads in the Brunswick and Adelaide ward of the city in order to ascertain levels of support for a trial of on-street communal recycling facilities.

Methodology

3274 questionnaires were sent out to 26 roads. A map showed the proposed locations of communal refuse bins, mixed recycling bins and glass recycling bins.

Headline results

Almost 87% of respondents would be willing to give the trial a go and just over 71% of respondents agree with the proposed locations of the communal recycling bins.

All 23 streets consulted showed the majority of households in favour of the trial. Even in streets with the lowest level of support, the vast majority of respondents are for the trial:

- Western Street (36.4% against/ 63.6% for)
- Upper Market Street (33.3% against/ 66.7% for),
- York Road (15.8% against/ 78.9% for), and
- Brunswick Street East (15.5% against/ 84.5% for).

Streets with highest levels of satisfaction with the proposed location of bins are Lansdowne Road (50%), Lower Market Street (43%) and Upper Market Street (33.3%).

Of those who don't agree with the proposed locations of bins, almost 50% of have concerns about loss of parking spaces. There is also a dichotomy between those who don't agree with the proposed location: 31.2% say the bins are too far from my house, yet almost 28% don't want the bins outside their house and looking at responses from different streets isn't helpful as, for example in Lansdowne Place: 8 people say they don't want the bin outside their house yet 11 say it is too far from their house (tables on p6 and 7).

Findings

In total 555 responses were received, 495 of these were completed questionnaires and 60 responses were received through web-site contact. This gives an overall response rate of 17%.

Comments have been grouped under twenty five headings. Topics were not mutually exclusive and some respondents listed a lot of issues, some had only one area of concern, some made no comment.

Response rates for each street were as follows:

	No. sent out	No. returned	Response rate (%)
Boundary Passage	1	0	0
Brunswick Place	510	87	17
Brunswick Road	305	49	16
Brunswick Street East	54	13	24
Cambridge Road	259	56	21.5
Cavendish Mews	5	1	20
Chapel Mews	23	4	17.4
Cross Street	26	6	23
Farm Road	126	25	20
Farman Street	23	5	22
Golden Lane	23	7	30.4
Holland Road	2	0	0
Ivy Place	14	8	57
Lansdowne Place	435	69	16
Lansdowne Road	17	4	23.5
Lansdowne Street	260	55	21
Little Western Street	21	6	28.5
Lower Market Street	60	7	11.7
Norfolk Place	7	0	0
Norfolk Road	133	19	14
Norfolk Square	197	27	14
Upper Market Street	43	6	14
Waterloo Street	294	41	14
Western Road	107	5	4.7
Western Street	63	11	17.5
York Road	266	38	14.3
No street name given		6	-
Total	3274	555	

Responses to each question were as follows:

	Yes		No		No strong opinion	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Q2 Would you be willing to give the trial a go?	481	86.7	57	10.3	15	2.7
Q3 Do you agree with the proposed locations of the communal recycling bins?	395	71.2	112	20.2	43	7.7

For Question 3b people could say why they don't agree with proposed locations. Respondents could choose tick box answers or write their own

comments, or a combination of the two. There were a total of 159 responses to this question as follows:

If you disagree with the proposed locations of the communal recycling bins is this because?	Number of responses	% of people saying no	% of all responses to this question
I don't want bins outside my house	31	27.7	19.5
It is not in keeping with the surroundings of my street	21	18.7	13
The bins are too far from my house	35	31.2	22
I am concerned about loss of parking spaces	55	49.1	34.6
Other includes:	17	15.1	10.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already have a communal waste bin used 24/7 • Concerned about glass bin south-east end of Brunswick Place • Glass bins too noisy and two! Why? • I am concerned about noise if people put glass and cans in the containers late at night but otherwise being placed next to the rubbish bins outside an off licence seems the best spot. • I live in the lower end of Lansdowne Place and don't want to have to lug a load of recycling up to the top end • Noise factor unfair to residents living near bins • Not the glass recycling bins and their locations in Brunswick Place • The collection times of communal bins seems to be before 8am making it very noisy in such a residential area. There is no way on shift work you can sleep through this. If after 9am, then this would be acceptable • There should be a recycling bin with every refuse bin, as we think the people living halfway up the road won't bother to go to the top or bottom of the road to deposit their recycling. • There should be more glass and mixed recycling on the residential streets • They would appear to be obstructing access to Golden Lane • We already have a glass recycling bin at the bottom of the street. This one is situated much further away than the new one you propose, & it is VERY noisy 			

The final question allowed for respondents to make any further comments about the proposed trial. Comments have been grouped into 19 themed areas as follows:

Comment	Number	% of all comments
General positive comments	169	33
Bins are too far from my house	56	11
I am concerned about the noise (especially glass)	45	9
I am concerned about the loss of parking spaces	42	8
More glass bins are needed	35	7
It will be good not to see black boxes on pavements	33	6.5
The current black box scheme works very well	24	4.5
More information is needed about what can be recycled	21	4
This will make recycling less convenient	20	4
Put the bins outside shops	9	2
Want organic waste collected	9	2
Too many bins	9	2
This will lead to more fly-tipping	9	2
I have no room for boxes in my flat	9	2
Want recycling and general refuse bins placed together	7	1
Want local tetrapak recycling facilities	6	1
Bins will reduce visibility at junctions	2	-
These bins are eyesores	2	-
Bins of the same colour may get confusing	2	-
Total comments made	518	

Some of the comments are one-offs but are worth noting, they are mainly concerned with location of bins but there are also many comments about the type of items recycled and promotion and education about the scheme and on recycling in general. These comments are listed in full in the appendix to this report.

Results by Street

Looking at the results to the main questions on a street by street basis:

Q2 Would you be willing to give the trial a go?

Street (total responses)	Yes		No		I do not have a strong view either way	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Brunswick Place (87)	77	88.5	9	10.5	1	1
Brunswick Road (49)	48	98	0	0	1	2
Brunswick Street East (13)	11	84.5	2	15.5	0	0
Cambridge Road (56)	49	87.5	5	9	1	2
Cavendish Mews (1)	1	100	0	0	0	0
Chapel Mews (4)	4	100	0	0	0	0
Cross Street (6)	6	100	0	0	0	0
Farm Road (25)	25	100	0	0	0	0
Farman Street (5)	4	80	0	0	1	20
Golden Lane (7)	6	85.7	1	14.3	0	0
Ivy Place (8)	6	75	1	12.5	1	12.5
Lansdowne Place (69)	54	78.5	11	16	3	4.5
Lansdowne Road (4)	4	100	0	0	0	0
Lansdowne Street (55)	46	83.5	8	14.5	1	2
Little Western Street (6)	5	83.5	0	0	1	16.5
Lower Market Street (7)	7	100	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Road (19)	16	84.2	1	5.3	2	10.5
Norfolk Square (27)	23	85.2	4	14.8	0	0
Upper Market Street (6)	4	66.7	2	33.3	0	0
Waterloo Street (41)	37	90.2	3	7.3	1	2.4
Western Road (5)	5	100	0	0	0	0
Western Street (11)	7	63.6	4	36.4	0	0
York Road (38)	30	78.9	6	15.8	2	5.3

Q3 Do you agree with the proposed locations?

Street (total responses)	Yes		No		I do not have a strong view either way	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Brunswick Place (87)	65	74.7	10	20.7	3	3.4
Brunswick Road (49)	39	79.6	4	8.2	6	12.2
Brunswick Street East (13)	10	76.9	3	23.1	0	0
Cambridge Road (56)	42	75	10	17.9	0	0
Cavendish Mews (1)	1	100	0	0	0	0
Chapel Mews (4)	4	100	0	0	0	0
Cross Street (6)	6	100	0	0	0	0
Farm Road (25)	21	84	2	8	0	0
Farman Street (5)	4	80	1	20	0	0
Golden Lane (7)	5	71.4	2	28.6	0	0
Ivy Place (8)	5	62.5	2	25	1	12.5
Lansdowne Place (69)	42	60.9	21	30.4	4	5.8
Lansdowne Road (4)	2	50	2	50	0	0
Lansdowne Street (55)	33	60	17	31	5	9
Little Western Street (6)	4	66.7	1	16.7	1	16.7
Lower Market Street (7)	4	57	3	43	0	0
Norfolk Road (19)	16	84.2	1	5.3	2	10.5
Norfolk Square (27)	18	66.7	5	18.5	4	14.8
Upper Market Street (6)	4	66.7	2	33.3	0	0
Waterloo Street (41)	30	73.2	7	17.1	3	7.3
Western Road (5)	4	80	0	0	1	20
Western Street (11)	5	45.5	3	27.3	3	27.3
York Road (38)	27	71	6	16	5	13

For those who said no to the proposed bin locations, the reasons given are as follows:

Road x road basis

(in brackets are no. forms sent to each street)

I don't want it outside my house	
	number
Brunswick Place (87)	6
Brunswick Street East (13)	1
Cambridge Road (56)	2
Ivy Place (8)	1
Lansdowne Place (69)	8
Lansdowne Street (55)	4
Norfolk Square (27)	2
Upper Market Street (6)	2
Waterloo Street (41)	1
York Road (38)	4

It's not in keeping with the surroundings of my street	
	number
Brunswick Place (87)	4
Cambridge Road (56)	1
Golden Lane (7)	1
Lansdowne Place (69)	5
Lansdowne Street (55)	2
Norfolk Road (19)	1
Norfolk Square (27)	1
Upper Market Street (6)	1
Western Street (11)	1
York Road (38)	4

The bins are too far from my house	
	number
Brunswick Place (87)	2
Brunswick Street East (13)	1
Cambridge Road (56)	2
Farm Road (25)	1
Lansdowne Place (69)	11
Lansdowne Road (4)	1
Lansdowne Street (55)	8
Lower Market Street (7)	1
Norfolk Square (27)	2
Waterloo Street (41)	4
York Road (38)	1

I am concerned about a loss of parking spaces	
	number
Brunswick Place (87)	10
Brunswick Road (49)	3
Cambridge Road (56)	6
Farm Road (25)	1
Lansdowne Place (69)	12
Lansdowne Street (55)	9
Norfolk Square (27)	3
Upper Market Street (6)	1
Waterloo Street (41)	2
Western Street (11)	2
York Road (38)	6

Comments

- A "step" procedure of personal "fines" for people who do NOT dispose of their daily rubbish properly - polite "stop" "fines" ... people need to be made aware of their "consuming" and "spending" ... and appropriate behaviour within "community" in which they live. "Laws" would not cost the tax payer. This is "fairer".
- A glass bin on Lansdowne Road is outside a blind person's residence - Wavertree. It would be better placed on Lansdowne Place to service some of that large area.
- Additional recycling and refuse bins sited at the lower end of Brunswick Street East adjacent to the motorcycling parking bay?
- Also - Any chance of a small battery recycling bank located somewhere centrally?
- Although I'm very willing for the trial to take place, I still have a concern there will be an overflow of waste at the recycling points and could make the street look very untidy as I have seen this happen at communal recycling places before.
- An ideal location would be in Western Road at the corner with Lansdowne Place, as this is a very high traffic area, with the Sainsburys, Tesco, Starbucks and the bus stop all nearby, so the noise impact would be negligible.
- As I have noticed on your map, you're proposing to put 2 more bins outside of 19 Norfolk Square (on the map they are positioned in front of 15 Western Street but they're not; they're in front of our shop, at the bottom of Norfolk Square). My concern is additional bins will cause a serious problem for traffic coming from Silwood Street because that location is the junction of Norfolk Sq & Silwood St that would be difficult turning for vehicles.
- Bins would need to be labelled visually with clear pictures - for other nationalities. There would need to be recycling leaflets dropped through doors in Arabic, Turkish, Polish, Romanian and other languages on a simple form with pictures every 3 to 4 months as tenants change.
- Communal bins decrease feeling of personal responsibility and so lower recycling. In my previous neighbourhood (Lewes Road area), we have green bins and recycling boxes and these were far more effective. 1 bin and 2 boxes per house - fines for excess refuse will increase recycling and personal responsibility.
- Do not agree with proposed locations for glass recycling bins - at bottom of Lansdowne Place j/w Western Road
- Further, I think the proposed trial will significantly increase the use of plastic bags - people carrying their recycling to the bins.
- Glass being separate is the most common issue to stop collection and people passing dropping rubbish in them. Perhaps proper lids for the boxes?
- Glass recycling bins should be located on main roads - not side streets
- Has it not occurred to anyone at the council that people will use these

proposed bins for rubbish, even more than our black boxes are now?
This seems the biggest AND unaddressed issue.

- I am in favour of any moves that boost recycling but I am a little concerned that our black boxes are often rejected due to people putting food waste or other non-recyclables in, or mixing glass with paper. Will the same thing happen with the large bins, just on a much greater scale so even more recyclable material is wasted?
- I am in my eighties and have a problem walking due to arthritis. I would really appreciate a mixed bin in Lower Market Street near where it joins Waterloo Street.
- I am NOT happy with the proposed location outside my flat because I am concerned that the bin will overflow
- I do require help with my recycling and hope it will continue. It has worked so well for years. Have now reached 90 and the basement stairs are my enemy! However, if you have to reduce expenses, it's possible for me to put items into the street box when mobile, as long as the container is easier to use than the rubbish box. The one near my address is very difficult to cope with - I lose my balance.
- I don't think there are enough glass recycling bins. Seeing as glass takes the longest time to degrade, this is surprising.
- I know you use an automated recycling centre but could you start taking No 2 plastic as all bottle tops are No 2 and currently have to go to landfill ... also tetrapacks can now be recycled.
- I still think you should go back to weekly collection. It was far more efficient and we recycled far more.
- I think greater consideration should be given to using the road and/or broad pavement along Western Road. Also, the loss of further parking spaces could be softened by making all spaces residents; not residents only but either just residents or both - remove all P&D metered only spaces please!!!
- I think people should be fined for NOT recycling - this happens in the USA.
- I think that more mixed recycling bins are needed.
- I think Waterloo Street is a better location for a glass recycling bin than Upper Market Street.
- I understand that this idea is based on the fact that the trial area is largely multi-occupation. In the last few years, a number of families with children have moved into Western Street and there are a number of single occupancy buildings. It might be worth bearing these changes in mind as you undertake the research?
- I use the green box/Magpie recycling scheme but, as I have to pay for that, I would prefer a better council service than exists now. But I would like to be sure that the street bins to be used would be better quality than the community rubbish bins, which, in many cases, are broken and so difficult to use.
- I would be willing to give it a go if the trial was shorter, 3-6 months. I think the disruption due to glass bins could be very bad and 12 months is too long.
- I would like to see waste and recycling bins in the cream colours used

- on the seafront as this is in keeping with Brunswick & Adelaide.
- I would suggest that to keep extra car parking spaces which are vitally important, you decrease the number of taxi spaces at the bottom of Brunswick Place. I very rarely see them being used and we need all the parking spaces we can get.
 - I would very much like to be able to recycle my cartons and foil too please, and fabrics, rags etc.
 - I'm not in favour of this proposal if any jobs will be lost as a result
 - I'm very much concerned about the constant noise that would be caused by the glass recycling bin that is planned to be put in front of the Wavertree House on the Lansdowne Road side. There are no other glass recycling bins shown on the map towards Lansdowne Place and Lansdowne and Holland Streets therefore this bin would be used by way too many people causing significant amount of noise, especially with the planned daily removal. I would appreciate if the bin could be placed closer to Lansdowne
 - I've some ideas about this issue: BAN PLASTIC BAGS (NOW) in Brighton except special businesses like fishmongers etc. Put a £0.30 charge on every CAN and then, when you get it back to a special place in every supermarket (
 - If moved daily, would there need to be so many bins, perhaps leaving more parking space? I'm already on the waiting list for a permit but still have a long wait ahead.
 - In addition, the bins will be located at a bus stop which is surely impractical.
 - It would be good to have places where people could also recycle metal and wood.
 - Look like there are not enough RED bins in west areas and top north east.
 - My concern is that currently only plastic bottles are recycled. There is SO much plastic going into landfill. This is hard because it is not easy to buy some products without plastic.
 - My concern is that there will be an increase in non-recyclable items - particularly plastic - that will incur additional cost for removal. Currently a sort/reject process is operated by your men at the kerbside.
 - My only concern about the proposed scheme is that a lot of mixed recycling is rejected when being sold on.
 - My only real concern is that it isn't obvious that the new bins are specifically for recycling. I have seen these bins near Preston Park and I didn't realise they were recycling ones. Maybe, a clear sticker placed on the opening would help prevent people placing normal rubbish in them? Good luck with the trial.
 - No bins provided for Brunswick Street East?
 - On Brunswick Place, east side of the street, there are 2 bins quite close in the middle outside 48 & 56. There are none at the top of the road or even across Lansdowne Road. There are no parking spaces at the top. It would also reduce the number of illegal parking at night at the top on double yellow lines.
 - Please can you ensure the existing bins and any new ones work

properly - ie the foot pedal/levers need to work properly. I have a physical disability and find it hard to open the bins by hand.

- Please don't allow local pubs, bars and restaurants nearby (top of Norfolk Square) to dispose of their glass in the neighbours/locals bins.
- Please ensure the recycling bins are not easy but easy for all to open WHILE holding a box of recycling (ie put pedal style)
- Please make the bins easy to open. Some foot bars on rubbish bins do not work and it's difficult to open the lid.
- Re the bin location, I was surprised that Donkey Mews was not considered.
- Recycling boxes left outside from one week to the next are a real problem. They look unsightly and are often left on the pavements in the way of pedestrians.
- Suggestion for black boxes:- Monthly mailshot to remind residents how to use them. Barcode on boxes. Those who don't use them get fined. When the name of the person on the council tax changes, this is applied to the black box too.
- The "normal" refuse bins all seem to break - often with the metal foot-press breaking. This makes them very difficult for anyone who is not tall and strong to use. I would hope the recycling bins would have easier access.
- The bin must be usable by youth and old. Large bins where the lid mechanism has broken are hard to use, especially where there is no adjacent pavement to give a height advantage (as on the west side of Norfolk Square). This leads to dumping adjacent to bins which then gets spread about the street.
- The bins by St Patricks are constantly used by businesses and builders! Street level recycling that is as easy as landfill is the best answer
- The bins need to be emptied more frequently for the scheme to work. At the moment, the bins are frequently unusable as they are full (mixed recycling).
- The bins should NOT be black in colour. Black bins do not blend well with the colours in the street and are more obvious. A grey colour would be better or yellow (in keeping with the building colour) like the ones on the beach - they look much nicer. I produce more recyclable waste than non-recyclable waste - are the recycle bins big enough??
- The council should review what they think should and should not be recycled as perfectly good pieces of material are being neglected just because they are not on the approved list (styrofoam, metal).
- The distribution of the glass recycling bins is uneven.
- The glass recycling points are skewed towards eastern side of the trial region. The provision of additional bins towards Palmera Square potentially on Western Road would be beneficial.
- The Mews I currently live in has a very efficient system for recycling, with our own area for leaving the recycling. I'm not opposed to what is being proposed as I think it will greatly benefit those in the area living in flats, however I hope this doesn't mean that areas like Cavendish Mews will lose their own areas for recycling.

- The mixed recycling bin at the bottom of Brunswick Road looks as if it will take over the motorcycle bay. As long as it doesn't do this, I'm all for it!
- The occasional communal bin for clothing would also be good. I wouldn't mind walking a few streets to get to one.
- The OOOOPPS stickers are ridiculous and insulting to anyone that makes the effort/attempt to recycle.
- The problem in the past has not been people being unwilling to recycle but the ATTITUDE of the recycling team. Time and again, items were put out for recycling and they refused to take them.
- The procedure with putting recyclables out on the street (like currently in black boxes in front of doorstep) seems ill-fitted for a wet and windy climate (creating a messy street). How about installing underground containers for recyclables that can be lifted by garbage collecting trucks? (Works very well in Amsterdam)
- There is a lot of space on the seafront for bins - noise won't be an issue, nor parking spaces. The weekenders could use them and they won't be outside anyone's house. There are ways to design the bins and have them as an asset to the seafront visuals - they don't have to look awful.
- There is no mechanism for cleaning bins and, as many people put refuse in without bag or washing, the smell is often extreme. This will only increase with the "mixed recycling" bins.
- Why are there so few recycling points proposed for the area on the seafront side of Western Road?
- Will there be carton recycling in the communal bins or will this be just as the doorstep boxes are now?
- Would be nice to have some around Brunswick Square also, rather than just at the top of Western Road. I understand that the square is a "conservation area" but the amount of non-recycling in my block alone is disgraceful. Times this by the number of people who live in the square and there must be some sort of justification for having communal bins as well as recycling points dotted around the square itself to boost levels of recycling.
- You should expand your plastic recycling policy to not only plastic bottles. A lot more stuff would be recyclable if you fixed that.