

Recommendations from Area Committees

Central, South and West Area Committee - Tuesday 13 December 2006

113. OPEN SESSION

Mr. J. Power addressed the Committee about a letter he had received from the Environmental Health Business Manager concerning matters relating to the new refuse collection arrangements. He told the Committee that he had spoken to an officer of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health who had told him that the Institute had not been approached by the Council and who had indicated that the Institute only supported two-weekly collection schemes, which were well managed. Mr. Power queried what was meant by the reference in the letter to the fact that environmental health staff would only respond to complaints regarding bins in “exceptional circumstances”. Mr. Power also told the Committee that, despite the fact that he had indicated that he wanted refuse bags rather than a wheelie bin, he had been given a bin. He referred to a letter from Councillor Jean Fooks to the Oxford Mail, which indicated that if householders did not have space for a bin they would be given bags.

Resolved:-

- (1) that a report be submitted to a future meeting concerning the meeting with Cleansing Services referred to in the letter from the Environmental Health Business Manager sent to the member of the Public who had addressed the Committee;
- (2) to ask the Executive Board to instruct the Environmental Health Business Manager to respond to complaints from members of the public about odours from refuse bins;
- (3) that arrangements be made to ensure that the member of the public who had addressed the Committee receive rubbish sacks as soon as possible.

Comments from Councillor Fooks (Portfolio Holder)

Mr Power refers to a letter in which I said that if people did not have space for a bin, they would be given bags instead. That is the case. However, our field officers have confirmed that they think that Mr Power does have space for a bin, hence their decision to supply one rather than refuse sacks. I support that decision.

It should be noted that the new service was designed to have non-recyclable refuse collected in a wheelie bin, if possible, as it is much the best container. There are several reasons for this. Wheelie bins provide a secure, vermin-proof

container, better for our operatives from a Health and Safety point of view, and reducing the risk of nuisance to householders and their neighbours from possible smells or the litter and vermin associated with burst bags. The collection process is smoother and no litter should be left after bins are emptied into the lorry.

The response to recommendation (2) will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting.