



**STROUD
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**
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Litter Bin Policy

June 2022

Community Services

Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud
GL5 4UB

Email: customer.services@stroud.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/>
Telephone: 01453 766321

| Document Responsibility | | |
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| Name | Document title | Service |
| Community Services Manager | Litter Bin Policy | Community Services |
| | | |

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| 7 th June 2022 | 1.2 | Michael Towson | First edition |
| 14 th September 2023 | 1.3 | Michael Towson | Minor alteration to assessments. Threshold lowered from 40 to 35. |
| 17 th September 2024 | 1.4 | Michael Towson | Minor alteration to assessments. Score banding clarified on bin request section. |

| Policy Review | | | |
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| 3 years unless required earlier | June 2025 | Community Services Manager | Community Services |
| | | | |

| Document Review and Approvals | | |
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| | | |

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Stroud District Council (SDC) has a statutory duty to keep council owned land and public highways clear of litter and waste, as far as practicable. Whilst it has no legal duty to provide litter and dog waste bins, they are a widely recognised and effective control measure.

1.2 Currently there are approximately 1,400 bins in varying condition across the district. The majority are litter bins but around 400 dog bins make up the estate. These are maintained and emptied frequently.

1.3 As Principal Litter Authority SDC schedule street sweeping, litter clearances and litter picking, to fully meet statutory obligations. There is also liaison with private landowners to address litter distributions and to mitigate any detrimental impact to the amenity of the local area. This includes guidance on bin provision and placement.

1.4 This policy outlines the procedures and requirements for the installation and maintenance of new bins, and the replacement of existing bins. This includes defining protocol for determining requests.

1.5 In implementing this policy, SDC will consider benchmarks and human behavior based recommendations by others, as appropriate, such as the 'The Right bin In The Right Place' by WRAP (Oct 2020) and 'Beyond The Tipping Point' by Keep Britain Tidy (Mar 2022).

1.6 SDC will also consider the feedback of local litter volunteers in the provision, location, performance monitoring and maintenance needs of bins.

2 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to detail how the Council will deal with:

- Requests for new bins
- Emptying and maintenance of existing bins
- Replacement of existing bins
- Removal of Existing Bins

3 REQUESTS FOR NEW BINS

3.1 Requests for the installation of new bins can come from a variety of sources:

- Requests from elected Members on behalf of residents
- Requests from Town and Parish Councils within the District
- Recognition from the Council that additional bin facilities are required
- Requests from litter volunteers and environmental protection organisations, such as the Canal and River Trust

3.2 Whist the council is dedicated to providing sufficient capacity to help support its statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, bins will only be located in areas where a genuine need is demonstrated, taking account of street cleanliness standards.

3.3 All requests for new bins must include a map of the proposed location. Due to the costs of installing, maintaining, and emptying bins, the council will carry out an assessment to determine need and suitability of location, using the scoring system shown in Appendix 1.

3.3 Prior to the assessment, the practical suitability of the location will be considered. If the Council deems the location to be unsuitable for safety or other reasons, the request may be declined prior to scoring. An alternative arrangement may be suggested, including:

- Changing the size/type of bin
- Moving an existing under-used bin to a different location

3.4 The Council may offer advice but will not install litterbins on private land, or areas falling under the responsibility of other public bodies including schools, colleges, and bus stations. Requests will only be accepted for consideration if the proposed location is on, or adjacent to the public highway.

3.5 The Council will liaise with other organisations who wish to install a bin to serve their community. As per this policy, agreement to service new bins will only be given where there is need.

3.6 The Council will monitor litterbins for misuse in terms of the disposal of commercial and household waste. Where those responsible can be identified, fixed penalty notices, or similar, will be issued and where persistent abuse occurs, the litterbin may be removed.

3.7 New free-standing bins will always be positioned out of the main line of travel, or grouped with other existing street furniture, so that they do not present a collision hazard for people with sight loss, or reduce the usable width of the footway for people using wheelchairs, people with prams/buggies, mobility aids or guide dogs. New post mounted bins will not protrude into circulation space, as a cane or guide dog could go underneath, leading their owner into the bin.

3.8 The council will determine the style of litterbin most suitable for the proposed location at the sole discretion of the officer. Where deemed appropriate, litterbins with recycling facilities may be installed instead of, or in addition to standard litterbins. Likely locations for these bins would be areas such as market towns, with close proximity to shops and other similar facilities. Rural parts of the district may be issued a post-mounted bin in the first instance.

3.9 Since changes to the classification of wastes, dog fouling can be disposed of into a litter bin. Dog bins are therefore no longer installed as standard and only in cases where malodor is likely to impact residents, will they be replaced upon failure, like for like.

3.10 In general, public consultation will not be carried out on the installation of new bins. However, in some circumstances local residents and litter volunteers may be consulted, for example when it is proposed to install a bin near houses.

4 EMPTYING AND MAINTAINING BINS

4.1 The Council will only empty those bins, which it has installed, or has agreed can be installed. Prior to the installation of a bin by any other body, the type and location of the bin must be agreed with the Council.

4.2 The frequency at which individual bins will be emptied will vary in accordance with the location of the bin. All bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose and that does not present a hazard to the public. When a bin is damaged or stolen, it will be replaced only if it meets the criteria for the installation of a new bin (Appendix 1). Bins, which are regularly vandalised or abused, will not be replaced.

5 REPLACING EXISTING BINS

5.1 The Council will aim to improve the effectiveness of individual bins through a programme of removal and replacement, using larger capacity bins where practical. The usage of bins will be continually monitored to determine their viability. Bins not being used, or used only infrequently may be removed. Replacement of dog bins will be assessed on an individual case basis depending on the ownership.

5.2 The default litterbin for replacement in towns and villages with hard-standing areas is the floor mounted, 90-litre capacity, Topsy Royale in black.

6 REMOVING EXISTING BINS

6.1 Behavioural change is necessary to reduce littering and fly tipping. Simply increasing the number of bins on streets is not sustainable. Fewer bins in certain areas could actually result in less litter and fly tipping, as people take responsibility for their waste, take it home and dispose of it correctly.

6.2 When removing a bin, litter and fly tipping levels will be assessed over a period of time. Where removal creates a litter issue, it is likely that the bin will be reinstated.

7 WORKING WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

7.1 Going forward SDC are committed to engaging with stakeholders at all levels including local businesses, volunteers and litter organisations (e.g. Keep Britain Tidy), to address littering problems within the community.

7.2 The principles of the DEFRA code of practice for reducing food on the go, shall be adopted inclusive of litterbins, as far as practicable.

7.3 As the number of litterbins with recycling facilities increases, there may be also be future opportunities for businesses to promote litter prevention, via a sponsorship scheme. Similarly to explore opportunities to work in partnership with local businesses and chains to address food on the go.

8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1

| Category | Options | Score |
|---|---|-----------|
| Highway Proximity | Located on or adjacent to the public highway | Pass/Fail |
| | Zone 1 – High intensity of use, such as busy public areas, routes to schools, supermarkets, takeaways and retail parks. | 10 |
| | Zone 2 – Medium intensity of use, such as mixed use and high density residential areas and mixed industrial units. | 5 |
| | Zone 3 – Low intensity of use, such as low-density residential housing. | 1 |
| | Zone 4 – Rural roads and areas with special circumstances, such as health and safety issues. | 0 |
| | | |
| Proximity to existing bins | >100 metres to any bins | 10 |
| | <100 to 1 bin | 5 |
| | <100 to more than 1 bin | 0 |
| | | |
| Proximity to Facilities | <100 metres to educational establishment | 5 |
| | | |
| | <50 metres to shops, including supermarkets and takeaway outlets | 5 |
| | <100 metres to sports facilities | 2 |
| | <50 metres to bus stops | 2 |
| | <100 metres to outdoor market / car boot sales | 1 |
| | <100 metres to other public facilities such as community centre, church, public hall. | 2 |
| Established Dog Walking Route/Area | Route or area used by multiple dog owners daily (>20 dog owners) | 10 |

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| | Route or area used by a limited number of dog owners daily (10 -20 dog owners) | 5 |
| | Route or areas used infrequently by dog owners (<10 dog owners daily) | 0 |
| Number of requests for de-littering received within 6 months (Note some officer discretion will be applied to the score if litter grading inspections have been below standards within the previous 12 months) | 1-2 | 2 |
| | 3-5 | 5 |
| | 6-10 | 10 |
| | Over 11 | 15 |
| Number of requests for a bin received within a six month period (from different sources) | 1-2 | 2 |
| | 3-10 | 10 |
| | Over 10 | 15 |

The overall score is compared with the thresholds shown in the table below in order to determine the outcome of the request.

| Score | Outcome |
|--------------|----------------|
| 0-34 | Unsuccessful |
| 35 and above | Successful |