

# NOVEMBER MEETING

## 1st Talk

### Recycling and Waste Collection

A talk by Roger Walton

Director of Property, Leisure & Waste Management, Dover District Council  
reported by Alan Lee

Our first talk of the evening was on the changes that Dover District Council will be implementing in the way of collecting household rubbish in the future. Dover and Shepway councils, Kent County Council and Veolia Environmental Services are finalizing arrangements for the new joint recycling, waste collection and street cleansing services. These talks initially started three years ago with a lot of financial analysis work carried out in the first year. This new partnership should ensure that costs of the cleaning and waste disposal service are at as low a level as possible.

#### **Changes to Waste & Recycling Collections**

Important changes are coming to the way DDC collect householders' recycling and waste. This should lead to significantly more recycling, save resources and more effectively help protect the environment for the future. The new service will see the introduction of a separate weekly collection of food waste, together with the provision of new containers by the Council for your recycling and waste.

This includes:

1. A wheeled bin provided, wherever possible, for the collection of recyclable materials. This will enable you to recycle a wider range of materials, and ensure that the materials are properly contained to stop them from escaping on windy days.
2. The black box will be for paper and cardboard. This will maintain its quality and value by keeping it clean from food and drink residue.
3. A smaller lockable food waste bin being provided, so that a separate weekly collection of food waste can be introduced, allowing it to be recycled.
4. A kitchen caddie provided for the home to make it easier to move food waste from the kitchen. Collections will be weekly to ensure that there is no risk of smelly food waste causing concerns in warm weather, as has been the case elsewhere when Councils have introduced fortnightly collections.
5. A wheeled bin provided for the fortnightly collection of the waste that you are unable to recycle. Due to the

improved recycling service, it is anticipated that once we are all recycling our food waste, along with a wider range of recyclables, there would not be much left to throw away. The bin will contain the waste to stop it being attacked by seagulls and foxes.

Although the new contract with Veolia was signed on 16th January, changes in the collection service are not likely to start until September 2011. All customers will receive full details of these new services as these are implemented. Meanwhile collections will continue as they currently are.

Roger then expanded on the way the system will work.

#### **Week 1**

Residual waste - wheeled bin  
Food waste - kerbside caddy

#### **Week 2**

Mixed dry recyclable - wheeled bin  
Paper and card - black box  
Food waste - kerbside caddy

Questions asked by the audience included the following:

#### **Will everyone get wheeled bins?**

*NO, each property will be assessed for whether they are suitable for a wheeled bin (or not). The criteria will be set once the preferred bidder is appointed later this year.*

#### **Will flats be issued larger bins for waste collection?**

*YES, where suitable, flats and multi-occupied properties will be issued with larger bins (where required). This will be for the collection of refuse, recycling and in some cases food waste.*

#### **Will Dover district residents have to pay annually for garden waste collections as in Shepway?**

*NO, Dover residents will still receive a free green waste collection service. The garden waste service will continue as it currently is, with up to 15 bags put out for collection.*

#### **If my property is suitable for a wheeled bin, will I have to use it?**

*YES, or your waste will not be collected.*

#### **What will happen if I am assessed to have a wheelie bin but I am unable to manage to put it out for collection? If issued would I have to use it?**

*If your property is assessed as suitable for a wheeled bin but you are unable to manage to put it out for collection due to restricted mobility or similar, arrangements will be made for the contractor to collect it from an agreed point of storage.*

#### **Who does the bin belong to?**

*The bin remains the property of Dover District Council, however we would like you to give it a good home and care for it accordingly.*

#### **Can I use pedal bin liners or plastic bags in my food waste bin?**

*NO, only compostable liners (recyclable bags), or newspaper can be used. After an initial issue of free bags they will then have to be purchased.*

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