

To: St Dogmaels Community Council

Litter Collecting Following New Pembrokeshire CC Household Waste Collection Policy (Due September 2019)

Since moving to St Dogmaels in 2012 I have (as many others do) been picking up litter and rubbish on my daily walks around the local lanes and footpaths. Not as an organised litter pick but just as personal thing as I wander along, just doing my bit to try and keep the paths tidy.

Last week after the weekend, I managed to pick up around ½ a black sack of rubbish from the car park at Blaenwaun Chapel and along the Bridleway leading from it (about 1/4mile walked). On getting home and depositing it in the dustbin it occurred to me that when the new Household waste policy comes into force next year, I would have used ½ of my rubbish allocation (i.e. 1 bag/week) already!

Obviously, it is not on every walk I collect so much in one go, but my concern is (especially during the holiday periods), how will myself and the other likeminded volunteers when picking up other people's rubbish be able to dispose of it without potentially exceeding our own household allocation of 1 PCC provided bag per week? I already recycle any picked up item if possible and understand that the new policy will include a more recycling range of items, but as this must be clean so as not to 'contaminate' the rest, I would not be inclined to want to clean items picked up from an unknown source. For Example, included in the above was 2 X Tesco shelled Prawn trays complete with fluid soak up pads.

Now that the County Councils new policy has been ratified, is the Community Council aware of/or been considering ways that volunteer litter/rubbish collectors can continue to help in keeping our beautiful area clean and tidy, without being penalised for having too much rubbish against what will already be a tight household allocation.

As a guideline I estimate I probably collect enough to fill 5 average size black sacks in a year. I realise that in a perfect world education would stop people discarding their rubbish whilst out and about, but we all know there will always be a hard core that don't care, unfortunately I can only see matters getting worse and the new policy is likely to make it even more so?

As I mentioned it has only just occurred to me the potential issue next year but I have listed below some possible options (I am sure there are more);

1. A Registry of volunteers who would be issued with a small allocation of bags/labels, so that if in a particular 3-week collection period litter cannot be absorbed in their own allocation then they could use the extra bag/label to indicate additional litter/rubbish has been collected. PROS: Cheap and easy to administer, unlikely to be abused as people register voluntarily and would only be given small numbers of labels/bags (NB I am not suggesting generally advertising for volunteers). CONS: Register needs to be kept of volunteers, Mechanism to issue bags/labels needs to be in place. PCC must agree to the system and waste collectors advised of procedure.
2. Volunteers to take litter and place in PCC bins in village. PROS: No system/registry required. CONS: Bins probably not be able to cope (especially during holiday periods). Therefore, more bins required. May give people ideas to just offload their own household waste excess into public bins (will probably happen anyway??). Not all volunteers will have time or means to do this.
3. Central Drop off/Collection point. PROS: No registration required. CONS: Suitable site required. Open to abuse-householders depositing excess rubbish (already happens at recycling points (E.g. Issues at Newcastle Emlyn site). Not everyone has means to take to central point.
4. Volunteer Collector takes to Hermon Recycling centre after collection from volunteers' premises. PROS: ??? CONS: Costs incurred, Registration of volunteers, Volunteer needs suitable vehicle (and Insurance?). Potentially unwieldy to operate.

Most volunteer litter pickers will carry on regardless but it would be a shame to lose the goodwill of them if it comes to the point where they decide to give up and leave the litter in situ!

Regards

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