

Executive Scrutiny Committee  
Milton Keynes Council  
1 Saxon Gate East  
Central Milton Keynes

**24 March 2017**

Dear Executive Scrutiny Panel

**CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION – 7 MARCH 2017: APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY**

Walton Community Council, on behalf of all its residents object to the approval of the draft waste strategy, in particular the decision to implement an annual garden waste charge of £33 per green bin for the collection of garden and food waste.

Walton Community Council is in support of the Call-In of the decision and the reasons given by Councillors Bald and McLean which states:

“We do not believe, from the evidence available in the papers and elsewhere, that the actions and charges proposed in the Strategy will meet the stated aim ‘To deliver a high quality waste service that provides value for money and costs substantially less than it did in 2016’.

We are also in support of Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council’s reason for calling in the decision, particularly in respect of the lack of consultation about the charges, the potential for an increase in fly-tipping and the cost of implementing a new scheme when it is not necessary.

Walton Community Council believes that this charge is a tax by stealth as the charges were not considered as part of the recent budget consultations and there is a potential for significant problems to arise in respect of the management of such a scheme. Any potential savings will be used in attempting to enforce the scheme. For example, some of our residents already have a green bin and so how would a collection crew know whether to take the waste or not? How would the Council stop the sharing of bins resulting in some residents paying and others not? What happens if a resident takes another person’s bin to avoid the charge – is that resident then charged twice because they order another one?

Walton Community Council believes that the application of such a scheme has not been properly thought through and the cost of implementing such a scheme will outweigh any perceived benefit or cost saving.

Walton Community Council believes that these charging arrangements that are outside of the Council tax calculations set a dangerous precedent and which will impact most greatly, residents on low pay who would not qualify for any reduction in cost.

Walton Community Council welcomed the opportunity to participate in the recent Recycle and Reward initiative for Town and Parish Councils which provided promotional materials to discourage residents from putting their food waste in black bags and instead to use the green bin. Walton Community Council saw a 5% increase in green bin usage over the qualifying period and we received some very positive comments from our residents about the scheme. Other participating councils saw an even larger increase. This counter-intuitive measure of introducing a £33 charge will certainly increase the potential for fly-tipping and residents will continue to use black bags for their food waste.

It was not so long ago that there were complaints about the increased number of rats in the Walton area and although there were various reasons for this, an increase in food waste being placed in black bags is likely to increase vermin activity creating a potential health hazard.

Yours Sincerely,



Lesley Sung  
**Parish Manager**  
**Walton Community Council**