

Changes to kerbside garden waste collections – Have your say

The Council faces significant financial pressures with reduced funding from central government, increased service demand and inflation and these pressures are likely to increase. We need to make savings to help the council deliver its priorities of protecting vulnerable people, boosting the local economy and bringing communities together.

One way of achieving some savings towards this is by changing the way the garden waste collection service is delivered at the kerbside in Wiltshire. The Council currently delivers a fortnightly non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service to those residents that request the service.

The Council's Cabinet agreed to undertake a public consultation exercise to gain residents' views on potential future changes to the current kerbside garden waste collection service.

The consultation will run from 1 July 2014 until 1 September 2014.

What are the options for changes?

We have considered a number of options for changing the kerbside garden waste collection service to make savings. The proposals are either:

1. A three month suspension of the kerbside non-chargeable garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February.
2. A five month suspension of the kerbside non-chargeable garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March.
3. To introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current non-chargeable service

Only one of these proposals would be implemented next year across Wiltshire.

What do the proposed changes mean for me?

The consultation gives you a number of options for how the kerbside garden waste collection service could be changed to make savings.

1. A three month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February.
2. A five month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March.
3. To introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current non-chargeable service.

Whatever the outcome, you would still be able to take garden waste, including Christmas trees, to any of Wiltshire Council's 11 household recycling centres free of charge or compost at home using the Council's subsidised garden and food waste compost bins.

Option 1 - Three month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service

The non-chargeable collection service would continue to be fortnightly but we would only collect garden waste from the kerbside from March to November, with no collections taking place during December, January and February each year.

While some people do produce garden waste during these months, the amount of garden waste residents present for collection reduces significantly and very small amounts are collected across the county during these months. This makes collections less cost effective as collection vehicles still have to pass each property but collect less garden waste.

In 2013/14, almost 90% of garden waste was collected between March and November, with 5,000 tonnes collected in December, January and February.

This option is likely to deliver the lowest level of savings of the three options.

Option 2 - Five month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service

Again, the current non-chargeable collection service would remain fortnightly but with this proposal no collections would take place during November, December, January, February and March each year.

The amount of garden waste collected throughout these months is low compared to the remaining months of the year. In 2013/14, almost 75% of garden waste was collected between April and November, with 11,500 tonnes collected in November, December, January, February and March.

Suspending garden waste collections during these months would allow the Council to make savings, while still collecting garden waste during the spring and summer when people most need the service.

This option should deliver more savings than the option for a three month suspension of the service.

Option 3 - Introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service

This proposal is for a fortnightly chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service, which would replace the current fortnightly non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service.

Anyone wishing to continue receiving a fortnightly collection of garden waste bins or bags would pay a service charge each year (proposed to be £35 per bin in 2015/16). No concessions would be available.

Many of Wiltshire's neighbouring councils already charge for garden waste collections and the annual service charge proposed in Wiltshire (£35 in 2015/16) would be less than some others charge (see table below).

Area	Price per year
Bath and North East Somerset	£38.50
Dorset Waste Partnership	£40
Somerset Waste Partnership	£46.50

This service would run throughout the year (except for two weeks over the Christmas period) and would be optional, so if you did not want the service they would not be charged. You would have to opt in to the service by signing up, even if they already have a bin or bags from the previous non-chargeable service.

Anyone that signs up for this service would keep their existing bin or bags. Additional bins would be available at the same annual charge of £35 per bin.

This proposal would mean that the Council would only collect garden waste from those residents who have opted to receive the service and have paid for it.

If at least one in four Wiltshire households decided to pay for the service, this option is likely to deliver the highest level of savings of the three options.

What else could you do with your garden waste?

Whichever proposal is introduced in April 2015, you would still be able to take your garden waste, including Christmas trees, to any of Wiltshire's 11 household recycling centres free of charge.

Many people in Wiltshire also compost their garden waste themselves. This is a great way to dispose of your garden waste as you can use the compost you create on your own garden. The Council subsidises a compost bin called the Green Johanna, which can be purchased at a subsidised price of £25. For more information please contact the Council on the contact details below.

How can you contribute to the consultation?

You can contribute to the consultation by:

- visiting the Council's website and completing the consultation questionnaire online www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations.
- visiting the council's website at your local library.
- picking up a leaflet from your local library, area board, leisure centre, council office or town council office.
- completing the form in the summer 'Your Wiltshire' magazine.

Contact us

Should you have any further queries or questions about this consultation please contact the council:

By email: Gardenwasteconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk

By post: FREEPOST RTJH-JEUJ-AUZU, Garden Waste Consultation, County Hall, Bythesea Road, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN

By telephone: 0300 456 0102