December 2025

Litter Bin Protocol
"The Right Bin in the Right Place"

1. Introduction
Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a statutory duty on local authorities to keep land and highways clear of litter and refuse as far as is practicable. The statutory Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Defra 2006, as modified 2019, 2022, 2023) provides a practical guide to the discharge of these duties. Under Section 5 of the Litter Act 1983, a local authority may provide and maintain in any street or public place receptacles for refuse or litter. Section 185 of the Highways Act 1980 provides a similar power to install refuse or litter bins in streets.

2. Current Provision
Stratford-on-Avon District Council ('the Council') is responsible for the emptying and cleansing of around 1,300 public litter bins, dog waste bins and on-street recycling bins across the District. The bins are predominately sited in high footfall areas where they are most required (i.e. town centres, around fast food outlets, by bus stops, dog walking routes etc.), ensuring that the street cleansing operatives have easy access to empty and maintain them.

3. Litter Bins
There is currently a wide range of litter bins across the District. The Council has attempted to bring consistency to its suite of litter bins in order to declutter the street scene and help make it easier and more efficient to empty, clean and repair bins. It also makes it easier for users to find a bin, and less likely that contamination will occur in on-street recycling bins, as users are more likely to know what different bins look like and what goes in each type.

In Stratford-upon-Avon and the Main Rural Centres (i.e. Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Kineton, Southam, Studley, Wellesbourne), the Council provides black Glasdon Jubilee litter bins with silver legends and banding which have a 110-litre capacity, a clearly visible litter and dog waste logo and a removable metal or plastic inner liner:

In the rest of the District (except in environmentally sensitive areas), the Council provides black Glasdon Topsy Royale litter bins with silver legends and banding which have a 90-litre capacity, a clearly visible litter and dog waste logo and a removable metal or plastic inner liner:

Some areas of the District may have different types of bin, as the Council has not yet decided to replace them with either a Glasdon Jubilee or a Glasdon Topsy Royale (as appropriate).

All litter bins should be floor-mounted to ensure that a visually impaired person with a white cane can detect it. In addition, they should not have any sharp edges or corners. The litter bins should be positioned out of the main line of travel or grouped, if appropriate, 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, mobility aids or guide dogs. The litter bins have wide, open apertures to avoid the need for human contact (but not so wide that litter can escape). Some litter bins have a stainless steel stubbing plate on the top to ensure cigarettes are extinguished safely, reducing the risk of litter igniting inside the bin.

4. Dog Waste Bins

Dog waste is no longer classed as hazardous waste. The Council encourages bagged dog waste to be put into any public litter bin or better still taken back to the dog owner's own household waste bin. In some circumstances, such as known dog fouling hotspots or dog walking routes, the Council still provides red Wybone WDB/LUFO dog waste bins which are front opening, post-mounted and have a 56-litre capacity with a clearly visible dog waste logo:

Other types of bin which can be found across the District include the Glasdon Fido and Glasdon Retriever dog waste bins.

5. On-Street Recycling Bins

In Stratford-upon-Avon and the Main Rural Centres, the Council provides blue Glasdon Jubilee on-street recycling bins with a 110-litre capacity to collect co-mingled (mixed) dry recyclables. These bins are 'paired' with general litter bins and have clearly visible iconography from the national Recycle Now brand to reduce the levels of contamination:

6. Bin Emptying

The frequency of bin emptying is dependent on the level of use, location of the bin and seasonal variations. A 'colour sack scheme' is in operation for all public litter bins across the District. A blue sack is used on week 1; a purple sack on week 2 and a red sack on week 3 (and repeat), which enables bin emptying frequencies to be monitored and refined. A clear sack continues to be used for on-street recycling bins to ensure that there is segregation between clean recycling and non-recyclable litter. The clear sack also allows for the identification of any contaminants.

7. Bin Cleansing

Each litter bin, dog waste bin and on-street recycling bin is thoroughly cleaned inside and out at least annually using clean water and an approved cleaning agent. The Council also ensures that the exterior of each bin remains clean and free of dirt, spillages, other markings and staining (where possible) on an ongoing basis.

8. Bin Removal

The Council may consider the removal of unused or under-used bins. Where a bin is removed, the area will be monitored and the decision reviewed should litter levels increase unacceptably.

9. Replacement Bins

In the event that an existing bin is damaged, faulty or vandalised beyond economic repair, the Council will carry out an assessment to see whether the bin is still required. If so, the Council will either replace or relocate the bin or empty nearby bins more frequently. Please note that bins will not be replaced for solely aesthetic reasons.

10. Additional Bins

In the event that a Parish or Town Council submits a request for an additional bin, the Council will consider the request and, if approved, make the necessary arrangements. The purchase and installation of a bin will normally be carried out within 8 weeks of the request being approved.

The Parish or Town Council will be subject to the following charges in accordance with the Council's Fees and Charges:

- Purchase and installation of a new or replacement bin (one-off payment)
- Emptying and cleansing of the bin (annual payment)

The charges are dependent on the type of bin and the method/location of installation and will be agreed prior to the bin being purchased and installed. The Council will send an invoice to the

Parish or Town Council following installation. The Parish or Town Council is responsible for the cost of the future repair and maintenance of the bin, including reinstatement.

11. Contact

To report a full/overflowing, damaged, faulty or vandalised bin, please contact us:

- Phone: 01789 260616
- Email: info@stratford-dc.gov.uk
- Online: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/street-cleansing-form.cfm