

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2021

EMPTYING OF TWO ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BINS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To decide whether to fund the emptying of two additional dog waste bins

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Currently, Abergavenny Town Council pays Merlin Waste to empty 36 dog bins on a weekly basis at a cost of £3.90 per bin per week., £7300 a year.
- 2.2 In May 2019, Abergavenny Town Council agreed “that there will be no further bins until the discussions with MCC conclude”. This refers to the discussions between MCC and representatives from C&TCs in Monmouthshire regarding future arrangements for the disposal of dog waste. Due to the pandemic these discussions have been stalled.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Monmouthshire Housing Association has offered to buy two new bins (cost per bin £189) to put outside their properties 16-50 Old Hereford Road and Ysgurbowen. They do not however want to pick up the cost of emptying and have asked through MCC whether the Town Council would agree to add these two bins to the Merlin Waste collection and therefore pay for the ongoing cost of emptying.
- 3.2 A price increase of 5% is being applied from 1st April so the cost of emptying these two new bins would be £426.40 a year.
- 3.3 In terms of other bins in vicinity, there’s a litter bin on the Old Hereford Road and a dog bin was installed on Old Barn Way in 2018 just up from the junction with Ysgurbowen where there’s a path through to Old Hereford Road. Otherwise there does not appear to be any other bins in the area.
- 3.4 There is an ongoing issue with MHA tenants who have dogs allowing their dogs to foul the greenspace outside the flats without cleaning it up. Grounds maintenance are refusing to cut the grass, and MHA have been employing a hygiene company to come and pick up all the dog mess but now are seeking a different solution with a bin and the Town Council paying for the emptying. This raises the question of whether these tenants would make use of the bin and whether it would solve MHA’s problem. MHA tenants can dispose of dog waste in their household waste.
- 3.5 However, these bins would not be for the sole use of MHA tenants so consideration should be given as to whether there is a wider need for dog bins in these locations and if so whether the Town Council is willing to change the decision from the one made in May 2019 and then accept the additional cost.

3.6 There is no budget provision for this additional cost, therefore funding would have to be vired from another budget (suggest events) or MHA could be requested to pay for the first year with the Town Council making budget provision in 2022/23.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 To agree whether to agree to the MHA request to pick up the cost of emptying two additional dog waste bins and if so how to fund this additional service.