
**A Report of the:
Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny
Committee**

**Task and Finish Group: Grit
Bin Policy Review**

March 2022



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

In response to Members concerns relating to the cap on grit bin provision, Members of the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee formed a Task and Finish Group to research and make recommendations and to discuss possible options going forward.

The Task and Finish Group selected option 3:
“Recommend the current list of identified priority needs as identified by members in Appendix A is met and the cap correspondingly increased, but then the level of grit bins is again subsequently capped.” as their preferred option.

I would like to thank the Members and Officers who gave their time to attend the meetings and for their contributions .I hope our conclusions have helped in giving focus on this subject for the future.

*Vice Chair of Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee /
Chair of the Grit Bin Policy Review Task and Finish Group
Councillor Robert Wood*

BACKGROUND

On 5 November 2021 the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee, scrutinised the Three Yearly Grit Bin Policy Review report that formed part of the Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board agenda.

The grit bin policy was set in 2012, and had been presented to the Committee on a three yearly review basis since then; there had been no changes to the policy since it was set in 2012. One of the aspects of the current policy was that the number of grit bins had been capped, with minor exceptions, since 2012. The cap was introduced due to ongoing increasing numbers of grit bin requests alongside reducing budgets and resources, and the cap had subsequently been maintained as part of the three yearly reviews.

During the meeting, Members expressed their concerns in regards to the current grit bin policy and highlighted the difficulties that were experienced during the winter months; particularly in areas where there weren't many git bins or any at all.

Following the discussions and concerns raised by Members in this meeting, a formal amendment to the recommendation contained within the circulated report was proposed and seconded:

'That the current Grit Bin Policy be continued pending a review of the policy by the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee and a report be brought back for consideration to a future meeting of the Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board'

It was determined that the Committee were in support of the amendment to be considered by Cabinet Board; in the meeting of Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board, the Cabinet Members accepted the amendment.

Following these meetings, the Task and Finish Group was set up for the purpose of reviewing the Council's grit bin policy.

APPROACH

The entirety of the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee were invited to sit on the Group:

Cllr. Robert Wood
Cllr. Sheila Penry
Cllr. Angharad Aubrey
Cllr. Rosalyn Davies
Cllr. Charlotte Galsworthy
Cllr. Wyndham Griffiths
Cllr. Jo Hale
Cllr. Scott Jones
Cllr. Dennis Keogh
Cllr. Simon Knoyle
Cllr. Stephanie Lynch
Cllr. Adam McGrath replaced with Cllr. Mark Protheroe

The Task and Finish Group was completed over two meetings. The meetings considered a range of information and internal evidence from the following sources:

Michael Roberts – Head of Streetcare
James Davies – Neighbourhood Services Manager
Colette Powney – Streetscene Manager
All Councillors within NPT Council

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title	Grit Bin Policy Review
Reasons for undertaking Task and Finish Group	<p>On 5th November 2021, the Members of the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Three Yearly Grit Bin Policy Review report which was contained within the Cabinet Board agenda.</p> <p>The Committee recommended to Cabinet Board that the current Grit Bin Policy be continued, pending a review of the policy by the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee and a report be brought back for consideration to a future meeting of the Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board.</p>
Intended Outcome of Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To review the criteria contained within the current Grit Bin Policy - To determine whether the current Grit Bin Policy should be continued - To consider how requests and resourcing are dealt with if it is determined that the current Grit Bin Policy should not be continued
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Three Yearly Grit Bin Policy Review', Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board, 5th November 2021 - Grit Bin Provision and Ward Provision of Grit Bins – November 2021
Member Involvement	A Task and Finish Group formed of all Members from the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee.
Officer Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chloe Plowman (Democratic Services) - Mike Roberts (Head of Streetcare) - Colette Powney (Streetscene Manager) - James Davies (Neighbourhood Services Manager)

<p>Plan for meeting</p>	<p><u>1st December 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the Scoping Document / Terms of Reference of the Task and Finish Group • To review the criteria contained within the current Grit Bin Policy with the support of Officers • To determine whether the current Grit Bin Policy should be continued • That the Task and Finish Group resolves to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Recommend that that the current Grit Bin Policy be continued to a future Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board. (2) Discuss potential amendments to the Grit Bin Policy and recommend a way forward.
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KEY EVIDENCE AND CONCLUSIONS

First meeting – 1 December 2021

Members were presented with the current Grit Bin Policy, and an outline of how many grit bins were currently in each Ward. Three elements formulated the Grit Bin Policy; the eligibility criteria, the capping of service provision and the provision for reviewing of existing locations.

Members had the opportunity to discuss the policy in detail with Officers, before considering a way forward.

It was decided that a survey exercise would be completed, involving all Elected Members. The details of the exercise were to be actioned as follows:

- Officers had produced maps identifying where the grit bins were located in each Ward; these maps were to be circulated to Members in order to provide them with opportunity to review the grit bins in their Ward;
- A letter was to be sent to Elected Members, asking them to identify any unmet needs for grit bins within their Ward; this also would include considering relocation of existing grit bins in their Ward;
- Officers then consider the requests made by Members against the current criteria, and report back to the Task and Finish Group on the outcome, providing information relating the costs and resource implications if they were to be granted.

Survey Exercise

A letter, along with a map of their Ward, was circulated to all Elected Members on 14 December 2021, which outlined the review of the grit bin policy within the Authority and the opportunity for Members to submit requests for additional grit bins in their Ward and for current grit bins to be moved or removed. The deadline for responding to the letter was 3 January 2022.

A further email was sent at the start of January 2022, extending the deadline to 10 January 2022 to allow more Members to respond. It was explained in the second email, that if no response was received, Officers would assume that no additional resources/relocations were required in their Ward.

Second meeting – 23 February 2022

Officers provided a brief overview of the contents of the Grit Bin Policy Review Briefing Note and Findings of Survey Exercise.

Officers had received 47 responses from Members, covering 36 of the 42 Wards; this included some responses that no changes were believed to be necessary.

A total of 110 requests were received from Members, which were broken down into three categories:

- 97 Requests for new grit bins in a new location;
- 9 Requests for replacement grit bins where bins had been identified as having gone missing or become irreparably damaged;
- 4 Requests for grit bins to be relocated

Each of the 97 requests received for new grit bins in new locations, had been inspected by the relevant Neighbourhood Services Zone Supervisor to establish the feasibility of placing a grit bin, and each had been considered against the current criteria.

Following this work, 74 of the locations were identified as being suitable to locate either a large or small grit bin; 23 locations were identified as unsuitable for reasons outlined in the circulated report. The list of the 74 locations deemed suitable for a grit bin was included in Appendix A, whilst a list of sites deemed unsuitable was provided in Appendix B.

In regards to resource pressure for the Council, there would be an initial cost to install and fill the bins at the 74 locations deemed suitable; 43 small 500kg bins and 31 large 1000kg bins would amount to £33,000. The topography of the area had also been considered, which helps to assess the annual ongoing cost of filling the bins; out of the total of 74 requested locations deemed suitable, 41 bins were categorised as 'high route' and 33 as 'low

route'. Therefore, the total additional annual cost for servicing the 74 new grit bins was estimated at £24,000.

Following the consideration of all the evidence presented to them the group was able to make some conclusions that in turn have informed the recommendations.

**LOCATIONS DEEMED SUITABLE FOR A GRIT BIN –
APPENDIX A**

Aberdulais

The Pines

Alltwen

Edward Street

Baglan

Thorney Road (by garages entrance)

Crofton Drive

Tir Onen

Crawford Road

Albion Road

Bleangwrach

Heol Wenallt

Chainwalk (Lambs Bridge)

Briton Ferry East

Graig Road

Bryn & Cwmavon

Chapel Terrace

Penhydd Street

Bryn to Goytre Lane (Middle)

Bryncoch South

Kestrel Close to Daphne Road

Cimla

Brynau wood to Woodview

Heol Derwyn

Larch Close (End)

Maple Close (End)

Botton of the Oaks/Crynallt Drive

Top of Pine Grove

Heol Ffynon

The Meadows

Crynallt Road (Top)

Coedffranc Central

Bayview Gardens

Coedffranc West

Corner of Charles Street/The Meadows

School Road (Jersey Marine)

Ocean View

Crynant

Woodland Road

Cymmer

Heol Sir William

Bryn Coed

Heol Y Fedw

Dyffryn

Junction of Highland Gardens

Junction of Heol Heddwch and Heol Penderyn

Glyncorrwg

Norton Terrace

Waun Avenue/Park Street

Glynneath

Hays Crescent

Godregraig

Tanydarren

Hodgsons Road

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen

Crescent Road

Heol Hir

Derwydd Avenue

Neath East

Walters Road Flats/Mile End Row

Penrhiwtyn Drive

DC Griffiths Way

Herbert Road

Neath North

Church Place

Fairyland

Neath South

Bwlch Road

Burnside

Bryn Road

Penlenna

Maesgwyn

Pontardawe

Primrose Road

Top of Parc Gilbertson

Lower Heathfield

Port Talbot

Ty Draw Hill

Resolven

Moses Row

Dunvant Avenue

Heol Nant

Sandfields East

Darwin Road

Seven Sisters

Martyns Avenue

Church Road

Taibach

Goytre Close – by Playground

Tonna

Parsons Lane to St Annes Drive

Fairyland Road – Picnic area

Trebanos

Cae Ismaen

Heol Y Llwynau

Ystalyfera

Varteg Road/Wade Avenue

Varteg Road/Ffordd Glandwr

Varteg Road (Bus Shelter)

YG School – Drop off area

Glantwrch

Bronallt/Allygrug Farm Road

Zoar Road

**LOCATIONS NOT DEEMED SUITABLE FOR A GRIT
BIN – APPENDIX B**

Alltwen

Heol Y Parc – Road to narrow

Bleangwrach

Parish Road – Grit bin on site

Briton Ferry East

Cwm y Dwr – Road un-adopted

Coedffranc West

Elba Crescent – Does not fit criteria

Cae Morfa – Site un-adopted

Crymlyn Parc – New part of site un-adopted

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen

Cefn Road – Does not fit criteria

Gron Road – Does not fit criteria

Neath East

Morgans Road – Bin on site

Pontardawe

Upper Heathfield – No suitable location

Heol Las - No suitable location

Bryn Derwen – Bin on site

Baran Mountain – Large number of bins already on site

Rhos

Primrose Lane – Bin on site

Heol Alfred Wallace/Heol Cynfeli/Ffrodd Cynnon – New site un-adopted

Seven Sisters

Commercial Road – Bin on site

Tan y Rhiw – Access to fill bin would be difficult

Marigold Place – Bin on site

Tonna

Hunters Ridge – Bin on site

Dol Coed Terrace – Bin on site

Lock House path – Private Road

Ystalyfera

Wade Avenue - Bin already close to area requested

The Gardens– Bin already close to area requested

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were presented to the Task and Finish Group for consideration:

1. Recommend making no changes to current policy;
2. Recommend the cap is removed, and that officers deal with ongoing requests as they come in (accepting there are 74 requests which would be deemed as suitable likely to be submitted immediately);
3. Recommend the current list of identified priority needs as identified by Members in Appendix A is met, and the cap correspondingly increased, but then the level of grit bins is again subsequently capped.

A vote was undertaken in the last meeting of the Task and Finish Group to determine their preferred option, to recommend to the Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board scheduled for Friday 18 March 2022; the result were as follows:

- Option 1 – 0
- Option 2 – 2
- Option 3 – 5

Therefore, it will be recommended that the current list of identified priority needs, as identified by Members in Appendix A, is met and the cap correspondingly increased, but then the level of grit bins is again subsequently capped.