



Bold project helped rate of recycling

Horsham District Council's Cabinet are scheduled to decide on 24th November the future of the award-winning Acorn rubbish collection and recycling scheme.

Word on the street has it that there is likely to be a move away from the side-loading dustcarts. It seems that the vehicles are becoming more and more unreliable.

Apparently Horsham is the only local authority that use them and some spare parts are now unobtainable.

So it looks as if a return to a gang of men shifting bins to the back of a lorry is inevitable.

It is a pity because it was a bold move on the council's part to go for the side loaders and all that involved.

They will not, of course, be sadly missed by everyone. Many urban streets were difficult because of parked vehicles or other obstructions and special small vehicles are needed for some locations.

Often the side-loader leaves bins in the roadway in spite of the strict instructions to residents to leave them on the footway for emptying. One law for the rich, another for



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the poor.

Can we hope that in a return to the methods of the past we will also return to the good old days when the bins were returned to the households? Somehow, I doubt it.

The HDC website boasts that Horsham has the highest rate of recycling in West Sussex and they hope to push it even higher.

This must be a good thing and we can all help to make sure the correct things go in the right bin.

But there is also a hint that we will lose our weekly refuse collection. It has to be recognised that some people's circumstances and lifestyle make them more likely to have non-recycleable refuse, often due to the way shops package their goods.

Large families are allowed larger bins but even so there could be difficulties if we have a long hot summer and families happen to be away in the week when the refuse is collected.

A real problem would be created if the fortnightly recycling and garden waste collections were extended to a longer period.

It is early days yet to judge the effect of the councils' decisions to charge for DIY waste, etc.

It does seem to go against the grain of encouraging responsible disposal of waste and could be the thin end of a wedge leading to further charges for waste collection and disposal.

When Acorn first started we were encouraged to put out as much garden

waste as possible because it gave HDC a higher rating in the rubbish collection stakes.

As a result many people moved away from having somewhere they could burn garden waste.

Then it went down to a strict one-bin rule. Now we have to pay for its collection. Perhaps we should go back to those bonfires.

We all recognise that local authorities are under financial pressure to make savings. However, the services provided, whether by law or by custom are important for a happy and healthy population.

We must not be in a situation where vital services are lost. The Acorn scheme was a bold project and in many ways we should be sad to see it go.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town.

It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces.

Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 261905.