

Committee:	Date:
Port Health and Environmental Services	8 March 2016
Subject: Bishopsgate Bin Trial	Public
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For Information

Summary

This report details the outcomes of the long-term bin trial carried out in Bishopsgate from May to November 2015 and advises the Committee of the future plans for bins in Bishopsgate.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City's current position regarding litterbins is that they are only provided in seated areas or in locations where it can be demonstrated that they are cost effective and improve street cleanliness standards. Bishopsgate is a unique location within the City in that it is both a busy transport hub and has a vibrant night-time economy.
2. In August and September 2013, the Cleansing Service conducted an initial trial in Bishopsgate to ascertain whether the installation of litterbins would improve the overall condition of the street environment. This was completed utilising the existing stock of standard open top bins. The results of this initial trial were encouraging and it was agreed that a subsequent longer-term trial would be carried out using the new Big Belly Solar Compactor bins as the original open top bins lacked the capacity needed at times of peak footfall and also resulted in litter being blown from them on windy days.
3. In May 2015, and in agreement with Transport for London (the highway authority responsible for highway infrastructure in Bishopsgate), nine Big Belly Bins were installed along Bishopsgate at the places indicated in Appendix A.

Current Position

4. Throughout the trial period the degree to which Bishopsgate was littered was assessed using the Defra National Indicator 195 methodology in accordance with the grading schedule set out in Appendix B. These surveys were carried out by our Street Environment Team and supplemented by independent inspections by Keep Britain Tidy. The results from these surveys were compared to the two-week baseline survey that was carried out using the same methodology in early May 2015 before the bins were installed.
5. As can be seen in the table below, the data showed that there was a consistent increase of 5.4% in the number of A and B+ grade inspections and an almost

corresponding reduction (4.5%) in the number of B- and C grade inspection results. No D grade inspections were recorded at any point during the trial.

Grade	Without Bins	With Bins	Change
A	0.40%	3.90%	3.50%
B+	1.50%	3.40%	1.90%
B	74.30%	73.30%	-1%
B-	9.70%	8.70%	-1%
C	14.20%	10.70%	-3.50%
D	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

6. Officers have regularly discussed the trial installation of the bins with Amey management and operatives at the weekly and monthly meetings held. Overall, the general feedback has been extremely positive, with the consensus being that not only have improvements been noticed in the street scene, but also a consistently attainable and efficient routine to service the bins has been implemented.
7. A survey of businesses along Bishopsgate has been conducted by the Street Environment Team to gauge their opinions of the bins trial. Overall the bins have been well received with 69% believing they have reduced the amount of general litter and 70% believing it reduced smoking related litter. 88.5% of businesses want the bins to remain in place.
8. As the Big Belly Bins automatically record and report fill status alongside the amount of times they are emptied we are able to monitor and compare the usage for each bin. We will be able to identify any units being underused and can relocate to areas where they will be more effectively utilised. During the course of the trial the usage per bin was monitored and found to be consistently efficient with each bin being emptied an average of just over once a day as shown in Appendix C.
9. Prior to the trial, concerns were raised by Officers regarding the potential for illegal disposal of commercial waste by way of fly tipping around the litterbins. This was monitored during the trial period and was not found to be a significant issue.
10. Due to the restrictive nature of the street infrastructure in Bishopsgate we have been previously unable to site as many cigarette butt bins there as Officers consider necessary. In addition to the improvement in the general street environment, the installation of Big Belly Bins has enabled us to install 18 additional cigarette ashtrays on these bins in Bishopsgate enabling smokers to dispose of their cigarette responsibly.

Proposals

11. As the trial has been considered successful, with a reduction in the amount of littering and an increase in the provision of on street ashtrays officers will be retaining the bin provision in Bishopsgate. The usage of the bins will continue to be monitored to ensure the quantity of bins and standard of cleanliness are optimal.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. This trial has shown an improvement in the standard of cleanliness in Bishopsgate which supports the corporate objective of providing a modern, efficient and high quality local service and within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors with a view to delivering sustainable outcomes.

Implications

13. It must be noted that the provision of any on street litterbins has a slight negative effect on the City's recycling rate. Waste collected on street is classified as residual domestic waste and is added to the weight of waste collected from domestic properties. Due to the low number of residential households in the City compared to our large transient workday population, our on street waste has a disproportionate effect on these figures than it would in other local authorities. As the waste from the litterbins in Bishopsgate is collected along with other domestic waste we do not record the weight of this waste separately, however it is estimated that this could be in the region of a tonne per week that would decrease our current recycling by less than 1%.
14. On average these bins have been emptied just over once per day. We have been able to utilise the current resources within the contract to complete this extra work, partly because the bins are close together and therefore crews do not incur significant travel time between them.
15. The cost for the on-going maintenance of the Big Belly Bins, approximately £1,500 each year, is covered by existing Local Risks budgets but consideration will have to be given to the need to make a bid for capital funding for bin replacements in around five to six years. The cost of each unit is currently £4,300 including commissioning and software.

Conclusion

16. The bins have had a positive effect on the street environment in Bishopsgate and have been well received by businesses in the area. They work in Bishopsgate because of the specific conditions of the area but it should not be automatically assumed that because they work in Bishopsgate litterbins should be introduced across the City. Officers will continue to monitor areas where littering is considerable and will instigate bin trials when appropriate. The aim will continue to be reaching and maintaining the optimum balance between providing disposal facilities for public, utilising the right bins, recycling rates and optimum use of resources.

Appendices

Appendix A: Location of trial bins in Bishopsgate

Appendix B: NI195 Litter Grading: Defra Cleanliness National Indicator Manual

Appendix C: Big Belly Bins Bishopsgate Efficiency Report

Contact:

Jim Graham, Assistant Director Cleansing
| jim.graham@cityoflondon.gov.uk |
020 7332 4972

Appendix A: Location of trial bins in Bishopsgate

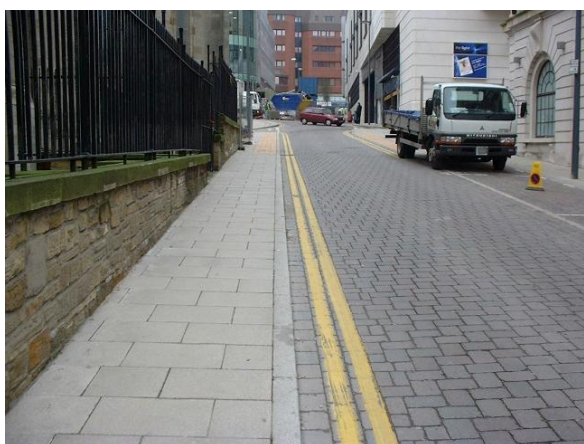


Appendix B - NI195 Litter Grading: Defra Cleanliness National Indicator Manual

There is no statutory definition of litter. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (s.87) states that litter is '*anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited that causes defacement, in a public place*'. This accords with the popular interpretation that 'litter is waste in the wrong place'. However, local authority cleansing officers and their contractors have developed a common understanding of the term and the definition used for NI195 (and for the LEQSE) is based on this industry norm.

Under Section 98(5A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, certain discarded smoking-related materials (cigarette ends, etc.), and discarded chewing gum and the results of other products designed for chewing, are specifically stated to be items of litter. However, whilst both are litter when they are dropped (i.e. the dropper could be prosecuted under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for leaving litter), the standards in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse do not apply to trodden-in chewing gum. Duty bodies are not required to employ special cleansing methods to remove compacted gum or gum staining over and above normal cleansing regimes.

Litter may also include putrescible or clinical wastes, or faeces such as dog, bird and other animal faeces. **Note** - This definition is aligned with the opinion of most members of the public who regard faeces - especially dog faeces - as comprising litter. For the purposes of NI195, recent leaf and blossom falls are **excluded** from the definition of litter.



GRADE A - no litter or refuse



GRADE B - predominantly free of litter and refuse except for some small items

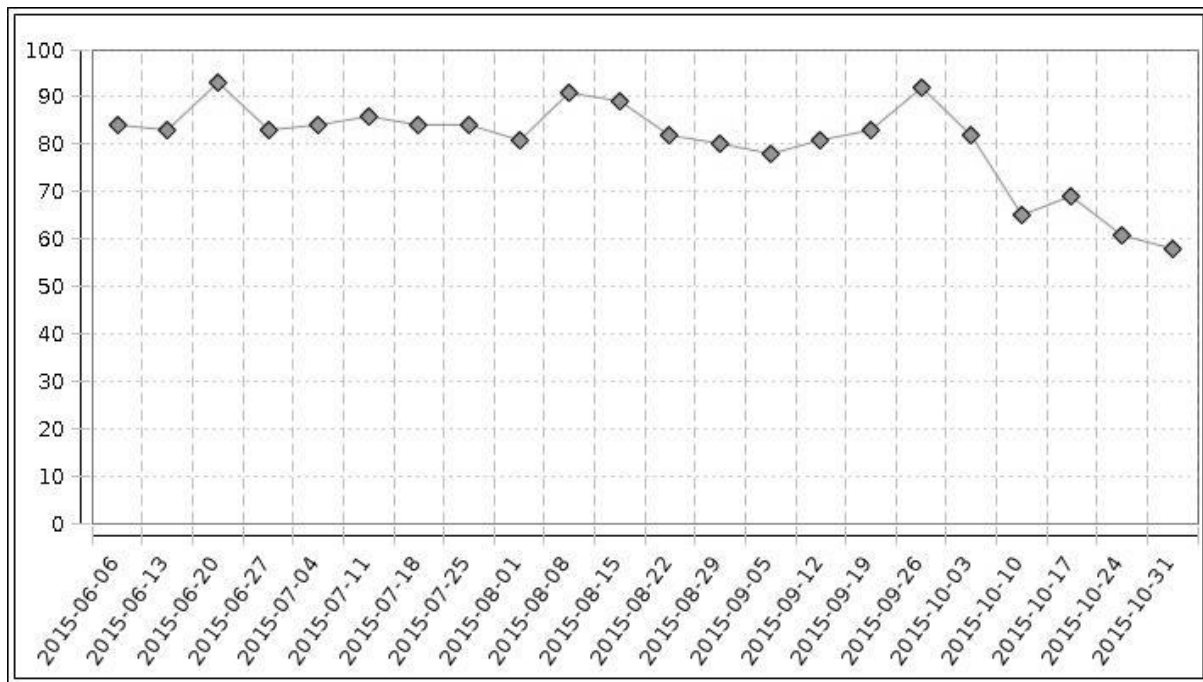


GRADE C - widespread distribution of litter and refuse, with minor accumulations



GRADE D - heavily littered, with significant accumulations

Appendix C – Big Belly Bins Bishopsgate Efficiency Report



Week	Total Emptied Green	Total Emptied Yellow	Total Emptied Red	Efficiency Percentage
2015-06-06	13	67	3	84
2015-06-13	14	64	7	83
2015-06-20	5	72	5	93
2015-06-27	17	78	6	83
2015-07-04	16	75	15	84
2015-07-11	13	63	20	86
2015-07-18	15	73	8	84
2015-07-25	14	71	8	84
2015-08-01	18	74	7	81
2015-08-08	8	79	9	91
2015-08-15	10	67	14	89
2015-08-22	17	71	10	82
2015-08-29	17	63	7	80
2015-09-05	20	67	5	78
2015-09-12	18	70	7	81
2015-09-19	13	62	5	83
2015-09-26	8	83	11	92
2015-10-03	16	64	9	82
2015-10-10	34	59	5	65
2015-10-17	29	62	4	69
2015-10-24	33	47	5	61
2015-10-31	46	59	7	58