



WASTE COLLECTIONS

The question of littering and waste collections is an issue to which there is no single, simple, cost effective solution. There is a school of thought that says that all waste bins should be removed and the public made to take litter home with them, with the penalty regime stepped up to enforce this solution, but it would be a very brave Council that went in that direction. For us here in West Mersea, the two councils concerned with waste collection, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and West Mersea Town Council (WMTC) have attempted a managed and proactive approach and addressed the hotspots. Unfortunately there will always be peak times when, whatever provision we make, it will not be adequate.

In West Mersea we are grateful for the sterling work carried out by PROUD of Mersea and the CBC Litter Warriors, who carry out regular litter picking throughout the year. We should also recognise the invaluable help and cooperation we enjoy from the CBC Neighbourhood Zone Team who manage a difficult situation extremely well.

From April 2021 WMTC has employed a part-time litter picker and, in addition, purchased 3 compacta bins, each of which will accommodate the equivalent of 5 normal size bins. These will be positioned at Seaview Carpark (1) and Monkey Beach area (2). It is anticipated that these compacta bins will be particularly helpful in addressing cartons from fast food outlets which take up a lot of space in conventional litter bins.

The frequency of bin emptying has been stepped up in 2021 and now includes evening collections from key areas during the summer period as well as weekend collections. An example of this is the area by Coast Road toilets where the bins are emptied twice a day, 7 days a week. The same applies to the Monkey Steps and Boardwalk areas.

In respect of the library car park recycling bins - none of these are the direct responsibility of WMTC. The Great Ormond Street paper recycling centre and clothes banks depends on a phone call from the public before it is emptied. The bottle banks are emptied on a 4 week cycle. The can recycling is run by CBC and is regularly emptied. Unfortunately when individual banks are full the public leaves bags of recycling outside the bins; this is classed as fly tipping. CBC is currently pushing the message that environmental offences such as leaving a refuse bag next to a rubbish bin and bags of goods by charity bins will not be tolerated. It is illegal and will be subject to a fixed penalty notice. It should be noted that the Upland Road Recycling centre is open 4 days a week and should be used as a viable alternative to the Library car park when those bins are full.

For further details of the specific bins and location collected for WMTC, please contact info@westmersea.org