

The first thing that one has to consider about the introduction of wheelie bins into the Victorian streets of Brentford is that this is an imposition, a fait-accompli by the Borough. There has been absolutely NO consultation with the people of Brentford about the need for them or any other discussions about waste and recycling.

About 70% of what is known as New Brentford is within the St. Paul's Conservation Area. People care strongly about the appearance of their streets, and many people have chosen to live the area at least partly because they like the way it looks. The scale and appearance of the streetscape is important to us. The houses have low walls, often low windowsills and small front yards and having wheelie bins in these small spaces will be a blight on the street, a complete eyesore.

You should go over to Enfield Road now. Since the introduction of wheelie bins this lovely Victorian area has been completely blighted by these plastic eyesores. They are not only visible in residents' front yards, in houses similar to our own, but all over the streets not only on collection days but all the time.

The 140 litre wheelie bin is huge, more than a metre tall and more than half a metre both wide and deep. They contain about three full plastic sacks evidently but the truth locally is that households in this street are barely producing half a black bag a week and this includes households with kids.

My own household produces about a supermarket bag of disposable waste each FORTNIGHT.

Planning regulations for new houses recommend that wheelie bins are placed NO LESS than four metres from a doorway or window, yet the Borough is telling us it's ok to have these potentially smelly eyesores right outside our front windows twenty four hours a day

This community knows about waste and recycling and enthusiastically embraces it, and while the Council looks at the Borough as a whole it has little idea about what goes on in each community. We actually have a recycling group here in Brentford BRAG which in its 15 years has put recycling at the forefront of the community, and it is without doubt a community that recycles well above the national average. Just this morning I looked down Lateward Road where I live at the full recycling boxes and the small black bags of disposable waste.

And the efficiency of the bin men was amazing. They went from the bottom to the top of Lateward road in about THREE minutes! How long is it going to take a vehicle that empties two bins each time? Or will the operatives just reach into the bin and grab the bag like they already do in a lot of the Borough – but are not meant to do.

The Borough are telling us that having a wheelie bin helps recycling, but this is not the case. There is no absolutely no correlation between the two. If anything, residents will be tempted to throw everything into the bin including recyclables.

How will the elderly manage these bins and how will they or anyone be able to clean them with no water facilities in their front yards?

How will operatives manage to get wheelie bins to the refuse lorry in tight and heavily parked streets like Mafeking Avenue and Braemar Road?

And surely they will not be introduced in Streets like New Road where doors open out on to the street will they? That means there will still have to be a black bag pickup and we all want it to stay that way.

We know that bins will remain on the pavement after the collection – this has been a major problem in many wheelie bin areas – we know what Enfield Road looks like now on bin emptying day. It's a disgrace. We do not want our streets to look like this.

I have recently taken a petition around Lateward Road asking residents to sign if they do not want wheelie bins outside their houses. There are 64 houses in Lateward Road and out of the 46 houses that answered EVERY SINGLE ONE signed the petition. That is one hundred percent of respondents., and that I suggest is a serious mandate. NO ONE wants a wheelie bin, and I am positive this would be exactly the same for all the other streets in the area.

Yet the council has the audacity to tell us that that “ in their trial” there was a 96% approval rating by residents. Which trial? What streets? I would love the council to tell us how you concocted such obviously bogus figures.

Conservation officers from London Boroughs have noted the negative effects wheelie bins have had on an area a long time ago, and maybe that would be the same for this Borough except that we do not have a conservation officer!

Leucha Rd Conservation Area Waltham Forest – from March 2006

“ The introduction of wheelie bins is seen as having a profoundly negative effect on the special character of the area.....”

Durham Road Newham – December 2006

“ The roadside collection of domestic refuse leads to large waste bins being temporarily left on the footway or inside front gardens and bins are now a semi-permanent feature of front gardens. This is a particular problem in the area where there are no rear access lanes....”

And it is because of this that residents up and down the country have been fighting against their introduction by misguided councils.

Brentham residents in Ealing are resisting their introduction as they are “ugly, unsightly, destroy the look of my front yard, a monstrosity. They are about the ugliest object one could view. “

In Highgate many residents of the Miltons Conservation area have said how badly the area has been blighted by wheelie bins since their introduction since 2012.

And for similar reasons other conservation areas in London including Bedford Park and Primrose Hill are up in arms about wheelie bins.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/this-not-ok-making-cardiff-9697024>

According to walesonline, residents of Canton, Cardiff were made furious by their introduction in May this year. Now the streets “look like a slum” according to many residents.

And now hundreds of communities up and down the country have been blighted by wheelie bins since their introduction. Just put “wheelie bins in the street” into google search and you will find out the huge amount of problems they have created. It is quite obvious that the council has not even bothered to find out about what can be the deleterious effects of wheelie bins in communities before you decided to roll them out in this borough.

These are the words of Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles in 2013 :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-action-to-take-on-town-hall-bin-blight>

“For years badly-placed wheelie bins and the proliferation of multiple bins have created a blot on the landscape. In streets up and down the country, ugly bin clutter has ruined the street scene and the look of people’s homes and gardens.”

I was born at the West Mid and I have lived in the borough almost all of my 65 years more than half of it in Brentford. Over the years I have become increasingly disillusioned and angry about the way the council makes decisions in Hounslow about Brentford whether it be the closure of our beautiful swimming baths which for want of a £250,000 investment were closed and sold off, planning decisions about Brentford High Street taken by councillors who have hardly ever been here and know nothing about the place, to the recent debacle of our council leader offering public open space at Brent Lea on a 150 lease to a private school company.

This is a council which is not listening and is blind of the blight that wheelie bins cause. We are not having them.

Paul Slattery