

## Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – September 23

I can inform you that HDC's Joint administration Cabinet, made up of Lib Dem, Independent, Labour and Green councillors, unanimously agreed to introduce the Green Bin tax, at its meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

This followed the Call in by the Conservative members of the Overview and Scrutiny panels. The Lib Dem, Independent, Labour members all voted in favour of the proposal of the Green Bin Tax and not to put it to the Full Council.

The cost of the Green Bin tax will be £57.50 per annum and £30.00 per annum for each additional bin up to 4.

From the 01 April 24 you will be required to put all food waste into your Grey Bin, as HDC cannot charge to collect, you can also put Green waste in the Grey bin as some residents already do.

This will lead to more waste going to landfill and thus higher Methane emissions, more vehicles on the roads leading to more pollution and congestion at HWRC's. It may also lead to greater fly tipping and more bonfires. Which fly's in the face of the Council's decision, to call a Climate Emergency. HDC will also have to pay higher costs for the disposal of the waste, due to the increased quantities going for disposal

This is a regressive tax on residents and takes no account of the ability to pay. This tax will affect the poorest, those living in lower band properties, the elderly and resident's living alone to a greater extent.

Residents will also be able to save money by one resident paying for five bins and then distributing to 4 neighbours. The total cost per household would then be £35.50. Each household would then pay their neighbour £35.50 instead of paying £57.50 each. On Bin collection day the bins would need to be put outside the property that is paying for the bins.

Regarding, HDC's Local Plan Update, I can inform the PC that Full Consultation on the sites submitted and HDC's assessment will form part of the Further Issues and Options Engagement which is scheduled for spring/summer next year. It is anticipated Parish Councils along with all other interested parties will be given 10 weeks to consider these, thus giving plenty of time for full engagement.

The Cambridge City Labour Party and the South Cambs Liberal Democrats have now decided not to support the Congestion Charge Proposals as they have realised it's a vote loser. However, they have said they will revisit this in the future, I would suggest after the next election.

With regard the large amount of weeds along the edges of our roads, if this is an issue for the PC as Cambridgeshire County Council are no longer carrying out annual /cyclic weeding due to it being cut from the budget. I would suggest that the

PC circulates the petition to show the Cllrs in charge that this is an important issue  
The link to the petition is <https://shorturl.at/dkFTZ>

I would also ask that the PC consider writing to object to this policy and request that it is reversed.

With regard, to next year's Local Highways Improvement Bids Parishes will be able to submit applications from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 23 until noon on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 24. The County Council will undertake feasibility studies between February and May.

The LHI Panel meetings will be in June /July 24. With the report to Committee in September 24.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick