

BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL



Town Hall
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2HS

Telephone:
Bideford (01237) 428817/8

Heather J Blackburn BA (Hons), IPD, IAM
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

4 January 2022

To: Members of the Decarbonisation and Environment Committee

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the **Decarbonisation and Environment Committee** of the above-named Council to be held in the Council Chamber, on **Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 6.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public are welcome to attend. There is a legal right to film/record/photograph/report public meetings.

Richard Coombes
for Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
2. To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and note any requests for dispensation received by the Clerk prior to the meeting.
3. Public participation session of 15 minutes duration on items on the agenda.
4. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2021 as a correct record (approved and adopted at the Town Council Meeting 16 December 2021 – excluding minute number 14 - not supported). Enc
5. To receive further information in order to give consideration to donating £2,000 to Eden Reforestation Projects (not Cornwall) (<https://edenprojects.org/>) to plant at least one tree, per resident of the parish (18,500-19,000 estimated population) and make recommendation.
6. To consider actions to promote a driving responsibly campaign and make recommendation.
7. Give the consideration to the request by a resident to fund the purchase of 500 recycling box covers for a trial, agreed with Torridge District Council, to provide them to residents on the estates either side of Manteo Way neighbouring Tesco, to evaluate the reduction in windblown litter associated with recycling collection. Enc

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Richard Haste** <Richard.Haste@torridge.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, Nov 17, 2021 at 9:26 AM

Subject: RE: Recycling East the Water

To: Andrea Leiter

Cc: James Craigie

Dear Miss Leiter,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Torridge District Council has never provided covers, lids or nets for recycling boxes for a couple of reasons. The first of these reasons is because such items effectively cap the amount of recycling that can be placed in the recycling boxes. We would always rather the public follow the guidance we issue and squash their plastic bottles and cans so that they take up less space in the boxes and are less likely to blow out. In addition, if people use the full range of recycling containers, the paper and cardboard bags can be used as lids if folded over and pushed into the top of the boxes. Alternatively, the glass boxes or food caddies can be stacked on top of the green boxes to weight down any lightweight contents. This removes the need to supply additional items such as covers or lids.

We do find that the majority of material that finds its way onto the road on collection day is uncrushed plastic bottles that haven't been placed securely in the boxes and we will continue in our efforts to get the residents of Torridge washing and crushing their recycling and recent upgrades to the signage on our fleet reflect this.

At present we have no objection to residents supplying elasticated covers for their boxes, but we will review the situation with our crews to see if the presence of the covers impede them in carrying out their daily duties. Efficiency of the service is another reason why such covers have never been issued by Torridge; our crews service on average 5000 separate recycling containers every day and if the covers are found to obstruct the emptying of the green boxes, we may need to issue guidance not to use them. In addition, Torridge District Council can take no responsibility for any loss of damage to the covers. They are not standard items issued by the Council and so residents use them at their own risk, particularly in poor weather conditions.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me.

Kind Regards

Richard Haste – Operational Services Manager

Torridge District Council Westcombe Depot, Bideford EX393JQ

Phone 01237 428700

Email Richard.Haste@torridge.gov.uk

From: [Andrea Leiter](mailto:Andrea.Leiter@torridge.gov.uk)
Sent: 10 November 2021 17:09
To: richard.haste@torridge.gov.uk
Cc: [James Craigie](mailto:James.Craigie@torridge.gov.uk)
Subject: Recycling East the Water

Dear Mr. Haste

I'm writing you on behalf of the East the Water community. My name is Andrea Leiter, qualified in Waste & Environmental Management and working as a HSE Manager. I work close with James Craigie, Councillor for Bideford East, together to improve the current Waste & Environmental situation within East the Water and of course Bideford in general.

Mr. Craigie sent you a request about nettings for the recycling boxes as the recycling day is every week a "pick up waste day" instead collection day only. This is not only causing recycling (rubbish) flying around but it means we must walk around and pick up waste which we mostly did not generate ourselves. This may ok for those who are able to walk, but for those limited in movement this is very frustrating. It is also not pleasant to have used food containers etc in our gardens or the roads which is giving the impression of a neglected community.

Since we haven't received a response from you, I assume you may have missed the email? I'm sure a clean community and committed community is in your interest as Waste, Recycling and Public Protection Manager of Torridge District Council.

I have made it my task to improve the current situation and we have run a trial with some neighbours with elastic plastic covers. I like to express my thanks to the collection crew for emptying the boxes without any problems even the covers were attached.

Overall, the response was fantastic from the community when we ask the community if there would be interest in these covers. However, it seems there is some doubts that the recycling collection crews would empty all recycling boxes if they are all covered with the elastic plastic. I promised the community to request the go ahead from you and the Torridge District Council to assure our community that looking after our area is the right thing to do and that the District Council is supporting this action. We do not ask for financial support, even this would be helpful, but we ask the District Council to confirm that the boxes will be emptied by briefing your collection teams about the implementation of the covers.

I was so free to copy Councillor James Craigie in this email as he is supporting my request and has taken part in the trial.

I would be very grateful if you could response to my email, or, if requested, I'm happy to meet to discuss to be able to provide an official statement from you.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Leiter