

Hi,

For some years, the Civic Society has been lobbying the Borough Council to help rid our Town's Conservation Area of wheelie bins permanently stored on pavement areas and in alleys.

We have had numerous meetings with Waste Services officers. We have asked them to provide/promote alternatives to bins where appropriate (blue bags and community storage) and enforce where residents, a small but very visible minority, are uncooperative. Officers have helped modestly but not responded significantly as we wished. In consequence we have come to the realization that working through officers is unlikely to solve the problem. They work to their brief which does not include things other than an efficient waste/recycling system.

We have made efforts ourselves. We have worked with a couple of residents who have led campaigns in two areas. We have letterboxed the worst blighted areas with leaflets urging bin removal. We have made presentations to various local bodies, including the Town Council, securing their support. We have urged people to write to TBC complaining of the blight, around one hundred did so!

However, the very limited results thus far have made us conclude that if we are to make real progress there needs to be a change in political will at TBC, Councillors need to recognise that there is a serious problem largely of their own creation and they need to address that.

Consequently, we have organised a petition to run from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> May in which we ask that they take certain actions to solve the matter.

If one hundred people sign it, the matter will be included in a TBC full Council meeting (probably June), where the Society will have the opportunity to present its case and councillors will have the time to debate and decide what actions to take, if any. We are hoping that our local Ward Councillors will try to persuade their colleague members to agree our requests! This may achieve our objective, we hope so.

Size does matter! It is that magic figure of a minimum of one hundred signatories that is needed to get the issue on to an agenda!

The petition is available to be signed on the TBC website and in parallel in hard copy form at our TCS Talks in the Library on 10/4 and 8/5. In addition, all members of our TCS Committee will have hardcopies and if contacted will endeavour to make it available to you.

The actual petition text can be seen below together with details of how to access it on the TBC website.

Please help us persuade TBC to rid our Conservation Area of BIN BLIGHT.

Thanks.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Purkiss', written in a cursive style.

Alan Purkiss, Chairman, TCS

**Petition text:**

***Rid Tewkesbury of BIN BLIGHT***

*We the undersigned petition the Council to rid Tewkesbury Town Conservation Area of BIN BLIGHT.*

*The pavements of Tewkesbury's Conservation Area, an area remarkable in the number of listed buildings therein, and our famed alleys are in part obstructed by permanently located waste and recycling bins, both domestic and commercial.*

*BIN BLIGHT degrades the community environment, deters residents and businesses, devalues property, is unhygienic, blocks passage for disabled and those with prams etc, deters visitors, runs counter to initiatives like the recent £2M HSHAZ investments.*

*BIN BLIGHT is due to the unforeseen and uncorrected consequences of an otherwise satisfactory bin-based Waste and Recycling collection policy.*

*We ask that TBC recognise that despite the protection of Conservation Area status and the benefit of additional Article 4 directions the centre of Tewkesbury Town is BLIGHTED by the consequences of TBC's own policies, and it should correct that.*

*We ask that TBC take the following actions:*

- *Ensure that wheelie bins are only issued within Tewkesbury Conservation Area (and any such so identified) where residents have storage space on their property and commit to use it.*
- *Within Tewkesbury Conservation Area (and any such so identified) insist on the use of bags (Blue bags as already provided, but under-promoted, by TBC for such circumstances) or community storage (see below) where the above cannot be assured.*
- *Provide screened community storage facilities in one or two identified Tewkesbury Conservation Area (and any such so identified) problematic places - one certainly in Chance Street.*
- *Use available discretionary powers under the Environment Protection Act 1990, to include Bins stored permanently on pavements/alleys in Tewkesbury Conservation Area (and any such so identified) in the list of issues (like dog fouling, fly posting, littering, graffiti etc) incurring Fixed Penalty Notices. (Cotswold DC use these powers, TBC could do so too.)*
- *Revise wording in parts of the Council website to clearly message that in the Tewkesbury Conservation Area (and any such so identified) it is a REQUIREMENT, not a REQUEST, that bins are not stored on public space. This to include Commercial as well as residential bins.*
- *Include conditional clauses, as standard, in any development permits to ensure agreed bin storage space is maintained for the approved purpose during lifetime of development.*

**You may validly sign this petition if you are a resident of Tewkesbury Borough or representative of a business or organisation operating in Tewkesbury Borough**

## HOW TO SIGN THE ePETITION?

If you received this email:

Click on this link: [ePetition](#)

The petition is displayed.

Click on “**Log in and sign a petition**”.

If already registered, you are now able to click “**Sign**”

If you have not already registered, contact details will need to be provided (name, address and email address).

An email is then sent to the email address you provided; you need to verify this.

Once verified, you are now able to click “**Sign**”

You are now added to the list of signatories.

You can find the same ePetition link on our website (<https://www.tewkesburycivicsociety.org/>). The above then applies.

You can of course go into the TBC website HOME page without using the link and find the ePetition by clicking on **Public Participation** under COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES, then **Website** under PETITIONS, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The above then applies.

## SIGN A PAPER PETITION AS AN ALTERNATIVE?

If you are unable or unwilling to use the internet, we are running a paper version of the same petition that you may prefer to sign. We will have copies at our Talks in the Library on 10/4 and 8/5. Our committee members will hold paper versions, you could contact them. If in doubt, please email [info@tewkesburycivicsociety.org](mailto:info@tewkesburycivicsociety.org) for other places you might sign.

**We hope that you may be minded to support our efforts by signing the petition, either the hard or soft copy? We dare to hope you may even be minded to invite family or friends to do so too? Thanks.**