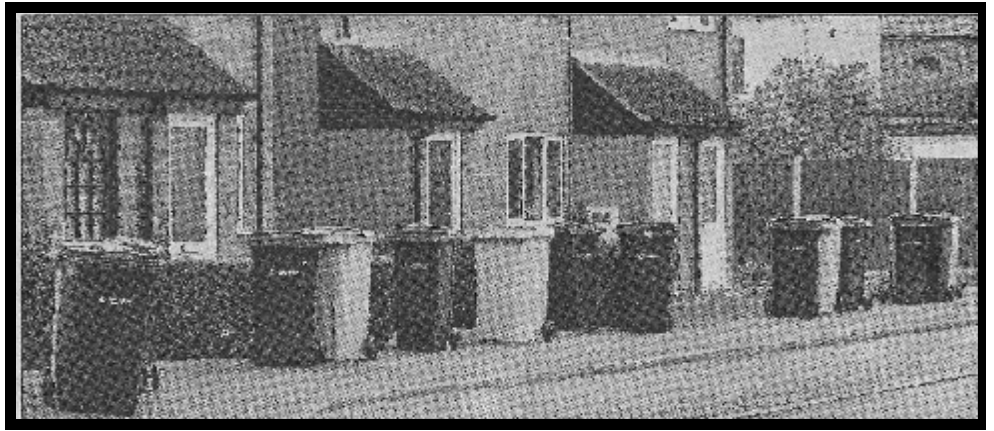


# WHEELIE-BINS - SAY NO!

Wheelie-bins are coming to Totton unless residents say "NO" in a referendum to be held next year. New Forest District Council, under pressure to meet even higher government recycling targets, has promised to abide by the outcome of a vote on whether the controversial bins should replace our familiar plastic sacks.



Local Conservatives are campaigning hard to keep the bins out of Totton and out of the New Forest. NFDC is already in the top bracket for the collection of dry recyclables (10th in England and Wales). Its performance for all recyclables (dry and compostable) is a credible 29th in the whole of England and Wales.

In March, Liberal Democrats in Totton invited one of their Liberal colleagues from Eastleigh to a public meeting to sell the idea of wheelie-bins. However, Cllr Louise Bloom faced a barrage of opposition and an overwhelming vote against the bins.

Ms Bloom even tried a health and safety argument but her comments were contradicted by a health and safety expert in the audience. It was then put to her that the extra noise from the revving-up of the bin-lift on the new vehicles that would be needed would be unacceptable, especially for night-shift workers trying to sleep.

Ms Bloom replied that in Eastleigh collections started on noisy roads first, so the extra noise from bin vehicles would not be noticed! So look out if you live on Salisbury Road, Ringwood Road or other busy thoroughfares in Totton if these contraptions are introduced.

- ◆ Wheelie-bins are visually unattractive, especially where lack of storage space means they have to be permanently sited at the front of terraced houses.. Their appearance will be made all the worse when people start to paint house numbers on their bins in big letters.
- ◆ Older people are likely to have difficulty in manoeuvring them up and down steps and slopes (especially in icy weather) for positioning ready for emptying.
- ◆ Bins take up to three times as long to collect as sacks, with major cost implications in staff time. A fleet of specially adapted vehicles will be required.

- ◆ Rubbish will have to be separated into two bins—one for waste and one for recyclables—to be collected on alternate weeks with all the problems of bin-cleaning, smells, etc.
- ◆ Where householders are out at work, wheelie-bins will be left on ugly display until the evening. When plastic sacks are removed everything immediately returns to normal, with clear gardens and pavements and unobstructed footpaths.
- ◆ According to one Eastleigh resident, the Liberal-run council has imposed a 'side-waste' policy without any consultation. This means that any bin whose lid won't close will either not be emptied or a bag will be removed so that the lid will close, and the offending bag left for the householder to dispose of at a waste centre. This means more car trips and more pollution and expense to residents who will receive a lesser service for the same or more council tax. If residents cannot or will not do this, fly-tipping will increase, thus further harming the environment.

unnecessary. If the Council is to have a consultation, there can be little objection to that. But I should be surprised if large numbers of people support a switch to wheelie-bins."

Totton Conservatives at their own recent meeting unanimously opposed wheelie-bins and are giving encouragement and support to residents who share this stance.

# SAY NO! TO WHEELIE -BINS

New Forest East MP and Totton resident, Dr Julian Lewis, says: "My personal feeling is that wheelie-bins would be noisy, ugly, expensive and

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Your views are important and I would appreciate a little of your time to let me know what you think of wheelie-bins. Please tick the appropriate box and return the form to me. Thank you.

**Are you in favour of wheelie-bins?**       Yes       No

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... Tel..... E-mail.....

If you can help to deliver In Touch in your area please tick here

**Please return to: Cllr Di Brooks, 3 The Parade, Southampton Road, Cadnam SO40 2NG  
or email: [nfeca@aol.com](mailto:nfeca@aol.com) Subject: Say NO to Wheelie-bins.**