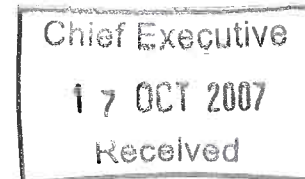


ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
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Tel/fax : 0121 447 8016
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Clerk - Yvonne Goode

Mr Kevin Dicks
Chief Executive
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA



11/10/07

Dear Kevin

Re Winter green bin collection

Alvechurch Parish Council wish to express our disappointment at Bromsgrove District Council's decision to again suspend collection of green waste during the winter months. This service was suspended last winter from mid-December until April, and we understand that the period of suspension this winter has been extended still further and will last from the end of December until April.

We further understand from District Councillor Ann Doyle that evidence submitted to the Refuse & Recycling Task Group, of which she is a member, suggests that there is no demand for such a service. We can assure you that this is definitely not the case in our parishes.

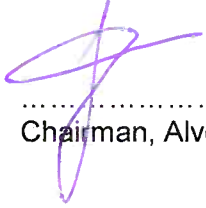
Last winter the Parish Council received a large number of complaints on this subject, not least because households believe that they have paid – through their council tax – for a bi-weekly waste collection service which includes green garden waste and there has been absolutely no consultation concerning a withdrawal of this facility. There was also a great deal of negative coverage in the local media regarding this decision.

Bromsgrove District Council has, we understand, sought to justify its decision on the grounds that during these months the collection vehicles pick up less than 1/3rd of their normal load and this will substantially cut down the fuel consumption (and therefore the resulting pollution and CO₂) of the refuse collection vehicles. This totally ignores however the following facts

- Many Parish Councils in the Bromsgrove District are rural areas where many householders generate substantial garden waste throughout the year. For many of them, there are physical limits to what they can actually compost.
- The autumn season appears to come later each year, with the consequence that the leaves will still be falling well into December.
- If garden waste is not collected as at present, then this will encourage residents to have bonfires or cart it off themselves to the local refuse tip at Romsley. In either case, this will add significantly more carbon emissions than the collection vehicles themselves would use during this period.

We are appreciative of the service offered and carefully considered the reasons for the suspension of service as presented by Rachel Kennett of Bromsgrove District Council to our meeting held 09/10/07. However we would ask you therefore to re-assess your decision and, as a compromise, perhaps, reduce the service during the December 2007 – March 2008 period to a monthly pick-up, with a view to fully restoring the fortnightly green bin collection service for the winter of 2008-2009.

Yours sincerely



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Chairman, Alvechurch Parish Council

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