

## **Waste collections in terraced/back-to-back properties that have open/gated alleyways**

To all APSE waste contacts in the UK, including Council Leaders and Chief Executives

### **Key issues:**

A summary of the responses to an APSE email query on waste collections for properties with open or gated alleyways

Includes information on types of containers, where staff collect from, how they gain access and enforcement issues.

The full responses are available to APSE members by emailing [djohns@apse.org.uk](mailto:djohns@apse.org.uk)

### **1. Introduction**

APSE issued an email query to its member authorities in August 2011 on waste collections in terraced/back-to-back properties that have open or gated alleyways. 26 responses were received from local authorities throughout the UK and the responses have been summarised below.

### **2. Types of containers**

The survey asked for the types of containers that are provided to residents for waste collections in terraced/back-to-back properties that have open or gated alleyways. From the responses received, 68% provide bins only, 24% provide bins and bags/sacks and 8% provide bags/sacks only. One respondent answered that this is collected by communal bins only.

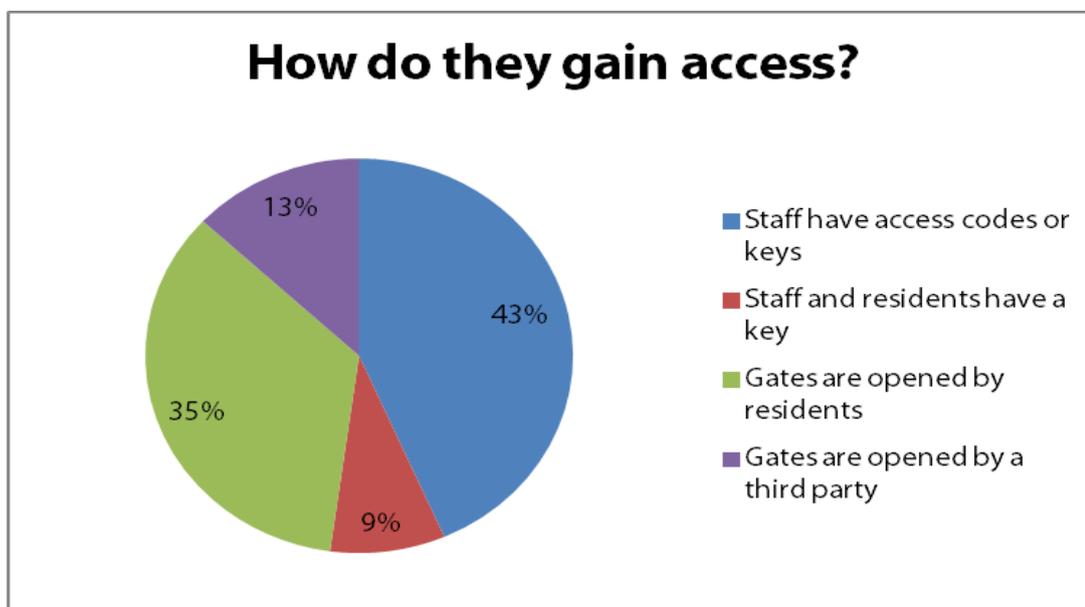
84.6% of respondents use standard containers whilst 15.4% provide residents with a choice in the containers provided. Comments included:

- We provide residents with two sized wheelie bins, 140L and 240L. Also if residents have any medical need or young children we can provide them with additional 140L wheelie bin.
- We do not supply bins for terraced houses as history shows residents will not take bins back in after collection.
- Residents have a choice on the size of wheeled bin (even though they are provided with standard containers).
- We do offer handle boxes for recycling for terraced and flats (even though they are provided with standard containers).

### 3. Where do staff collect from and how do they gain access?

The survey asked, on gated alleyways, do collection staff collect from inside the gates? This provided mixed responses with 52% answering 'yes' and 48% answering 'no'. Four of the respondents that answered 'no' stated that this applies to assisted collections only.

The survey asked how staff gain access. There were a mix of responses as shown in the chart below (*please note, three respondent indicated a mixture of access methods*).



### 4. Central Collection Points (CCP's) for gated alleyways

68% of respondents indicated that they have central collection points for gated alleyways. Of those who stated 'yes', 5 respondents indicated that these points were outside the gates, 2 said that they operate a front door collection and other responses included:

- Inside the gates at the throat to the entry
- Both outside the gates and front door collection dependant on areas

### 5. Mixed presentation of waste

The survey asked if councils allow a mixed presentation in the same street (for example, bags at the front door and bins at CCP's). 78% of respondents answered 'no' to this question.

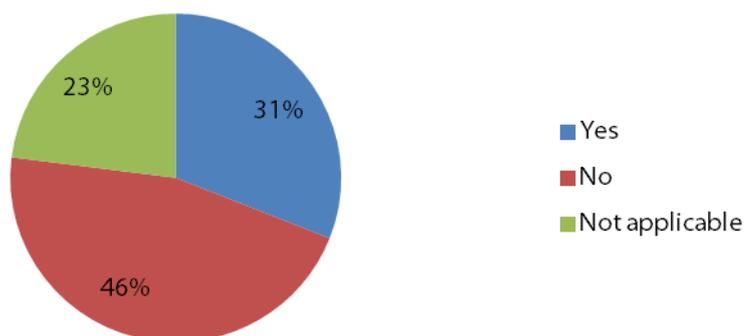
### 6. Open-access alleyways

For open-access alleyways, the survey asked councils if they have individual wheeled bins (not communal or bulk) as opposed to bags. 88.5% of respondents answered 'yes' to this question. One respondent stated that this is '*only if we can service these with a refuse collection vehicle*'.

### 7. Presentation at CCP's and enforcement issues

The survey asked if the council allows both bins and bags to be presented at CCP's and the breakdown of responses are shown in the pie chart below:

## Do you allow both bins and bags to be presented at CCP's?



The survey also asked how councils approach enforcement issues in regards to incorrect presentation or bins not removed from CCP's and the responses included:

- So far no enforcement has been necessary.
- Letter drops
- Community warden/officer visits
- Informal/advisory action to warnings and then fixed penalties.
- This is done on a case-by-case basis and is normally resolved through education.
- Placing stickers on the wheelie bin for removal
- Advisory stickers on bags/bins
- Warning stickers – if this does not work, we photograph the bins or rubbish and send warning letters to nearby properties with the photograph.
- Waste/containers do not get emptied if they are not at the correct collection point.
- Visit by enforcement officers followed by a Fixed Penalty Notice if the offenders persist.
- First call is an education issue, then removal of the bins if they are persistent offenders.
- Use of Environment Protection Act S46 Notices following warning letters
- Litter clearance notices are issued and the landlords are asked to keep the area tidy

One authority is currently exploring signing residents up to a 'Bring your bin in' scheme to combat the problems with CCP's. This is where the resident takes responsibility for their bin and returning the bin back to the property after collection. It also requires residents to place a sticker with their address and postcode so that the bin can be identified if left out. This scheme can reduce the problems of bin fires and anti-social behaviour with bins.

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