



Peterston-super-Ely Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned a Llanbedr-y-Fro
Council@Petersonsupereley.org
11th February 2025

Councillor Mark Wilson
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4RU

Dear Councillor Wilson,

Re: Removal of Litter Bins

We wish to express our dissatisfaction regarding the removal of public litter bins within Peterston-super-Ely. This was undertaken with no consultation or prior notification, which is totally unsatisfactory to us and our community. This issue is very important to us because we take a deep pride in our local environment.

We acknowledge your 'blanket' email to Councillors and Community Councils on 29th January. The letter states, 'you will be aware of the decision to remove 50% of the litter bins across the Vale of Glamorgan'. This decision was made in March 2023. It is wholly unrealistic to expect us to have either remembered this, or to have trawled back through Draft Budget documents and Cabinet Reports to find the relevant information. Furthermore, both the Clerk and most of the Community Councillors have changed since March 2023, which I'm sure would be the case for most Community Councils across the Vale. This certainly doesn't constitute any kind of meaningful consultation – if that's what you were trying to suggest it was? We would have welcomed a dialogue with the Vale Council about this issue and how it was to be implemented, instead of it being forced upon us with no prior notification.

We therefore have some outstanding questions we would like answered. Can you please explain what the evidence base is for this decision? We would like to see for ourselves what the anticipated cost saving are compared to the cost of removing bins, disposing of them and replacing others with recycling bins. We will still need a

collection for the remaining bins in the village. What is the cost saving of removing just two? Are there plans to remove more in the future? How will removing the bins solve the problem of fly tipping – surely it will just displace the problem? And why should communities pay the price for this? These are all questions that people within our community deserve to know, especially considering the impending increase in Council Tax.

In your 29th January email, there was no attached list of what bins were to go in Peterston-super-Ely, and your map was totally meaningless with its oversized ‘blobs’ covering the whole of the village. It was impossible to discern from this map what the proposed course of action was (if indeed any). Therefore, the Community Council were unable to provide any prior notification to the community that this was happening. As a result, when the bins were removed, people were understandably very angry. At one point, they questioned if the bins had actually been stolen, as this is what it felt like.

You go on to state in your email that you do not anticipate that the reduction will have an impact on local cleansing standards. **We strongly disagree.** The bins that were removed are amongst the most used within the village. Located along the river, they were within what is a very important amenity area for local people, as well as those who come into our community to make use of its attractive surroundings and walking routes. Even when the bins were in place, litter was a problem along this route.

Furthermore, the impact on the environment and biodiversity has been totally overlooked. This route is a very important dog walking route and the main path into the village from Windham Park. It is adjacent to a SSSI, so it’s of very high value environmentally. Litter, dog waste and dog waste disposal bags are all very harmful to these sensitive environments. Rubbish and dog waste bags will no doubt now be left along the riverbank or thrown into the trees within the SSSI. We will be contacting NRW to get their view on this. Was the SSSI a consideration in your decision making?

We are extremely privileged in this village that we have a dedicated group of volunteer litter pickers. They have been completely sidelined within this decision-making process, despite forming a critical part of local ‘street cleansing’ efforts. They give up their time and work tirelessly throughout the year and in all weathers to take up the slack where people have been careless with litter, where there has been fly tipping or where bins have been too full to use. This has made them feel incredibly demoralised and undervalued. This decision will no doubt make their jobs significantly harder.

It is implied from the tone of your letter that this is an irreversible decision, which we have no choice but to accept. **However, at the very least, we would like to be considered for a new on street recycling bin by the White Bridge to replace the one removed from there.** We note all the locations for the new bins are in towns and more

urban areas. Are rural areas not deemed important enough to be considered for one of these? Please could you explain this rationale.

In addition, we would like to be able to reassure our highly valued litter pickers that their collections (left with agreement from the Vale Council adjacent to the bins now removed) will continue to be collected from an alternative location in the village. We would also like an apology for the upset this has caused them, and the community in general, with regards to the lack of either any consultation or prior notification.

The Well Being of Future Generations Act places a duty on all public bodies to provide a framework for better decision making at all levels of Government in Wales in the interest of more sustainable places and communities. We would welcome your views on how you see that this decision, and the way it has been implemented, have met the goals of the Well Being Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word.

Cllr Abigail Phillips (Chair)
Peterston-super-Ely Community Council