

Statement to Environmental Scrutiny Committee by Mrs Linda A Gibbs

I very much support recycling and I am pleased that Cardiff Council is making good progress in that respect.

I live on Danescourt Estate and am concerned with the implementation, operation and evaluation of the pilot scheme that has been running since the beginning of 2022. The pilot scheme, as I'm sure Councillors are aware, is a scheme whereby recycling waste is further segregated by residents into numerous containers. I'm pleased to say that in principle, the majority of people on the Estate have no problem with segregating their recycling waste with a view to improving recycling percentages. However, despite numerous telephone calls to the Council, generally on a weekly basis, the regular practice is that the contents of the red sacks and the blue sacks, into which I and my neighbours have diligently segregated our recycling waste, are put into a refuse truck which has no segregation facility, except for the blue rigid plastic containers containing our glass recycling. This means that the contents of our red and blue sacks are all mixed up again. I have been told that the recycling waste is then segregated at Lamby Way, which seems to be a duplication of the process. It is very disappointing for myself and the other residents to see their efforts to segregate their recycling being mixed up again in the refuse truck.

The refuse truck with segregation for the red and blue sacks has only been to the Estate at most on three separate occasions. I was told that the hired refuse truck with segregation facilities had broken down and had not been replaced.

I have a concern that the Council may be in danger of losing the goodwill of Danescourt residents to continue with segregating their recycling waste. We have a Danescourt Facebook page and even in the last few days concern has been expressed by a number of residents that the refuse truck has no segregation facility for the red and blue sacks. Comments have been made to the effect that residents do not see the point of making an effort to segregate their recycling waste when it is all mixed up again in the refuse vehicle.

Additionally, during poor weather the red and blue sacks are blown everywhere, despite being weighted at the bottom, are not waterproof, wind proof or animal proof. One option is to use more sturdy containers, such as the one used to collect glass, although these could prove to be quite heavy when full. There are also concerns from residents about storing the numerous containers, particularly for those who do not have any garden facilities. I

understand and accept that the number of green plastic recycling bags being used is a cause for concern. I have suggested to one of the officers of the Council, that one large (non plastic) reusable sack be used for mixed recycling, which could then be segregated at the waste depot, which is happening at the present time with our red and blue sacks.

Although there have been opportunities to give feedback and one opportunity to complete a survey form, I believe that a public meeting with the residents of Danescourt Estate would have been a very effective way of communicating the situation with regard to the pilot. Residents would have had an opportunity to ask questions and the officers of the Council would have been able to convey what the findings of the pilot have been, together with any successes. Any concerns and suggestions for improvements could also have been discussed with possible remedies for the future.

In summary, I do not believe that the recycling pilot on Danescourt Estate has been carried out effectively, the process is flawed, plus a full and meaningful consultation has not taken place. Therefore, the basis on which the Environmental Scrutiny Committee is to discuss the Recycling Strategy for Cardiff 2021-2025 is incomplete.