

Hi Mark,

I note the budget papers have removed this proposal which is welcome and I thank you.

However, I still look forward to a response to my email which I thought would have been made before reading the news in the council papers.

The process here was shambolic and the late notice to parish councils compounded that. I feel they are owed an apology.

Regards, Cllr Adrian Owens

From: Owens, Councillor

Sent: 11 February 2026 19:31

To: Councillor Mark Anderson <Cllr.M.Anderson@westlancs.gov.uk>

Cc: Leicester, Alan <Alan.Leicester@westlancs.gov.uk>; Sephton, Kathryn <Kathryn.Sephton@westlancs.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Public Waste Bins

Importance: High

Hi Mark,

I am writing to you to express concern at the situation that parish councils have seemingly been left in by the actions/inactions of Borough Council officers.

In March 2025, it was agreed to charge parishes for the emptying of litter bins which were seen as belonging to parish councils from April 2025. Subsequent to this, the proposal was paused because parish councils were not provided with sufficient time to make the change and had already set their budgets. I am not aware of what correspondence was sent at that time to parishes and I am requesting a copy of that correspondence now please because unless such correspondence was crystal clear, I feel that once again parishes are being treated badly.

What transpired last week before Policy and Resources Committee was an email exchange which I copy below (as they were parts of more extensive correspondence).

What is described further below and in the attachment from the Clerk to UpHolland Parish Council is what I was concerned about in the email exchange with officers: Namely, a policy set in train in March 2025 was halted. Following this, so far as I am aware, no further information was provided to parish councils **until after policy and resources committee last week** and then only I suspect because I raised it in the email thread last week. This has left no time for UpHolland parish council to include provision in their precept, and you can see the concern it is causing them. The organisation of this policy, unless there is something I am missing, has been shambolic and I feel that if this £20k revenue is so vital to WLBC then the parishes should be written to now, saying that the policy will take effect from 1 April 2027 and parishes should make provision for it.

I look forward to your urgent reply. Adrian

Email from Adrian Owens Mon 02/02/2026 08:21

Hi Kathy,

I was disappointed in reading the P&R papers for Wednesday that there is no update/refinement over savings proposals agreed in Appendix 4 to the March 2025 council meeting MTFP report.

In particular, I urgently seek to have clarity over these aspects. This is important for good governance and proper decision making. Councillors cannot make a proper decision without clarity. For every budget proposal there used to be a completed proforma, and if these are available, I would like to receive them.

Public Bins within Parish Boundaries - achieve a cost neutral position for emptying bins – Saving £20k in 2025/26. This proposal was paused, yet the additional £20k to reflect this pause has not been put back into the 2026/27 budget in the P&R papers. Why not? Are you ceasing to empty these bins again starting 1/4/2026 because if not the P&R papers do not appear to be accurate?

Reply from Kathy Sephton Wed 04/02/2026 11:26

Public Bins within Parish Boundaries - achieve a cost neutral position for emptying bins – Saving £20k in 2025/26. This proposal was paused, yet the additional £20k to reflect this pause has not been put back into the 2026/27 budget in the P&R papers. Why not? Are you ceasing to empty these bins again starting 1/4/2026 because if not the P&R papers do not appear to be accurate?

At Council in March 2025, it was agreed that the Council would work with Parish Council's to continue to empty litter bins on Parish Council land as this saving was not included in Parish Council precept at budget setting for 2025/26. The Parish Councils were contacted in spring 2025 about the charges being applied for litter bin emptying within Parish Boundaries.

Invoices will be raised for the start of April 2026 for the Council to continue emptying the litter bins on agreed frequencies or for the Council to remove the litter bins.

Alternatively, Parish Council's can make their own arrangements for litter bins with Parish Boundaries to be emptied. The P&R reports are accurate.

Further email Adrian Owens Wed 04/02/2026 12:15

Your reply on parish council bin emptying mentions contact in March 2025. Can you confirm that the Borough Council has provided a cost in writing for litter bin emptying prior to 31 January 2026 to all parishes to enable them to accurately set their 2026/27 precept?

Further reply from Kathy Sephton 04 February 2026 16:17

We have not currently written to Parish Councils, however, an email will be sent out by Friday 6 February setting out the charges to be invoiced. This will be followed up by a formal letter which will be sent early next week.

Final comment from Adrian Owens 04 February 2026 18:35

Thank you Kathy, That's enormously helpful. I am concerned about your response to point 3 as I know a parish council meeting tomorrow to set its precept although I suspect they don't have any bin emptying requirements.

From: Parish Clerk <clerk@uphollandpc.gov.uk>

Sent: 11 February 2026 14:01

To: Owens, Councillor <Cllr.Owens@westlancs.gov.uk>

Subject: Public Waste Bins

Hi Adrian,

I've attached some of my unedited notes from last night's parish council meeting. It's not part of the MInutes but gives the gist of the problem we now face. I think we may be suffering an unintended consequence here.

Last year we photographed every bin and we had identified a number of old waste bins on random sections of highways of low footfall that Up Holland Parish Councillors were not particularly fussed about that could've been removed for cost-cutting.

The bins we now must remove are well used as they are in an area of high footfall, particularly dog walkers, walkers; it's on a school route and workers often lunch there. I so wish I hadn't persuaded the parish council to replace the old WLBC ones but when I asked for new ones there (one was snapped off completely) I was told it was up to landowner (LCC).

We thought it was settled last year so I did not include up to £2k pa more to empty bins in the budget which is already decided (precept request had to be in this

week). I'm certain other parishes will have similar decisions to make very quickly too; certainly Parbold will.
I just wanted you to be aware of this.