

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2020

QUESTION NO. 1

Jo Ramsay to ask the Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods and Communities:

Glass Recycling

The loss of the glass recycling point at Highdown School means that large parts of west Caversham are now a long distance from their nearest bottle banks. Glass bottles and jars, even empty, are heavy to transport long distances by foot or public transport. I note that Reading Borough Council is currently in the bottom 20% of English local authorities for recycling rates and that we must do better on this. Would the council please consider increasing the glass recycling provision in Caversham, perhaps by adding bottle banks at Albert Road recreation ground?

REPLY by the Chair of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee (Councillor Davies):

I invite Councillor James, the Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods and Communities to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods and Communities (Councillor James):

I thank Miss Ramsey for her question. The Council is committed to increasing its current recycling rate of 35% to 50% as soon as possible and has recently taken a number of steps to achieve this, most notably the introduction of kerbside food waste collection later in 2020 and a team of waste Recycling and Enforcement Officers. Glass bring banks provide an effective way of recycling glass across the re3 partnership area and in 2018/19 2,162.46 tonnes of glass were recycled from banks in Reading. The Council regrets that the glass bring bank facilities at Highdown School and Buckingham Drive have had to be removed and is actively looking for replacement sites in the area to serve western Caversham.

Albert Road recreation ground is one of a number of sites whose suitability is currently being assessed in conjunction with our glass collection contractor. Once a shortlist of sites has been identified a consultation will be carried out with local residents and site users to gauge opinion on any proposal to introduce a new glass bring bank facility.

Once agreed additional bring banks will be installed. This process will be concluded by the autumn.