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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 4 January 2023

Notice of meeting :

Place Scrutiny Committee

**Thursday, 12th January, 2023 at 12.30 pm,
County Hall, Usk and and- Remote Attendance**

*Please note that there will be a pre-meeting for 30 minutes at 12 noon for
Committee Members*

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Open Forum Scrutiny Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Scrutiny Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Scrutiny Committees, you can submit your representation in advance via this form Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words)	

You will need to register for a [My Monmouthshire account](#) in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously.

The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Scrutiny Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to speak under the Public Open Forum at the meeting, you will need to give three working days' notice by contacting Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers, we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4.	Local Toilet Strategy	1 - 40
	To scrutinise the latest policy development.	
5.	Rural Broadband	41 - 54
	To provide an update as requested.	
6.	Garden Waste Collection Service	55 - 270
	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the proposed changes to the Garden Waste Collection Service.	
7.	Place Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List	271 - 278
8.	Cabinet and Council Work Planner	279 - 282
9.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2022	283 - 292
10.	To note the date of the next meeting as 3rd March 2023 and Special Meeting on 2nd February 2023 (Budget)	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

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Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Role of the Pre-meeting	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues) 2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve? 3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this? <p style="margin-left: 20px;">- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member</p>	
Questions for the Meeting	
<p><u>Scrutinising Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why? 2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why? 3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why? 4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic? 5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service? 6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings? 7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives? 8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve? 	<p><u>Scrutinising Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least? 2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome? 3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective? 4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say? 5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence? 6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities? 7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?

8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications
9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?
- 10.
11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
- 12.
13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated

General Questions:

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?
- Is the service working with citizens to explain the role of different partners in delivering the service, and managing expectations?
- Is there a framework and proportionate process in place for collective performance assessment, including from a citizen's perspective, and do you have accountability arrangements to support this?
- Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? If so, can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers provide members with copies and a detailed explanation of the EQIA conducted in respect of these proposals?
- Can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers assure members that these proposals comply with Equality and Human Rights legislation? Do the proposals comply with the Local Authority's Strategic Equality Plan?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?
- Have you identified and considered the long-term trends that might affect your service area, what impact these trends could have on your service/your service could have on these trends, and what is being done in response?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and

transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?

- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

- Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?
- Were the impacts confined to the group you initially thought would be affected i.e. older people, or were others affected e.g. people with disabilities, parents with young children?
- Is the decision still the right decision or do adjustments need to be made?

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

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SUBJECT:	MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY – review of 2019 strategy and progress report
MEETING:	Place Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	12th January 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To scrutinise progress on implementing the actions identified in Monmouthshire County Council's Local Toilets Strategy, prior to updating the Cabinet Member and Welsh Government.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To comment on progress against actions identified in this Authority's Local Toilets Strategy, agreed in June 2019, and provided in Appendix Two, (amendments to the original are provided in red text).
- 2.2 Any Member comments or amendments are incorporated into the final update report prior to Individual Cabinet Member Decision. After receipt of Cabinet Member approval, the report author advises Welsh Government of amendments to the original strategy and publishes the updated Local Toilet Strategy.
- 2.3 Members consider the permanent closure of White Horse Lane toilets in Abergavenny, noting previous recommendations, and advise the Cabinet Member accordingly.
- 2.4 The £17,200 Welsh Government one-off grant is vired to Landlord Services to spend in 2023/24, in consultation with other departments including MonLife.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 'Provision of Toilets' came into force on 31st May 2018. It placed a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy for its area by 31st May 2019. Welsh Government (WG) also required a 'progress update' report to be submitted to them two years later to ensure actions were progressed. Progress was reported to Strong Communities Select Committee on 29th April 2021, but now a formal review needs to be submitted to WG. This Authority needs to advise WG of actions taken, any outstanding matters and report any future planning on local toilet provision.

- 3.2 Local authorities in Wales have the responsibility to –
- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities
 - Plan to meet those needs
 - Produce a local toilets strategy, and
 - Review, update and publicise revisions to the strategy.
- 3.3 Local authorities were required to prepare and publish their strategies by 31st May 2019. The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. Indeed, further to the work of the ‘Public Convenience Working Group’ in 2009, many public toilet blocks were successfully transferred to Town and Community Councils to manage. It is for the County Council to take a strategic view on how publicly accessible toilets can be provided and accessed across the county.
- 3.4 The draft strategy came to the Strong Communities Select Committee on 21st May 2019 for pre-decision scrutiny. The final draft incorporated opinions expressed via (1) a public survey, that ran between 19th December 2018 and 11th January 2019, and (2) a public consultation open from 22nd February to 3rd May 2019. Also referenced were comments from Gwent Police and Abergavenny Town Council’s own survey from the summer of 2018.
- 3.5 The statutory guidance (August 2018) from Welsh Government was followed in preparing the local strategy. One key undertaking was to ‘map out’ all existing publicly accessible toilets in the county. This comprehensive map – showing locations, opening times, etc. – has been shared with Welsh Government to be provided on an all-Wales basis. The map was also provided via our own website for open access. Towards the end of 2022, Welsh Government advised they would be transferring public toilet data, (locations, opening times, facilities provided, etc.), onto Data Map Wales. This will provide up-to-date information bi-lingually that this Authority will be able to update ourselves.
- 3.6 Monmouthshire’s Local Toilet Strategy was approved by Individual Cabinet Member Decision on 12th June 2019, and subsequently published. This has been updated to reflect any changes over the last 3 ½ years and lists all the current public toilet blocks, (18), half of which are owned by Town and Community Councils, with the other half still owned by this Authority. This provision is supplemented by publicly accessible toilets in other buildings, including leisure centres, libraries and museums.
- 3.7 The key actions identified in the strategy are provided in Appendix One below. The coronavirus pandemic curtailed progressing certain issues, but progress has been made.
- 3.8 Appendix One covers progress against each action. It is recognised that Landlord Services have undertaken some notable improvements to Monmouthshire CC’s public toilets, and our Cleaning staff have continued to provide clean facilities. This should assist maintaining footfall in our towns, parks and villages by providing safe, clean, publicly accessible facilities.
- 3.9 Landlord Services, since the last Toilet Strategy, have undertaken repair works in six toilet blocks, improving those facilities structurally to ensure customer safety and health.

3.10 At the April 2021 Scrutiny Committee, Members asked for clarification on the following matters – replies from Officers provided alongside each query.

Members request that the possibility of a toilet at Severn Tunnel Junction be explored in partnership with the provider 'Transport for Wales' TfW contacted to understand their plans at this train station. TfW advise toilet provision being considered as part of their upgrade plans, and will keep MCC informed of progress in 2023.

- *The Committee highlighted the need for signage in toilets to advise who is responsible for cleaning and how often the toilets are cleaned. MCC Facilities advise all our blocks checked and cleaned at least twice a day, any complaints (to our local Hubs) are acted upon. As facilities are unmanned, any noticeboard is likely to be vandalised. Facilities prefer a reactive response to any issues of uncleanliness or disrepair, with latter being actioned by Landlord Services.*
- *Members drew attention to the need for safety chains, suggesting there had been some issues with toilets in Caldicot. There remains some confusion as to how the safety chains are connected to any emergency response. This was delayed due to the pandemic, so will be actioned in 2023.*
- *They sought clarification that telephony issues have also been resolved, that Legionella Testing had also been undertaken following the closure during the pandemic. As above, telephony to be reviewed. Legionella Testing was done prior to the reopening of all toilet blocks, (when WG Covid restrictions lifted).*
- *Members asked that the Cabinet explore whether it was feasible to charge for the use toilets. A chargeable facility in Bulwark proved highly cost ineffective and was subsequently removed. The 2019 public survey found that 88% (Table One in attached report) of the public said that all public toilets should be free to use. Often the public do not carry loose change and 'free for all' is equitable for all users, elderly people, young parents, etc.*
- *The committee asked that officers explore again with private facilities the possibility of opening to the public. Section 9 in attached strategy covers this point. Larger private businesses, eg. supermarkets, are willing for the public to use their toilets even if not paying customers. However, they do not wish to publicise this – it's accepted locally and not an issue for them. Smaller facilities either don't have toilets provided and, when they do, again are normally comfortable with general usage.*
- *Members questioned why White Horse Lane toilets are still open despite the Select Committee's recommendation they should be closed given that the facilities offered are poor. Members suggest considering better facilities offered in other countries such as New Zealand and then charging for them. MCC Officers support closure, with evidence provided in Appendix Two. This includes prohibitive costs to repair, they have been shut anyway since April 2020, anti-social behaviour was a regular occurrence when open, and there are 4 other public toilets in Abergavenny.*
- *There was concern that Usk Toilet feels unsafe due to its poor layout and consideration also needed to be given to the size of toilets, traditionally being very narrow in terms of ensuring*

accessibility. *Maryport toilets were refurbished in 2021/22. Landlord Services to consider dimensions and overall compliance.*

- *There were also concerns around disabled access and that signage is needed to advise where the keys are held. All disabled persons will have a 'radar' key to access the disabled toilet at any time day or night. It is important disabled toilets are only accessible by disabled persons, so keys must be restricted accordingly.*

4. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT, (includes equality, future generations, social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting):

- 4.1 The completed 'Integrated Impact Assessment' form is provided as Appendix Three, attached.
- 4.2 The process of compiling this Authority's Local Toilet Strategy provided an assessment of the current toilet provision, and had regard to the input from the public survey, Gwent Police and other partners. Key actions have been undertaken, and the strategy will continue to be monitored and reviewed with partners. Overall, with actions implemented, the strategy will have a very positive impact on our residents and visitors to the county. Public provision will be maintained or improved, access information enhanced, encouraging people to take exercise and stay more physically active.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

- 5.1 Producing a Local Toilet Strategy is a statutory duty, as required under Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. This Authority must advise WG of progress against actions highlighted in its' local toilet strategy, and publish any significant changes to the content. After pre-decision comments and approval by the Cabinet Member, the strategy will be refreshed and published as an updated version.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- 6.1 A progress report setting out the steps taken as a consequence of the strategy will be produced every two years, as per Welsh Government statutory guidance. An evaluation of cleanliness, overall provision, mapping of locations, etc. will be regularly carried out with facility providers, including Town and Community Councils.
- 6.2 The key actions are provided in Section 12 of the strategy, and are listed in Appendix One below. Progress will be monitored against the actions specified to ensure the strategy is effective.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 The preparation and publication of an up-to-date Local Toilet Strategy is a legal requirement, as outlined in Section 3 of the strategy.

- 7.2 It is important to incorporate any further comments by Members prior to approval of the updated strategy.
- 7.3 The reasons for the closure of this block, in a state of significant disrepair, are provided in the strategy and summarised in 3.10, 7th bullet point.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The resource implications of providing the strategy involved significant Officer time. As per 6.1 of the strategy – Appendix Two – Officers from Public Protection, Facilities, Landlord Services, Finance, MonLife, Policy & Development, Communications and Shared Resources Service all contributed. In 2019, three Members of the former scrutiny committee undertook their own inspection of current public toilet blocks, both those provided by Monmouthshire CC and Town & Community Councils. This has been followed up by two further reinspections by Environmental Health in February 2020 and August 2022.
- 8.2 Welsh Government recognised the additional work required in developing public toilet strategies and Monmouthshire was been successful in securing a one-off £17,200 grant payment. Utilising that funding, noting costs in 8.1 were met internally, (Officer and Member time), needs to occur within the 23/24 financial year

9. CONSULTEES:

Landlord Services
Facilities Supervisor

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council's initial Local Toilet Strategy, June 2019

9. AUTHOR:

David H Jones, Head of Public Protection

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Appendices

Appendix One – 10 actions with associated progress listed (below)

Appendix Two – Monmouthshire CC's Local Toilets Strategy, (original June 2019), updated December 2022

APPENDIX ONE

ACTION	PROGRESS
1. Continue to work closely with Town & Community Councils on options for maintaining and improving public toilet provision in the county	A continuing action. Many T&CC's undertook their own improvements in last 3 ½ years – Environmental Health to revisit and review standards in both MCC and T&CC provided facilities – done in February 2020 & August 2022, see Table Two in strategy.
2. Work with partners on how to best utilise the £17,200 Welsh Government grant.	Grant money rolled forward into 23/24 year. Noting this funding has been rolled over for 3 years, essential to spend next year. Recommended the one-off grant is vired to Landlord Services to spend on MCC facility improvement(s), in consultation with MonLife – for example, funding improvements in a Leisure Centre to upgrade to full 'Changing Places' standard.
3. Work with the private sector to seek to provide more publicly available toilets were most needed.	3.10, 6 th bullet point, covers this point. Environmental Health to encourage participation in private sector businesses during their routine inspections.
4. Display the national 'toilet/toiled' national logo (see 10.1 in strategy) in all participating toilet facilities, including Leisure Centres, libraries, etc.	National logo signs received from WG. Action delayed during pandemic when many of these facilities were closed, eg. leisure centres and libraries. To be distributed 2023.
5. Improve awareness and information available on publicly accessible toilets by updating information on the Monmouthshire CC website and 'Lle' open access data held by Welsh Government, together with mobile App development.	Completed, awaiting further WG guidance on Data Map Wales, which will incorporate mobile app functionality
6. Regularly review cleaning and maintenance standards, together with T&CC's who manage many of the public toilets in our towns and villages.	Agreed to grade each facility to gauge improvements (or otherwise) over time. Environmental Health will inspect MCC and T&CC provided facilities annually - done so far in 2020 and 2022.
7. Environmental Health Officers to inspect privately provided toilets as part of their inspection regime, and respond to any complaints.	Environmental Health Officers will inspect all privately provided toilets, eg. in restaurants, supermarkets and public houses. Conducted as part of their routine hygiene inspections.

<p>8. Work closely with Gwent Police to find solutions to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets.</p>	<p>Whitehorse Lane block in Abergavenny recommended for closure, in part due to anti-social behaviour (when facility open) reported by Gwent Police. Other options, eg. lighting detracting drug use, to be further explored with Police.</p>
<p>9. Provide proactive advice to all event organisers in the county on the suitability of their toilet provision.</p>	<p>Completed - actioned by Monmouthshire Event Safety Advisory Group</p>
<p>10. Respond to any Welsh Government recommendations on public toilet provision, and seek out notable practice adopted in other counties.</p>	<p>Noted WG will be in receipt of all Welsh LA's Toilet Strategy progress reports. Head of Public Protection to liaise with WG to determine any notable practice and share within MCC if/when received.</p>

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monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Monmouthshire County Council

Local Toilets Strategy

First Published June 2019

Reviewed December 2022

To Place Scrutiny Committee 12th January 2023



Toiled Toilet

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Public toilets are essential to equitable access to public outdoor spaces. They allow for the space to become a destination for extended periods of socialising, exercise, commuting and accessing community and commercial services.
- 1.2 This Council continues to play a key role in providing safe, accessible and clean public toilets, together with its' Town and Community Council partners that also own and manage public toilet facilities across the county.
- 1.3 A substantial review of public conveniences was undertaken by a working group of the Strong Communities Select committee in 2009. Their findings were reported to Cabinet in July 2010, with recommendations for Town and Community Councils (T & CC's) to take over the management and funding of most of the public toilets at that time. The response from those Councils was generally favourable, with the consequence of sustaining toilets in the county, (that would have otherwise been closed), and reducing the County Council's costs.
- 1.4 The strategy, in draft forms, was discussed and further developed through Strong Communities Select committees in February and May 2019. Noting the previous work, Members wanted assurances that there is a mechanism to ensure recommendations are implemented.
- 1.5 The public survey conducted during December 2018 to January 2019 showed a mixed picture of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the current publicly available toilet provision. For example, 46% were satisfied with cleanliness, 41% disagreed. Strong messages included people stating there were too few facilities (80%); they wanted more information on location (69%); believed they should be free to use (79%) and they were not comfortable using private toilets where they weren't also a customer (78%).
- 1.6 The strategy also identifies negative aspects of providing public toilets over longer periods, as reported by Gwent Police. Drug taking has increased in recent times, and so closure times need consideration with our Town & Community Council colleagues.

- 1.7 The public reported they would like better information on opening times and locations. This will be assisted by promoting the Wales Public Toilet Map, helping people to find a public toilet where and when they need it.
- 1.8 The strategy recognises the contribution of the private sector, and indeed many major retailers recognise their public service role, including larger supermarkets and public houses. Further encouragement of private providers will be taken forward.
- 1.9 This Authority will continue to provide specialist advice to event organisers, to ensure adequate toilet provision at our regular large events, such as the Abergavenny Food Festival, agricultural, music and sporting events.
- 1.10 This Authority welcomes, and was successful in securing, a one off Welsh Government grant of £17,200 ‘in partial recompense for the additional work required to develop and publish local toilet strategies’. Officers will consider how best to utilise this one-off payment, together with Member and other stakeholder input.
- 1.11 The strategy was available for public consultation between 22nd February and 3rd May 2019. Some points of accuracy were picked up, eg. opening hours, and recommendations generally supported.
- 1.12 The strategy was reviewed in early 2021 and reported to Strong Communities Select Committee on 29th April 2021. This initial review checked on progress against the recommendations in the 2019 published strategy.
- 1.13 The actions detailed in Section 12 of this strategy were largely implemented and reviewed as per Welsh Government requirements. Some were stalled due to the Covid 19 pandemic March 2020 to May 2022. Progress is reported in Section 12, but included –
- Consideration needed on ‘Changing Spaces’ provision, for use of more profoundly disabled persons. Leisure Centres to be considered, noting their proximity to town centres and because they are continuously manned during operating hours.
- The £17,200 WG grant to be used to fund Landlord Services, to use in 23/24 financial year, in consultation with MonLife.
- Our toilet provision data will be transferred to Data Map Wales, which will provide mobile app capability.
- Annual hygiene inspections now conducted by MCC Environmental Health.

2. Introduction

2.1 The provision of publicly available toilets improves local amenity and supports activity in public open spaces throughout the county. There are 19 dedicated public toilets in Monmouthshire, 9 owned by this Authority and 10 owned by Town and Community Councils. This is supplemented by a number of toilets on Council property, such as Leisure Centres, that the public can access. The public also utilise toilets on private property, for example at supermarkets and public houses. Although most of the public provision is now run by Community and Town Councils, (of the 9 MCC owned, 5 are T&CC managed), it is a duty on Monmouthshire County Council to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy.

2.2 A public toilet can be defined as a toilet that is freely available for the general public to use. They can also be temporary facilities provided for a specific one-off purpose, for example a music festival. Public toilets can be provided on private property as long as they are freely available for general use. The importance of public provision is more important to certain groups in society, including older people, those with disabilities and parents/carers with young children.

2.3 The key outcomes of the strategy are to:-

- Provide direction on the appropriate location of public toilets throughout the county
- Ensure the maintenance and cleaning of public toilets, including those managed by others, occurs to an appropriate standard
- Ensure the community, including visitors, has good information on the public toilet availability and location
- Provide direction on where the Council should focus advocacy and encouragement of other organisations to provide public toilet facilities
- Provide an action plan for the improvement of public toilets throughout the county

3. Need for a strategy for providing toilet facilities

3.1 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, 'Provision of Toilets' came into force on 31st May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy for its area. Monmouthshire has the responsibility to –

- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities
- Plan to meet those needs
- Produce a local toilet strategy, and
- Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions

3.2 This Authority, under the Act, must prepare and publish their strategy by 31st May 2019. **Monmouthshire County Council published their first Local Toilet Strategy in June 2019.** It should be noted that the duty to prepare a local toilet strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. The Local Authority must take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population. Upon review of the strategy, Monmouthshire CC is required to publish a statement of progress. **This will be actioned after scrutiny of the review in January 2023.**

3.3 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which advises public bodies how to go about meeting their duty under that Act. The principle is made up of five ways of working that public bodies should follow when carrying out sustainable development. These are:-

- Looking to the long term so we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Taking an integrated approach
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them
- Acting to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.

These five ways of working were utilised during the preparation, review, consultation and publication of the strategy.

4. Aims of the Strategy

4.1 The overall aim of this strategy is to review the quality and quantity of local toilets throughout the county. The public toilet provision is typically not directly via the Council, but the Authority seeks to ensure the provision of clean, safe, accessible and sustainable toilets. This is important for residents whilst out and about, visitors and businesses who will want attractive local environments in which to successfully operate. To achieve this aim, the Authority will –

- Identify the current level of public toilet provision
- Analyse the findings of (i) the questionnaire sent to gauge opinion, (ii) the public consultation, (iii) Abergavenny Town Council's own survey
- Consider the requirements of the general population and particular user groups
- Survey the condition and usage of existing facilities
- Identify any gaps in current provision
- Increase awareness of local toilet locations, including use of new technologies and communications

- Advise organisers on the provision of adequate temporary toilets for events in the county
- Provide a statement setting out the steps the Council will take to meet the need.

5. Reviewing the strategy

- 5.1 Monmouthshire CC will prepare a progress report setting out the steps taken as a consequence of this strategy every two years. **An initial review was conducted in early 2021 and reported to Strong Communities Select Committee on 29th April 2021. Certain actions were delayed due to the Covid pandemic, and this was the same across the other Welsh Local Authorities.** The Authority may review its strategy at any time, for example where there is a change in local provision through a partner organisation, and will consult and publish any reviews accordingly. **Noting this delayed review is being reported in January 2023, the next review of the strategy will be scheduled for January 2025.**

6. Development of the strategy

- 6.1 Noting the role of Town and Community Councils managing the majority of public toilets in the county, they continue to be engaged for their input into current provision and adequacy. Abergavenny Town Council carried out their own review of provision in their town, and their input is reflected accordingly. From the Council's perspective, Operations, Public Protection, Property Services, Tourism, Leisure and Culture were engaged, together with colleagues in Policy & Partnerships, Communications and GIS mapping, (Shared Resources Service).
- 6.2 Engagement with national retailers was undertaken once across the Welsh Local Authorities, to avoid them needing to answer similar questions 22 times.
- 6.3 A public consultation was undertaken from 19th December 2018 to 11th January 2019 to assess the needs of residents, visitors and workers within the county. Key engagement mechanisms included:-
- Press Release to local papers 19th December, providing information on how to complete the survey
 - Provided to all Town and Community Councillors, and County Councillors
 - social media, including Facebook and Twitter.
 - Via our FB and Twitter feeds, Access to All forums notified, together with Monmouthshire Local Service Board Engagement Group, including the voluntary sector, housing associations and Police & Crime Commissioner.

- Paper questionnaires, when requested. So, for example, 40 hard copy versions were provided to the Abergavenny 50+ group.
- 6.4 Although the response to the survey was quite low, it highlighted certain concerns from those that completed it. These are summarised in Section 11.1.
- 6.5 This Authority is fortunate that a comprehensive review of public toilet provision was undertaken 10 years ago, in 2009. That previous work is referenced in this 2019 strategy and three Members also revisited all the tradition 'public toilet blocks', both those provided by MCC and Town & Community Councils. This is referenced in Section 11.2.
- 6.6 A public consultation exercise, seeking views on the draft Local Toilet Strategy, was conducted between 22nd February and 3rd May 2019. Points of accuracy were picked up – since corrected – with overall support for the recommendations. Comments are summarised in Section 11.3.
- 6.7 Abergavenny Town Council conducted their own survey and reported their findings in September 2018. Their findings are summarised in Section 11.5.
7. **Linkage to other priorities – national, Public Service Board, Council, etc.**
- 7.1 **Older People's Commissioner (OPC) for Wales** - in 2014 the OPC reported that Council decisions to close public toilets were 'short sighted'. The OPC claimed that the money saved by Councils in the short term would have to be paid for later in health costs, as people became detracted from going out and about. This Authority's response to keeping public facilities largely open, is summarised in section 8 below. The OPC, in response to the WG consultation on local strategies stated 'strategies must be supported by funding in order to turn words into action'.
- 7.2 **The Well-being assessment** (April 2017) – Monmouthshire Public Service Board – highlights predicted increases in elderly persons in the county. By 2039 over 65's are anticipated to increase by 61%, with over 85's by 100%, ie. doubling in numbers. So decisions should reflect future changes in the numbers of more elderly people.
- 7.3 Council's **Local Development Plan**
- 7.3.1 There is reference to 'community facilities' in the adopted LDP -
Policy S5 – Community and Recreation Facilities
Development proposals that provide and/or enhance community and recreation facilities will be permitted within or adjoining town and village development boundaries subject to detailed planning considerations.

Development proposals that result in the unjustified loss of community and recreation facilities will not be permitted.

7.3.2 Planning colleagues advise that seeking to secure Section 106 funding (a planning obligation) towards a public toilet would need to meet the tests laid down in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations. It would be difficult to see how a financial contribution towards public toilets would reasonably relate to a specific housing scheme being delivered. Any such obligation would not be defensible at appeal, and Council priorities lie elsewhere, including educational infrastructure. Planning obligations should not be used to provide a facility that should be provided by the Council or another public body in a more general sense.

7.4 **MCC Community and Corporate Plan 2022/23**

7.4.1 Our overarching strategic plan for MCC refers to our purpose – ‘We want to be a zero carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life’. The provision of suitable public toilets supports well-being, health (it encourages people to be out and about in our towns and villages), and provides dignity to older persons as they are never far away from a public facility in our main towns.

7.4.2 Keeping populations healthy, using open spaces, etc. is supported by suitable public toilet provision. The latest plan also refers to prioritising ‘a fair place to live’, including ‘all residents have access to the services and support they need to live a healthy life’. There is also reference to ‘attractive town centres’, and suitable public toilet provision is an element of these Council priorities.

8. Provision of local public toilets

8.1. Noting the earlier work of the ‘Public Convenience Working Group’, consisting of three County Councillors in 2009, it is useful to reflect on the current provision compared to 13 years ago.

8.2 The total MCC expenditure in 2009/10 was £306,038 compared to £119,258 in 2017/18, a drop of 61%. This does not correlate with a 61% drop in the number of public toilets provided, as majority are now financed and managed by Town & Community Councils. The total MCC expenditure in 2021/22 was £65,803. This was significantly less than a typical year due to (a) business rates not currently being charged, and (b) public toilets were shut for periods during 21/22 due to national Covid restrictions. This resulted in less maintenance costs, electric and water usage.

8.3 The 2009 review recommended certain closures. Seven were closed, namely Raglan; Main Road, Tintern; Mathern Road, Bulwark;

Healthmatic Unit, Bulwark; Linda Vista, Abergavenny; Llandegfedd reservoir and Llanthony Abbey car park.

8.4 Current provision (2022) is listed in Appendix A –

- MCC owned public toilets – entries 1 to 10, though 1 to 5 are managed and part funded by Abergavenny Town Council. Only 4 public toilet blocks are both owned and managed by MCC outright. **One block is recommended for closure, Whitehorse Lane (WHL), due to the significant cost needed for repair. One block is added, Linda Vista Gardens. So the overall number of blocks in Abergavenny, assuming WHL closed, remains the same.**
- Town & Community Council public toilets – entries 11 to 20 (ten in total), wholly owned, as a direct consequence of the 2009 review work, and managed by T&CC's.
- Public toilets in other MCC buildings – entries 21 to 36 (16 in total), includes provision in leisure centres, libraries, etc.
- Other publicly accessible toilets – entries 37 to 39 (3 in total). These are provided by others, namely CADW, a chapel group, and a 'Changing Place' in a community centre. **Welsh Government/Trunk Road Agency own the A40 block, (now closed by WG).**
- **Linda Vista Gardens block in Abergavenny has since reopened. Section 106 Planning funding was used to fully refurbish the facility, and are now maintained by the nearby tearooms. The block is opened and closed by the proprietors of the café, to coincide with their hours of opening, and are available for anyone to use.**

8.5 This Authority considers it hugely positive that the Town and Community Councils have typically taken up responsibility for local public toilet provision in our towns and villages. The harsh reality is, noting financial pressures on the County Council (in 2009 and ever since), that the majority of our public toilets would have been closed had our T&CC's not stepped in and taken responsibility.

8.6 An innovative solution was found to retain the public toilets provided at Usk Island, as part of the earlier Working Group review. Responsibility for managing the toilets was incorporated into the MCC contract issued to the hot food outlet at this location. This has proved a successful arrangement and has ensured the public facility remains open. **This arrangement is replicated for the Linda Vista toilet block, (as stated in 8.4).**

8.7 Public toilets, by arrangement with event organisers, will often be open for longer periods when required. So, for example, public toilets in Abergavenny will remain open throughout the weekend of the Abergavenny Food Festival. This demonstrates a willingness, by both the Town and County Council, to work with the private sector to make the visitor experience more enjoyable.

- 8.8 Reviews on social media, etc. can be helpful in identifying good and poorer facilities. MCC can act on any feedback accordingly and/or provide praise when appropriate. One example of recent positive feedback -

Abergavenny Bus Station - Dec 22 – “As a disabled person these toilets are a godsend when we are travelling in the area. We sometimes go to the West of England and Abergavenny makes a great resting point for a cup of tea etc. The toilets are clean and tidy and well maintained”.

9. **Provision of toilets in private sector**

- 9.1 **Thirteen** years ago, during the time of the Working Group review, there was Welsh Government funding comprising an annual grant of up to £17,500. Only two premises took up the offer of making their toilets available to the public, ie. people could use without being paying customers, for which they received £500 p.a. However, WG funding was subsequently withdrawn and therefore the grant payment was also withdrawn to the two participating businesses.
- 9.2 Whether there is an appetite to revisit seeking local businesses to open their toilet facilities to public use will depend, in a large part, to whether any funding is re-established. Public Protection staff regularly visit all local public houses, retail providers, restaurants, etc. and would be ideally placed to promote any future scheme.
- 9.3 Large national retailers were contacted once for a response in relation to their premises throughout Wales, to avoid duplication and effort. They recognised that the general public did use their toilet facilities when not necessarily making a purchase. This was accepted, noting many will be regular or future customers to their store or eating/entertainment venue. The retailers contacted did not wish to have the national toilet logo on display at their entrances.
- 9.4 Environmental Health Officers will conduct checks of toilets provided for the public as part of their inspection regime. Members of the public can complain to them, **or via our local Hubs**, should they have any concerns regarding cleaning, facilities and overall hygiene.
- 9.5 Monmouthshire is fortunate to host a number of highly successful events throughout the county, including food and music festivals, sporting events, agricultural shows, etc. Monmouthshire Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) provides advice and guidance on toilet provision, including numbers, types of facilities, access and overall suitability.

10. Mapping locations of publicly accessible toilets

- 10.1 One element of the strategy is to accurately map information on location of public toilets, together with facilities available and opening times. Locations will be promoted via a 'mapping app' specifically designed for mobile technology. Participating premises will display a nationally agreed sticker in a prominent place. The design, stipulated by Welsh Government, is as follows –



- 10.2 The Monmouthshire public toilet information has been shared with Welsh Government to enable a national dataset, the 'Lle map', to be created. The data created in the Lle map will be available as an open data service accessible to everyone. The link to the Lle portal is as follows –

<http://lle.gov.wales/home>

- 10.3 The dataset will be available in both English and Welsh. The public will be able to see and search the data as it appears on this site, to see the whole of Wales or focus at particular areas. Monmouthshire CC will embed the locally configured map onto its website, and provide a link to the national Lle map, assisting anyone searching data for other areas they might be visiting. Although under development, the map will also be available here –

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/monmouthshire-local-toilet-survey>

- 10.4 Mapping of toilet provision across Wales is due to be updated by providing all the relevant information through Data Map Wales. When fully set up by Welsh Government, this Authority will be able to input and edit data themselves and, in so doing, be able to keep all information up-to-date, ie. locations, opening hours, etc. This will be progressed in 2023.

11. FINDINGS of public survey/other

11.1 MCC survey – 19th December 2018 to 11th January 2019

- 11.1.1. The survey to gauge public opinion ran between 19th December and 11th January 2019. The low response rate, at 132 completed surveys, could be in part due to no announcement of any public toilet closures.

The full analysis of the survey findings can be found via our website, via this link –

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/monmouthshire-local-toilet-survey>

11.1.2 The majority of the responses were from people from Abergavenny, at 61% of the total. Responses by area were as follows –

Abergavenny – 61%

Monmouth - 12%

Chepstow - 8%

Caldicot - 5%

Other - 14%

11.1.3 People were asked what they thought about the current provision, in the area they most frequent, in terms of adequacy, accessibility, cleanliness, etc. and responses are provided below –

Table One

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
There are too few facilities	39 (32%)	41(34%)	21 (17%)	2 (2%)	19 (15%)
The location of facilities is not convenient	27(21%)	40(31%)	36(28%)	1(1%)	25 (19%)
The location of the facilities does not feel safe	4 (4%)	32 (37%)	45 (47%)	3 (3%)	11 (9%)
There is not enough information on where facilities are located	37 (32%)	43 (37%)	13 (11%)	1 (1%)	22 (19%)
The lack of facilities has stopped me from visiting certain locations	14 (9%)	33 (22%)	38 (26%)	37 (25%)	26 (18%)
Facilities are not open at the times I need them	12 (10%)	32 (27%)	39 (33%)	4 (4%)	31 (26%)
The cleanliness of facilities is generally good	4 (2%)	52 (44%)	31 (26%)	18 (15%)	16 (13%)

Toilets should be free to use	61 (51%)	34 (28%)	8 (7%)	1 (1%)	16 (13%)
I don't like using toilets in shops or restaurants because I feel like I need to buy something	59 (50%)	33 (28%)	11 (8%)	1 (1%)	15 (13%)

11.1.4 In summary, of those responding –

- 80% thought there were too few facilities
- 52% stated locations not convenient
- 41% not feeling safe, (50% safe)
- 69% wanted more information on location
- 31% lack of adequate facilities, (51% satisfied)
- 37% believed not open at times needed, (36% satisfied)
- 46% satisfied with cleanliness, (41% disagreed)
- 79% believed toilets should be free to use, (only 8% disagreed)
- 78% weren't comfortable using private toilets where they weren't a customer

11.1.5 Further pertinent points captured were as follows –

- 55% reporting using Council public toilets, 39% private, 6% those in other MCC property, such as Leisure Centres
- 73% thought provision adequate between 9am and 6pm
- Baby changing facilities, across public and private toilets, inadequate 48%, adequate 42%, with people reporting private provision better (81%) than public (21%)
- 67% considered disabled provision in public and private toilets inadequate
- When asked about good facilities, Brewery Yard, Abergavenny got some praise, and many in private sector, notably major supermarkets
- When asked about poor facilities, Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny came in for most criticism. **Shut since March 2020 – recommended to move to permanent closure.**
- Some thought there was no toilet in Bailey Park, although there is with limited opening times.
- 64% would like to see a sticker or poster to show where public toilet facilities are available, with 27% saying an App would be helpful.

11.1.6 Most frequent comments referred to –

- Cleanliness
- Lack of information on opening hours
- Ideally there is investment to improve existing public blocks

- Not enough baby changing facilities
- More toilets desirable

11.1.7 When asked for thoughts for the future, 40% suggested private providers should encourage non-customers to use their toilets; 36% suggested closing certain public blocks to utilise funding to better maintain those that continue; and 23% suggested MCC seek further investment to improve existing provision across the county.

11.1.8 The information gathered can be utilised in forthcoming conversations with T&CC's, Gwent Police and others when planning future provision.

11.2 **Member comments, February 2019**

11.2.1 Three Councillors, together with our Facilities Supervisor, undertook a survey of the public toilet blocks on 7th February 2019. 18 were visited, both those owned by this Authority and those owned and managed by Town & Community Councils. Their overall summation referred to (1) standards of cleaning generally satisfactory when MCC providing the service, (2) condition of fabric requires attention in a number of blocks, both MCC and T&CC managed, (3) emergency alarms in disabled toilets not working in 17 of the 18 visited, (4) signage often missing or inadequate. Members asked for a full 'condition survey' of all toilet blocks by the Council's Property Services section. This was undertaken in April 2019, see 11.4 below.

11.2.2 The initial draft strategy was presented to a Special Strong Communities Select committee on 13th February 2019. As well as Members confirming the poor condition of some of the blocks, (eg. Caldicot Country Park), other comments were made as follows –

- Both reactive (broken panels, etc.) and proactive spending needed to provide facilities of a suitable and safe standard. Property Services to prioritise maintenance work in MCC toilet blocks
- Like to see the £17,200 one-off WG grant put towards repair costs
- Need to research the effectiveness of 'blue lights' in public toilets, eg. drug users could revert to using mobile phone lighting to locate veins
- Helpful if, on receipt of all the Welsh toilet strategies, Welsh Government gave guidance on recommended numbers relating to average footfall in towns and other areas of public use
- Further to this, could some 'grading system' be introduced to ensure suitable standards are maintained? If nothing nationally, potentially MCC could introduce their own rating system.
- Strategy needs to be brought to attention of other organisations, namely Brecon Beacons National Park and Welsh Government, (WG). WG have a vested interest as providers of trunk roads, including the heads of the valleys A465, and their historic environment service, CADW. The Road Haulers Association have raised the difficulty of

inadequate toilet provision across the trunk road network, which should be an important issue for WG.

- Noting drug paraphernalia (11.6.3), concerns expressed re MCC cleaning staff exposed to this, plus issue that staff work on their own increasing risk.
- A strategy to 'audit progress' over time helpful, particularly noting Monmouthshire is a major tourist destination.
- Pre-decision scrutiny on 21st May reaffirmed these points. Of particular note was the desire to ensure the recommendations of this strategy are effectively implemented. The Officer/Member group – two Members were nominated by the Strong Communities Select committee – will be charged in overseeing the recommendations. **Noting our new Administration, since May 2022, Members to consider whether they want to form a small Officer/Member working group.**

11.2.3 A Member of the Committee asked 'Access for All', local disability group, for their view on emergency alarms in disabled toilets. This request was made further to deficiencies noted during site visits on 7th February. A representative commented on common faults concerning emergency alarms, (pull cords too high, incorrect location of cords, missing toggles), and installations not checked regularly. Reference was also made to Approved Document M, Section 5 'Sanitary accommodation in buildings other than dwellings', which providers need to have regard to when providing disabled accessible public toilets.

11.2.4 The Chair of the Committee and Head of Public Protection met with the 'Access For All' representative on 22nd March 2019 to capture their observations. Two visits to public toilets were undertaken to use a proforma used for disabled facilities. This proved very useful and will be taken forward when regular, routine inspections are undertaken by MCC, (as per recommendation 9).

11.3 Public consultation comments

11.3.1 Further to the public survey, another opportunity to comment was afforded via public consultation. This ran from 22 February to 3 May 2019. The Cabinet Member for Public Protection was informed of progress of the draft strategy, noting it going to Individual Cabinet Member Decision for approval prior to adoption.

11.3.2 Most comments, from Town and Community Councils, related to points of accuracy, eg. opening times, and a couple being unclear on the £1,200 annual grant from MCC towards running costs. These were referred to Operations Finance section. It is assumed most satisfied with the recommendations noting no adverse comments recorded.

11.3.3 Abergavenny Town Council provided the most detailed comments, including –

- MCC will need to determine a mechanism to ensure improvements to those public blocks owned by Town & Community Councils or others
- Further regard is needed towards families and those with more profound disabilities
- Noting problems with anti-social behaviour in Abergavenny, Town Council happy to assist in seeking solutions with partners
- The strategy is light on coping with future demand, noting aging population
- Supports some form of grading system for the county

11.4 MCC Property Services condition survey, April 2019 & subsequent surveys by Environmental Health

11.4.1 At Strong Communities Select Committee on 13th February 2019, Members asked for a condition survey to be undertaken. The Authority's Property Services section was notified accordingly and a survey of 18 public toilet blocks was undertaken in April 2019.

11.4.2 A 77 page report was received on 3rd May 2019, outlining their findings. Going forward, the recommended small Officer/Member working group can analyse the detail and share specific findings with the owners of these facilities, noting many are owned by Town and Community Councils or other bodies.

11.4.3 A summary of the Property Services assessment is provided in Table Two, columns 1 & 2. Environmental Health subsequently visited the blocks again in 2020 and 2022, columns 3 & 4 –

Table Two

	Apr '19 Property Services	Estimated repair costs (April 2019)	Feb '20 Environmental Health	Aug '22 Env Health
A. MCC owned public toilets				
1. Abergavenny Bus Station	C	£36,900	Good	Fair
2. Abergavenny – Castle Street	B	£6,800 Work done 21/22	Good	Good
3. Abergavenny – Whitehorse Lane	C	£93,300	Poor	CLOSED
4. Abergavenny – Brewery Yard	A	0	Excellent	Good
5. Abergavenny – Bailey Park	B	£6,700	CLOSED	CLOSED
6. Caldicot – Caldicot Country Park	C	£25,000 Work done 19/20	Excellent	Excellent

7. Monmouth – Cattle Market	B	£1,700 Work done 20/21	Good	Good
8. Usk – Maryport Street	B	£4,800 Work done 21/22	Good	Good
9. Usk – Usk Island	C	£4,900 Work done 22/23	Good	Excellent
B T & CC owned public toilets				
10. Caerwent	C	£4,600	Excellent	Good
11. Caldicot – Jubilee Way	B	£4,200	Excellent	Good
12. Chepstow – Welsh Street	B	£2,400	Excellent	Fair
13. Chepstow – Castle Dell/TIC	B	£2,500	Excellent	Excellent
14. Chepstow – Riverside	C	£8,400	Good	Fair
15. Gilwern	B	£7,400	Good	Good
16. Goytre	B	£5,700	Good	Good
17. Monmouth – Agincourt Street	C	£8,300	Good	Good
18. Tintern	C	£13,300	Excellent	Excellent

11.4.4 Table Two can be summarised –

MCC facilities were rated as 2 excellent, 4 good and 1 fair. 4 remained at the same rating, 2 went up, one went down.

T&CC facilities were rated as 2 excellent, 5 good and 2 fair. 6 remained at same rating, 2 up, one down.

Of the 16 surveyed August 2022, 13 of the 16 were judged good or excellent, 81% of total. Only 3 were deemed 'fair', (19%).

11.4.5 Overall there was a slight improvement in ratings of the 16 facilities surveyed. The pandemic slowed progress in structural improvements and, now all are rated, comparisons can be made year on year.

11.5 Abergavenny Town Council (ATC) survey, 2018

11.5.1 The Projects committee of ATC conducted their own assessment of public toilet provision in Abergavenny, and reported their findings in September 2018. Their public survey generated 355 responses.

11.5.2 The survey identified Brewery Yard as the most frequently used, followed by White Horse Lane, the bus station and Castle Street.

Castle Street and the Bus Station facilities were judged the best for cleanliness, White Horse Lane the worst. Overall, over 50% considered the Abergavenny toilets well presented, generally clean although basic.

- 11.5.3 Regarding potential improvements, 31% thought ATC should increase the precept to fund improvements, 18% selected 'close one of the blocks and invest saved money to improve the remaining', 16% suggested charging.
- 11.5.4 When asked for further comments, most referred to Abergavenny being a tourist town so should have decent toilets, anti-social behaviour stemming from toilets, a need for upgrading and the importance of adequate provision for those with different medical conditions.
- 11.5.5 A Town Councillor inspected the four toilet blocks in August 2018 and commented "The cleaners have an unenviable task ... Graffiti and mess has to be removed from surfaces, needles retrieved from the floor, basins, toilets and bins, and all sorts of strewn around detritus cleared up."
- 11.5.6 Three recommendations were put to ATC, in readiness for 19/20, being (i) retain the status quo, (ii) close one block (White Horse Lane being preferred), (iii) introduce a small charge for usage, and consider whether toilets remain in MCC ownership or transfer to ATC.
- 11.5.7 Noting MCC retains ownership of the toilet blocks, together with the joint priority of promoting tourism, having thriving town centres, etc. dialogue will continue between ATC and MCC on the best options going forward.

11.6 Gwent Police comments

- 11.6.1 Police colleagues reported anti-social behaviour, notably drug taking, in public toilets in Abergavenny and Monmouth. They have made representation to the Town Councils affected, to request closure of public toilets, including disabled facilities, by early evening (17.00 was suggested) to prevent anyone seeking to sell or take drugs doing so from public conveniences.
- 11.6.2 Specifically drug activity was reported at Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny, Agincourt Street, Monmouth and Cattle market (Blestium Street), Monmouth. Police have included these sites in their regular PCSO patrols. Two prosecutions were taken before Christmas 2018 for possession of Class A drugs in Abergavenny.
- 11.6.3 Cleaning crews, since December 2018, have started recording the number of syringes and other drug paraphernalia, to establish the extent of the problem. Both Gwent Police and MCC Cleansing report a steady increase in recent years.

- 11.6.4 Solutions will be discussed through 'Problem Solving Groups' between MCC Officers, Emergency Services and any others with an interest. Another aid might be to 'blue light' public toilets, whereby drug users cannot see veins thereby making conveniences less attractive.
- 11.6.5 There are also health and safety considerations to consider, both for Police and MCC Cleaning personnel, visiting toilets with drug paraphernalia.
- 11.6.6 Gwent Police would wish to be included in any conversations about future provision in our towns, noting their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour reduction. In the meantime they will continue to seek to arrest for any illegal drug use. They recognise most toilets are now provided by T&CC's so will continue dialogue with facility providers.

12. Actions

Monmouthshire CC will –

1. Continue to work closely with Town & Community Councils on options for maintaining and improving public toilet provision in the county. **On-going, regular dialogue with T&C colleagues, eg. suggested improvements and associated costs.**
2. Give particular focus on ensuring public toilets provided for disabled persons are suitable and safe. **MCC to consider options for 'Changing Places' facilities across the county. Our 4 Leisure Centres can be listed as 'Other Facilities' on the 'Changing Places' website, to direct more profoundly disabled persons to suitable facilities.**
3. Work with partners on how to best utilise the £17,200 Welsh Government grant. **Recommended the £17,200 vired to Landlord Services to spend in 2023/24 year, in consultation with MonLife, eg. to upgrade a Leisure Centre facility to full 'Changing Places' status.**
4. Work with the private sector to seek to provide more publicly available toilets where most needed. **On-going, no unmet need currently identified.**
5. Display the national 'toilet/toiled' national logo (see 10.1) in all participating toilet facilities, including Leisure Centres, libraries, etc. **Undertake in 2023/24, though noting limitations on suitable areas to display the logo.**
6. Improve awareness and information available on publicly accessible toilets by updating information on the Monmouthshire CC website and Lle open access data held by Welsh Government, together with App development. **To be done in conjunction with Welsh Government proposals in 2023. Data Map Wales will be used to map out all public toilet provision across Wales.**
7. Regularly review cleaning and maintenance standards, together with T&CC's who typically manage the public toilets in our towns and villages. **MCC Landlord Services have a repair schedule,**

informed by Facilities Manager and any other MCC/public concerns.

8. Environmental Health Officers to inspect both public and privately provided toilets as part of their inspection regime. Provide a grading of public toilet blocks to determine progress over time. **Done, Table Two.**
9. Work closely with Gwent Police to find solutions to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets. **On-going, to revisit noting changes to Gwent Police personnel.**
10. Work with other agencies with an interest in suitable and hygienic provision, including Welsh Government, CADW and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. **On-going.**
11. Provide proactive advice to all event organisers in the county on the suitability of their toilet provision. **On-going. All organised events in county receive information on suitable toilet provision, noting numbers attending, type of clientele, etc.**
12. Respond to any Welsh Government recommendations on public toilet provision, and seek out notable practice adopted in other counties. A 'rating scheme' would be welcomed. **Any WG guidance awaited. MCC have introduced their own rating scheme in the interim.**
13. Set up a small Working Group, of Members and Officers, to ensure recommendations are implemented. **For further consideration by Members, noting change in administration in May 2022.**

Appendix A

Area	Address	Postcode
<u>1. MCC owned public toilets</u>		
1. Abergavenny	Bus station, Swan Meadow, Abergavenny,	NP7 5HL
2. Abergavenny	Castle Street, Abergavenny	NP7 5EE
3. Abergavenny	Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny* Closed since April 2020	NP7 5AS
4. Abergavenny	Brewery Yard, Abergavenny	NP7 5SD
5. Abergavenny	Bailey Park, Abergavenny Open weekends & summer holidays	NP7 5PW
6. Abergavenny	Linda Vista Gardens	NP7 5DL
7. Caldicot	Caldicot Country Park, Caldicot	NP26 4HU
8. Monmouth	Cattle Market, Monnow Street, Monmouth	NP25 3EG
9. Usk	Maryport, Maryport Street, Usk	NP15 1RW

10. Usk	Usk Island, Pontypool Rd, Usk	NP15 1SY
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2. Town & Community

Council public toilets

11. Caerwent	Main Road, Caerwent	NP26 5BA
12. Caldicot	Jubilee Way Car Park, Caldicot	NP26 4BG
13. Chepstow	Welsh Street, Chepstow	NP16 5JA
14. Chepstow	Castle Dell Car Park, (TIC), Chepstow	NP16 5EY
15. Chepstow	Riverside, Upper Church Street	NP16 5HU
16. Chepstow	Thomas Street, Chepstow	NP16 5DH
17. Gilwern	Crickhowell Road, Gilwern	NP7 0DE
18. Goytre	School Lane, Goytre	NP4 0BL
19. Grosmont	Rear of Town Hall, Grosmont	NP15 2AU
20. Monmouth	Agincourt Street, Monmouth	NP25 3DZ

3. Public Toilets in other MCC buildings

21. Abergavenny	Leisure Centre, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny	NP7 6EP
22. Abergavenny	Museum, Castle Street, Abergavenny Library, Baker Street, Abergavenny	NP7 5EE
23. Abergavenny		NP7 5DB
24. Caldicot	Leisure Centre, Green Lane, Caldicot	NP26 4BN
25. Caldicot	Caldicot Castle, (April 1 - Oct 31st only)	NP26 4HU
26. Caldicot	Community Hub, Caldicot	NP26 5DB
27. Chepstow	Leisure Centre, Welsh Street, Chepstow	NP16 5LR
28. Chepstow	Community Hub, Bank Street, Chepstow	
29. Chepstow	Museum, Bridge Street, Chepstow	NP16 5HZ NP16 5EZ
30. Gilwern	Library, Upper Common, Gilwern	NP7 0DS

31. Monmouth	Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth	NP25 3DY
32. Monmouth	Leisure Centre, Old Dixton Road, Monmouth	NP25 3DP
33. Monmouth	Museum, Priory Street, Monmouth	NP25 3XA
34. Monmouth	Community Hub, The Rolls Hall, Monmouth	NP25 3BY
35. Tintern	Old Station, Tintern (April 1 - Oct 31st only)	NP16 7NX
36. Usk	Community Hub, 35 Maryport Street, Usk	NP15 1AE

**4. Other publicly accessible
toilets**

37. Tintern	Tintern Abbey, Tintern – CADW owned, (leased to MCC)	NP16 6SE
38. Llanfoist	Friends of Llanfoist Chapel, New Cemetery, Llanfoist Improved 22/23	NP7 9LF
39. Monmouth	Bridges Centre, Drybridge Park, Monmouth	NP25 5AS
40. Mitchel Troy A40	Mitchel Troy, Monmouth Closed by WG	NP25 4HY

Note – Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRN's) submitted to WG 1/2/19, together with Welsh version. Above list detailed with opening hours and facilities available at each facility. Full details on opening hours for each site available here –

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/monmouthshire-local-toilet-survey>

Original Local Toilet Strategy published June 2019

Progress report 29.4.21

Local Toilet Strategy Review January 2023, scrutiny via Place Committee 12.1.23

December 2022



Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation David H Jones</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644100 E-mail: davidjones3@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Submission of updated Local Toilet Strategy to Welsh Government in accordance with statutory requirements</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Public Protection, SC&H Directorate</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>December 2022</p>

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

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Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The revised strategy, working with provider partners, aims to protect existing public toilet facilities. This assists more elderly residents and visitors in our towns and open spaces.	None	By regularly formally inspecting all toilet facilities, they should be suitable and safe for elderly persons. In addition, ensuring suitable baby changing is available helps parents whilst out and about in the county.
Disability	As above, aim is to protect existing facilities including disabled toilets.	None	As above, a regular inspection programme will raise any shortfalls to be actioned by providers.
Gender reassignment	None at this time. Further consideration will be needed with facility providers, as the strategy develops.	None	N/A

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	Providers are encouraged to provide adequate baby changing facilities, both in public and private toilets.	None	N/A
Race	None	None	N/A
Religion or Belief	None	None	N/A
Sex	None	None	N/A
Sexual Orientation	None	None	N/A

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</p>	<p>The strategy proposes to keep all publicly accessible toilets free to use, making it fair for all.</p> <p>Public toilets are essential to equitable access to public outdoor spaces.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N/A</p>

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.



How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>All publicly accessible toilets have been mapped out – locally and nationally via Welsh Government – both in English and Welsh. Currently all information on our toilet provision is available via the national 'Lle' dataset. This will be updated in 2023 as part of Data Map Wales.</p> <p>Signage provided states 'toiled' and 'toilet' – to be distributed to toilet providers, Leisure Centres, Town Councils, etc.</p>	None	N/A
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	Any complaints regarding MCC toilet provision would be channelled via our local Hubs. Here callers are advised they can relay any concerns, or indeed compliments, in Welsh if they so wish.	N/A	N/A




4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Town & Community Councils, as reflected in the strategy, have enabled a sharing of public toilet provision across the county. About half of all public toilet (blocks) are owned and managed by T&CC's. Future transfer of these assets can be further explored as the strategy develops. Private businesses too can contribute to toilet provision in our towns, making good use of limited resources.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>As the strategy develops, consideration will be given to electricity and water usage in toilet facilities, with the aim of reducing usage and being more environmentally efficient.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The revised strategy aims to maintain, or improve where possible, the quantity and quality of toilet provision for all. Retaining provision encourages people to take exercise and stay more physically active, by encouraging people to go out more, in our towns, villages and open spaces.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Suitable provision will be more attractive to local residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>See 'Healthier Wales' above. Location maps and general information on facilities provided bi-lingually.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation – as above		
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The strategy aims to provide adequate facilities where most needed, eg. in town centres.	N/A

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	The strategy provides an assessment of the current publicly available toilets, and seeks to work with a range of providers to maintain and improve that provision in the future.	N/A
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	The strategy refers to the integral role of our Town & Community Councils, as significant public toilet providers. Gwent Police have also contributed comments to the strategy, noting anti-social behaviour aspects. The delivery of the action plan depends wholly on positive partnership working.	N/A

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Drafting the initial strategy involved a public opinion survey, seeking views from County Councillors, Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police and various MCC departments. All these views have been incorporated into the original and revised strategy.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Liaison with partners aims to seek preventative solutions, eg. through discussions and agreeing actions with Gwent Police.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Suitable local public toilet provision is important for the well-being of all groups, for parents with babies to older people who may have medical conditions needing ready access to toilets.</p>	

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Providing safe publicly accessible toilets must be done safely, with suitable lighting and regular maintenance. The strategy aims to ensure both service users and providers, eg. cleaning staff, are not exposed to undue risk.		
Corporate Parenting	N/A		

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

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- Public opinion survey January 2019
- Public consultation on draft strategy to May 2019
- Comments from Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police, various MCC departments
- Assessment of current public toilet provision, 2019, 2020, 2022
- Figures from Well-Being Assessment, PSB, April 2017
- Previous report by 'Public Conveniences Working Group' 2009

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The revised Local Toilet Strategy provides an assessment of the current toilet provision, and has been informed with input from the public opinion survey, various MCC departments, Town & Community Councils and Gwent Police.

As detailed in this assessment, the impact on the revised strategy is highly positive. There is a mechanism to measure progress over time, via the annual inspections by Environmental Health, and reviewing progress against the actions identified. Protected characteristic groups are supported, eg by ensuring suitable disabled toilet facilities are provided across the county.

Adequate toilet provision in our towns – provided by MCC or Town Councils – ensures residents can get out and about and enjoy local facilities, our shops, markets, etc. 18 blocks across the county demonstrates this Authority’s commitment to resourcing our own public toilets, and our support to those transferred to Town & Community Councils.

In the future the strategy will be kept under review, with progress reports back to Place Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis. This will also track on-going maintenance from MCC Landlord Services, to keep our stock safe to use.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
--------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

A progress report was provided to Strong Communities Select Committee in April 2021, to check progress against the action plan.	Done	David H Jones
Progress reported to Place Scrutiny on 12 th January 2023, outlining actions progressed and those outstanding. Any Member comments incorporated prior to publishing revised strategy	12 th January 2023	David H Jones
Further to any further amendments/comments from Members, seek Cabinet Member approval to share with WG and publish on MCC website.	March 2023	David H Jones

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Strong Communities Select Committee, with Equality & Future Generations Evaluation conducted	May 2019	Property Services condition survey 2019 incorporated. Rating system agreed. Need to review progress emphasised.
2	Place Scrutiny Committee, E&FGE completed	January 2023	To be determined 12 th January 2023

SUBJECT:	RURAL BROADBAND UPDATE
MEETING:	PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 JANUARY 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on rural broadband following a request by the Place Scrutiny Committee made on 30th June 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To receive the update on rural broadband as presented.

3. KEY ISSUES

Background¹

- 3.1 Telecommunications is a reserved power to the UK Parliament, and the UK Government has primary responsibility for setting broadband coverage and coverage targets.

Superfast

- 3.2 From 2010, UK Government policy focused on the roll-out of ‘superfast’ broadband – usually defined as broadband with download speeds of 30 Megabits per second.
- 3.3 Superfast broadband has mostly been delivered by Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC) technology when fibre optic cables run into a street cabinet and then existing copper telephone wires run from the cabinet to individual premises. FTTC relies on using the copper telephone network that is owned and operated by Openreach, the infrastructure division of BT group. Communications providers, including BT, Sky and TalkTalk but also hundreds more, then deliver broadband services to consumers using Openreach’s network.
- 3.4 Superfast broadband can also be provided by cable (Virgin Media O2), fixed-wireless (for example, provided by Broadway Partners in parts of Monmouthshire) or mobile (4G).

Gigabit-capable

- 3.5 The focus of Government and industry is now providing ‘gigabit-capable’ broadband (download speeds of at least 1 gigabit-per second; 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps). Gigabit-capable broadband can be delivered by technologies such as full-fibre (FTTP, fibre from the local exchange direct to each premises), high-speed cable (Virgin Media O2) and possibly 5G.

¹ Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 7.

- 3.6 UK Government has a target for gigabit broadband to be available across the UK by 2030, and it remains committed to reaching 85% coverage by 2025.² It is estimated that 20% of premises, mostly in rural areas, will require public funding to be provided with a gigabit-capable broadband connection.
- 3.7 Devolved administrations and local authorities are often involved in the delivery of broadband infrastructure projects. Welsh Government’s broadband strategy is set out in its Digital Strategy for Wales.³ It manages the Superfast Cymru project and its extension/successor contracts, which were arranged under the UK Government’s previous funding programme and in recent years have delivered gigabit-capable connections.

Current situation and future position in Monmouth constituency and Monmouthshire

- 3.8 There are two main sources of data on current broadband coverage in the UK: Ofcom’s Connected Nations reports⁴ (published twice yearly) and Thinkbroadband’s data⁵ (published weekly).
- 3.9 The House of Commons Library’s analysis of Ofcom’s data provides a comparison of Monmouth constituency (including urban and rural area split) to Wales and the UK against various broadband indicators:⁶

Area	Average download speed Mbps	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Receiving under 10 Mbps	Receiving over 30 Mbps
Monmouth	56.1	86.7%	26.1%	2.5%	14.0%	68.0%
-- Urban Areas	62.2	97.7%	34.6%	0.0%	8.9%	75.1%
-- Rural Areas	47.2	70.5%	13.6%	6.1%	21.5%	57.7%
Wales	69.5	94.2%	44.9%	0.8%	9.0%	76.3%
UK	86.5	95.6%	64.0%	0.3%	7.0%	78.2%

Around 58.9% of the constituency’s population lives in an area classified as urban

- 3.10 It also compares Medium Super Output Areas within the constituency to other areas of the UK, this indicates that some of the most rural parts of the county, such as Raglan and Llantillio Crossenny, are amongst the worst 10% of areas in the UK when it comes to many measures of broadband connectivity:

² Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 14.

³ [Digital strategy for Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁴ [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

⁵ <https://www.thinkbroadband.com/broadband-data>

⁶ House of Commons Library Constituency Data: broadband coverage speeds data dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#); this dashboard also produces analysis and enables comparison by Medium Super Output Area.

Which small areas overlapping the constituency have the best and worst connectivity?

Key to table shading:

Best 10% of areas in the UK

Best 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 10% of areas in the UK

You can also view [maps of small area data](#)

Area name	Average download speed (Mbps)	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Lines receiving under 10 Mbps	Lines receiving over 30 Mbps
Abergavenny North	45.6	99.4%	29.6%	0.0%	7.8%	72.3%
Abergavenny South & Crucorney	42.6	86.4%	39.1%	4.5%	14.1%	62.1%
Caldicot North & Caer-went	45.5	80.6%	7.0%	2.9%	14.4%	65.8%
Chepstow North & Trellech	69.8	80.6%	27.0%	5.1%	17.8%	64.3%
Chepstow South	61.0	99.8%	10.2%	0.0%	6.4%	83.2%
Croesyceiliog	86.1	97.8%	71.5%	0.1%	10.6%	79.0%
Gilwern & Llanfoist	45.8	88.2%	21.9%	0.3%	11.5%	65.8%
Llantarnam & Oakfield	78.3	95.8%	45.1%	0.0%	12.1%	83.7%
Monmouth & Wyesham	60.3	94.0%	23.8%	0.0%	11.3%	69.9%
Rhaglan & Llantilio Crossenny	44.1	54.2%	15.3%	12.2%	33.1%	44.6%
Usk, Goytre & Llangybi Fawr	53.2	75.4%	8.1%	2.3%	15.4%	65.1%

Note that some of the areas shown may overlap only partially with the constituency. See the notes below for details.

- 3.11 Welsh Government's Open Market Review⁷(OMR) is the main source of data at individual premises level, on future rollout plans and the likely future situation with regards to broadband coverage. Through the Review process, Welsh Government seeks to understand where private sector investment in broadband networks has occurred, is currently being built, or is planned within the next three years.
- 3.12 For Welsh Government, the OMR data allows them to classify premises according to their broadband coverage status. This classification then informs eligibility for receiving public funding (see Appendix A for a summary of this) and inclusion in future Welsh and UK Government interventions, such as Project Gigabit (see Appendix A). For the Council, the OMR data provides data that can be compared with other local authority areas in Wales, a detailed picture of which areas of the county are at risk of being left behind and may require intervention (for example, through the Local Broadband Fund, see Appendix A), and a dataset that can be used to provide premises-level advice and support in response to individual enquiries from residents.
- 3.13 The 2019 OMR and associated Public Review data showed that 2,494 or 5.1% of all premises in Monmouthshire (our 'digital deprivation rate') did not have access to broadband at over 30 Mbps⁸ and there were no plans for it to be available within three years (these premises are referred to as 'white'). A further 5,490 or 11.1% of all premises

⁷ [Broadband open market review 2021: summary of responses \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁸ 'Next Generation Access'.

were included in providers' plans for network coverage but the upgrades were not fully proven or completed (these premises are referred to as 'under review').

- 3.14 The recently shared 2021 OMR and linked 2022 Public Review data shows that these figures have significantly improved: as things stand, 1,238 or 2.5% of all premises in Monmouthshire are classified as 'white', and a further 2,610 or 5.2% of all premises are 'under review'. This compares favourably to the average figures for Wales, in which 5.1% of all premises are classified as 'white' and a further 7.3% as under review.
- 3.15 As well as Next Generation Access (30 Mbps and above) availability and plans, the 2021 OMR and linked 2022 Public Review also assessed gigabit-capable coverage. Again, the situation in Monmouthshire compares favourably to the Wales-wide data: 3,496 or 7% of premises in Monmouthshire were classified as 'white' for gigabit-capable coverage compared to 14% across Wales, and 5,701 or 14% of premises in Monmouthshire were classified as 'under review' for gigabit-capable coverage, compared to 39.2% across Wales. As such, if providers' plans are delivered as planned, at least 81.6% of premises in Monmouthshire should have access to gigabit-capable broadband from at least one provider within the next three years, compared to 46.8% across Wales.

The rollout of broadband in Monmouthshire

- 3.16 'Rolling out' improved broadband connectivity, whether in rural or urban settings, is a complicated process with many (often hidden) barriers, such as securing the necessary permissions from landowners to access land or install/replace infrastructure and needing to use historic infrastructure such as ducts or telephone poles that sometimes needs prior maintenance or replacement.

Full-fibre providers

- 3.17 As mentioned above, the focus of most policymaking and industry initiatives is the building of gigabit-capable, 'full fibre' broadband networks, which are the most future-ready networks available and the current gold standard of connectivity.
- 3.18 In Monmouthshire, as in most parts of Wales and the UK, full-fibre broadband rollouts are generally being delivered by Openreach (including through their subcontractors) and/or 'alternative providers' (the generic term for providers other than Openreach). In most cases and with some exceptions, alternative providers are newer, smaller companies that build networks and connect customers in areas that Openreach do not plan to build in – that is, they do not seek to compete directly with Openreach.

Openreach

- 3.19 Openreach is a company wholly owned by BT Group that maintains much of the telecommunications infrastructure (for example, telephone poles, cables, ducts, cabinets and exchanges) that connects/connected most UK homes and businesses to the national telephone and broadband network.
- 3.20 Openreach currently builds and connects premises to its full-fibre network in three main streams:
- Commercial rollout

- As a commercial company, Openreach invests significant amounts of non-public funds into upgrading its network.
- It has stated an ‘ambition to reach 25 million homes and businesses [across the UK] by December 2026, if the right investment conditions are in place’.⁹
- It publishes a map and list of the areas to be upgraded in future online: [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)
- In Monmouthshire, Openreach plans to upgrade many (but almost certainly not all) premises connected to the Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth and Usk exchanges ‘by December 2026’.
- Openreach does not provide the Council with any further information about its commercial rollout plans.
- Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract with Welsh Government¹⁰
 - Openreach also delivers the current Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract, let and managed by Welsh Government. The contract has a total value of £52.5 million and will now continue to the end of March 2023 to connect a total of 37,137 premises with gigabit-capable fibre to the premises.
 - Due to past interpretations of state aid legislation, only premises that are without existing access to a superfast broadband connection and not included in providers’ commercial build plans (as provided through the Open Market Reviews, see 3.11) are eligible to be provided with public support and included in this contract; as such, these premises are overwhelmingly in villages or more rural areas.
 - The nature of the contract means that Openreach conducts surveys of the pool of possible premises, then informs Welsh Government of the expected cost and seeks approval to continue (‘approved to build’); as such, Welsh Government cannot direct Openreach to connect certain premises/areas.
 - Welsh Government provides infrequent updates to the Council as to the number of premises in the county connected through this contract and the list of premises planned to be connected through it.¹¹
 - As of October 2022, at least 1001 premises in Monmouthshire are now able to place an order for full-fibre broadband because of this rollout, and around a further 800 should be enabled before the end of March 2023.¹²
- Fibre Community Partnerships (formerly Community Fibre Partnerships)

⁹ [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)

¹⁰ Openreach also delivered the Phase 1 Superfast Cymru contract, which was supported by £225 million of public funding and provided mainly Fibre to the Cabinet to

¹¹ Welsh Government also used to host an online checker that people could use to check directly if their premises was included in the rollout, but this was taken offline in September 2021.

¹² Including those built already, 1807 premises in Monmouthshire have been ‘approved to build’ by Welsh Government, but this does not guarantee they will be built, as unanticipated factors such as wayleave issues may prevent them from actually being built.

- This is a scheme in which Openreach ‘works with the local community’ to deliver full-fibre broadband.¹³ It typically focuses on smaller or more remote rural communities that are not in providers’ future plans for full-fibre.
- The Partnerships are funded by a combination of the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (see Appendix A), the community itself, and Openreach, and the build is due to be completed within 12 months of the funding being secured (although there are often significant delays).
- Fibre Community Partnerships (FCPs) have been used successfully to connect communities across the UK, but feedback from residents is that they can be a frustrating and drawn-out process, and it is clear that potential schemes are sometimes disrupted by Openreach’s own commercial or publicly subsidised activity.
- In March 2022, the scheme was put on hold for new applicants, due to overwhelming demand.
- Openreach provide the Council with a monthly update on FCPs within the county in order that Officers can provide additional advice and support to the community, as required. Current potential schemes in Monmouthshire include:
 - ‘Crucorney Bettws Cottages’;
 - ‘Chepstow Mouton House’;
 - ‘Monmouth St Maughans’; and
 - ‘Trelleck Rock Road’¹⁴

3.21 For an individual premises, the end result is the same regardless of by which route they have been connected: they are able to place an order¹⁵ from any of the full fibre supporting Internet Service Providers that use Openreach’s infrastructure.¹⁶

‘Alternative providers’ or ‘Altnets’

3.22 A number of smaller companies – although often backed by big investment – are building their own full-fibre networks, generally using some of Openreach’s infrastructure (for example, use of Openreach’s telephone poles or ducts to carry the fibre to premises).

3.23 Unlike on Openreach’s network, when a customer has a wide choice of communications providers with whom to take out a service, on alternative providers’ networks, the customer is often only able to take out a broadband service direct from the provider itself – although this may change in future.

3.24 In Monmouthshire, there are two main alternative providers of full-fibre broadband:

¹³ [Fibre Community Partnership | Openreach](#)

¹⁴ These potential schemes are at different stages. This list is non-exhaustive.

¹⁵ It is important to note that fibre builds will only take the fibre to a piece of infrastructure near a premises; only when a customer places an order with an Internet Service Provider will Openreach be tasked with running the fibre from the last piece of infrastructure to and then into the premises.

¹⁶ [Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband service providers | Openreach](#)

- Ogi (formerly known as Spectrum Internet) has announced a £200 million investment to extend their full-fibre network to cover 150,000 premises in south Wales.
 - These including premises in Abergavenny, Caerwent, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crick, Magor, Monmouth, Portskewett, Pwllmeyric, Rogiet, Sudbrook and Undy.¹⁷
 - The network build is largely complete in Abergavenny with most premises able to order a service, underway in Monmouth and soon to begin in Chepstow.
- Broadway Partners has secured £145 million investment to enable the rollout of their full-fibre network to cover 250,000 premises in rural Scotland and Wales by 2025.
 - The network build is complete in Llandewi Rhydderch and Llanarth and underway in Llanover.
 - In March 2021, MCC agreed to provide loan funding to a Special Purpose Vehicle wholly owned by Broadway Partners, ‘Monmouthshire Broadband Limited’, to enable them to build a mixed wireless and fibre network across Monmouthshire.¹⁸ As of July 2021, 34 of the planned 57 radio base station sites were completed, covering 8,000 premises. Since then, Broadway Partners’ new investment and other contextual changes have changed the focus of the scheme towards full fibre, and it is likely that the fibre network will replace much of the wireless network.

Other broadband technology rollouts

- 3.25 Other technologies, such as fixed-wireless access (including mobile broadband) and satellite, are also used to deliver improved broadband connectivity in the county. See Appendix A for further information about these technologies.
- 3.26 One example of a scheme utilising other technologies is a scheme being supported by the Council in the Llanthony Valley using grant funding from Welsh Government’s Local Broadband Fund. The scheme, is currently still in the design and planning phase but due to be completed later in the financial year, will use a mix of fixed-wireless technologies, including licenced 5G spectrum, to deliver a fast (superfast but not gigabit capable) and reliable internet connection to premises in the area.¹⁹

Sources of funding

- 3.27 Various funding schemes are available to industry and/or residents or businesses to improve broadband speeds. See Appendix A for further information.

4. AFFORDING BROADBAND DURING THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

¹⁷ [Boost for Wales's full fibre roll out - Ogi](#)

¹⁸ The investment is overseen by the MCC Investment Committee.

¹⁹ The challenging topography of and low density of premises within the area means that it is unlikely that building a fibre broadband network will be viable proposition for any provider in the foreseeable future.

Social tariffs

- 4.1 Several broadband providers, including BT, Sky and Virgin Media, offer cheaper long-term tariffs²⁰ for those receiving benefits such as Universal Credit and Pension Credit. See [Discounted 'social tariffs' for those on certain benefits \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/broadband/social-tariffs/) for an overview of some of these.

National Databank

- 4.2 The Good Things Foundation has developed a National Databank to provide free mobile data, calls and texts to people with a low-income – those at risk of data poverty: [National Databank - Good Things Foundation](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/national-databank/).

5. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 5.1 An evaluation is not required for this paper as the report is for information only and no policy or service change is proposed.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 6.1 An Options Appraisal is not required, as this paper is for information only.

7. REASONS

- 7.1 The ability to access broadband is an imperative for many citizens, particularly in terms of their ability to work from home to reduce travel costs and carbon impact or to access online services to address the cost-of-living crisis.

- 7.2 This latest Open Market Review data reveals a much-improved situation in Monmouthshire, with further improvements to be made over the next three years. However, we cannot be complacent and further work will continue to be done to identify potential solutions for those that remain at risk of being left behind.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no resource implications for the Council, this is a report for information only.

9. CONSULTEES

- Broadband companies operating in Monmouthshire
- Strategic Leadership Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

11. AUTHORS

Adam Greenwood, Rural Digital Project Officer
Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Animation

12. CONTACT DETAILS

²⁰ Some providers may offer new customer-only tariffs or offers that are cheaper than social tariffs but for a shorter contract period.

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Tel: 01633 644767

E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Mob: 07557 190969

Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

13. OTHER BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY ROLLOUTS

- Fixed-wireless access
 - In a fixed-wireless access network, masts transmit radio signals through the air to small receivers on individual premises. Most fixed-wireless networks require unobstructed line of sight between the local mast and the premises. Such networks are typically deployed in very rural areas where the cost of deploying fibre is considered to be too high to be viable – although its popularity has appeared to decline in recent years as the cost of deploying full fibre has decreased at the same time as new investment in it has increased.
 - Fixed-wireless access networks are currently not capable of reliably providing gigabit speeds but above-superfast download speeds of 50-100 Mbps are common.
 - Several companies, including Bogons, Broadway Partners/Monmouthshire Broadband Limited and Countryside Connections, operate fixed-wireless access networks in different parts of the county.
- Mobile (4G and 5G)
 - A type of fixed-wireless broadband, mobile broadband. Connections use the 4G or 5G mobile networks put in place by the four major UK mobile network operators: BT/EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.
 - The capability of mobile broadband connections depends on multiple factors including signal strength (largely dependent on the distance between the premises and the nearest mast), mast speed and capacity (what speeds the mast can provide), and contention (how many other people are using the same mast at the same time).
 - Ofcom data suggests that 95-99% of premises in Wales have 4G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least one of the mobile network operators, but 10% of the geographic area of Wales is not covered by any operator.
 - Officers are aware that this data is imperfect and are working with a local start-up company, Streetwave, to get a better understanding of mobile coverage in the county.
 - At the moment, public 5G network coverage remains rare in Monmouthshire, but is available in Abergavenny on BT/EE and

Three and around Raglan on BT/EE²¹; across Wales, 27-38% of premises have 5G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least of the mobile network operators.

- Satellite
 - Satellite broadband is transmitted wirelessly from an operations hub, to an orbiting satellite, and then to a satellite dish on a subscriber's premises.
 - In the past, the high cost of launching and maintaining satellite broadband networks meant that customer packages were relatively expensive and provided below superfast speeds with fairly high latency and significant restrictions on usage.
 - A new type of system – Low-Earth Orbit satellite – however, offers far higher speeds (as high as 200 Mbps download) and lower latency with much higher or no caps on usage. An example of this new type of satellite broadband is Starlink.

Sources of funding for broadband

UK-wide

- UK Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme²²
 - This is one element of UK Government's Project Gigabit programme.²³
 - It provides up to £210 million worth of voucher funding to people in rural areas experiencing slow broadband speeds.
 - On behalf of eligible premises, broadband operators can claim vouchers worth £1500 for homes and £3500 for businesses to contribute to the costs of installing gigabit broadband to groups of premises.
 - Until the end of March 2022, Welsh Government topped-up these amounts to £3000 for homes and £7000 for businesses.
 - Gigabit Vouchers are primarily used by alternative providers building fibre networks in rural areas (e.g., Broadway Partners) and often comprise the community's contribution towards an Openreach Fibre Community Partnership.²⁴

²¹ Raglan coverage was provided as a consequence of the Connected Communities in the Rural Economy/5G Wales Unlocked project in which MCC was a partner: [5G Wales Unlocked](#)

²² [Gigabit Vouchers \(culture.gov.uk\)](#)

²³ [Project Gigabit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

²⁴ For most prospective Fibre Community Partnership schemes, the main factor in its viability is the degree to which the estimated 'cost per premises' falls within the amount that can be claimed from the Voucher Scheme.

- Universal Service Obligation
 - The Universal Service Obligation is intended as a ‘safety net’ to deliver broadband to premises that do not have access to a decent broadband connection (defined by multiple parameters, including minimum 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, data usage of 100GB per month).
 - It gives eligible residents and businesses a legal right to request a decent broadband connection from BT and KCOM (in Hull), the providers
 - Any technology capable of delivering the minimum standards is eligible and the choice of technology is up to the provider. The cost threshold is £3400 per premises – above this, customer have the option of paying the excess costs.

Wales-specific

- Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme²⁵
 - This Welsh Government scheme provides grant to fund or part-fund the installation cost of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales.
 - New connections through the scheme must deliver a significant change in speed (at least double current download speeds)
 - The maximum grant available is £800 for new connections with speeds of 30 Mbps and above.
 - The scheme is applied for by residents and businesses, based on a quotation from an Internet Service Provider.
 - Grants from this scheme are typically used to fund the connection costs of a fixed-wireless (including mobile broadband) broadband connection.
- Local Broadband Fund
 - This £10 million Welsh Government fund is available to support local authorities and social enterprises to deliver broadband projects locally.
 - The funding can be used to deliver fast, reliable broadband in areas of Wales without access; create new broadband infrastructure; and upgrade existing broadband infrastructure.
 - The Council applied for two grants during the first application window and were successful with both: the Llanthony Valley community scheme and a carrier-grade upgrade scheme connected to the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited network. As

²⁵ [Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme | GOV.WALES](#)

the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited project changed in response to contextual changes, the carrier-grade upgrade scheme was deemed no longer required and the grant withdrawn.

Project Gigabit gap-funded supplier procurements

The main element of UK Government's Project Gigabit is the introduction of a Dynamic Purchasing Scheme, through which Internet Service Providers are invited to bid on contracts for providing gigabit capable coverage in intervention areas of different sizes. Areas with sub-30 Mbps speeds will be prioritised and the scheme is technology neutral (though full fibre is preferred).

In England, Broadband Delivery UK (an Executive Agency of UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) is managing the gap-funded supplier procurements. In Wales, the role of Welsh Government in Project Gigabit is still unknown, but we understand that the procurement process for Project Gigabit in Wales is expected to begin later in the year. Recent communication from BDUK has suggested that many premises in Monmouthshire will be included in regional lot 15 (Herefordshire), which they currently estimate will be procurement in Q2 2023, with contracts let in Q1 2024.

14. USEFUL RESOURCES

Data

14.1 Ofcom's Connected Nations reports and data: [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

14.2 House of Commons Library's 'Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds' Data Dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#)

14.3 ThinkBroadband data: [UK Broadband Data | thinkbroadband](#)

Information

14.4 Openreach's Fibre Checker: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband#fibrechecker> (note that this only includes premises connected to Openreach's fibre network; other providers such as Ogi and Broadway Partners have their own checkers on their websites)

14.5 Project Gigabit Delivery Plan – spring update: [Project Gigabit Delivery Plan - spring update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

14.6 Welsh Government Rolling out fibre broadband: [Rolling out fibre broadband | GOV.WALES](#)

Welsh Parliament Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee:
Digital connectivity – broadband: [CR-LD15290-E.PDF \(SENEDD.WALES\)](#)

Alternative providers known to be operating in Monmouthshire

14.7 Broadway Partners: <https://www.broadwaybroadband.co.uk/>

14.8 Bogons: [Bogons Ltd](#)

14.9 Country Connect: [Country Connect - Ultrafast Broadband Provider - Country Connect \(country-connect.co.uk\)](#)

14.10 Countryside Connections: [Countryside Connections – Rural Broadband Specialists \(countryside-connections.co.uk\)](#)

14.11 Ogi: <https://www.ogi.wales/>

SUBJECT: GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION REPORT

MEETING: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 10th JANUARY 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To gain approval to implement the most viable garden waste collection service based on customer responses on consultation to meet the full cost recovery for the service. Service will be £50 per bin for 20 collections March through November.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Place Scrutiny Committee conducts pre-decision scrutiny on the options contained within the report, noting the preferred option below. The preferred option based on number of responses indicates that we can deliver a viable service to those residents at the required level.
- 2.2 That the committee endorses the proposed annual uplift in service charges of RPIx at November 1st of preceding year.
- 2.3 That the committee supports the implementation of the preferred option for the 2023/24 season.

3. KEY ISSUES:

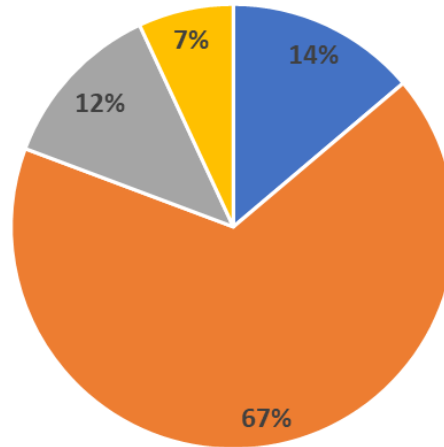
- 3.1 Garden waste collections are a non-statutory chargeable waste collection service. The service can recover full costs of recovery but should not charge for the disposal element.
- 3.2 Monmouthshire moved from a chargeable weekly sack collection to a chargeable fortnightly wheeled bin collection in 2020/21. This was to improve the service for residents, improve health and safety for collectors and reduce the MCC financial contribution following annual reductions of grant funding from Welsh Government.
- 3.3 The original proposal was to charge £35 for the service running March 1st to November 30th. This was consulted on widely and the report was taken through Select Committee and through a Member Workshop where a revised fee of £28 was agreed and taken through Council for approval.

- 3.4 As part of the recommendations from the previous Strong Communities Select Committee and the Member workshop, we also introduced “cost price” compost bins and water butts through the Reuse shops.
- 3.5 Home composting remains the most environmentally friendly and financially prudent ways of dealing with grass cuttings. It adheres to the waste hierarchy and proximity principles, offsets carbon of collection and provides a peat free soil improver. The introduction of a garden shredder to our Benthlyg Library of Things makes home composting a viable option for hedge and tree prunings to be included in home composting. Food waste is collected weekly so there is no need to include food matter in home composting and this should reduce concerns over pests and smells.
- 3.6 The £28 substantially reduced the council contribution to the scheme in 2021/22 but did not provide a full cost recovery model as proposed. There was no increase in costs in 2022/23. At £28, the scheme provided excellent value for residents and despite initial concerns about customer loss this resulted in an additional 2000 customers registering. This has increased the number of vehicles and staff delivering the service and with increased costs of vehicles, fuel, wages, receptacles etc the service required a MCC contribution of £240,000 in 2022/23.
- 3.7 The Council is facing significant budget pressures moving forward. The renewal of garden waste service charges does not align with the annual Budget Plan and Fees and Charges Review and a decision on increasing charges needs to be taken pre-budget review.
- 3.8 To redress this imbalance and implement a full cost recovery model a consultation with existing customers was carried out in November/December 2022 in readiness of the service delivery for 2023/24. See 2A, Appendix 1.
- 3.9 The service is currently provided to 14,361 customers with 17,000 bins (approximately 1/3 of households). The subsidy is borne by all households at £6 per household.
- 3.10 The diagram below shows the current customer base:

Row Labels	Count of Address
Bulwark and Thornwell	831
Caerwent	299
Caldicot Castle	402
Caldicot Cross	430
Cantref	365
Chepstow Castle and Larkfield	530
Croesonen	224
Crucorney	173
Devauden	145
Dewstow	359
Drybridge	409
Gobion Fawr	156
Goetre Fawr	341
Grofield	149
Lansdown	226
Llanbadoc and Usk	634
Llanelly	579
Llanfoist Fawr and Govilon	488
Llangybi Fawr	201
Llantilio Crossenny	114
Magor East with Undy	869
Magor West	417
Mardy	263
Mitchel Troy and Trellech	
United	336
Mount Pleasant	482
Osbaston	506
Overmonnow	244
Park	303
Pen Y Fal	321
Portskewett	495
Raglan	374
Rogiet	322
Severn	334
Shirenewton	400
St Arvans	312
St Kingsmark	481
Town	225
West End	267
Wyesham	355
Grand Total	14361

3.11 The consultation results showed an overwhelming 67% of respondents supporting a continuation of the service at £50. The results of the consultation and small selection of qualitative data are set out below. Full results and responses are included as Appendix 1 and 1A.

Q2. The options below seek to reduce the current subsidy and deliver a viable service for our customers and residents. Please select your preferred option:



- Cease collections - I would not use the service as laid out in any of the options above.
- Keep the service frequency as it is (fortnightly wheeled bin collection) for £50 per bin per year (20 collections).
- Reduce the frequency of the collections to four weekly for £42.50 per bin per year (10 collections).
- Reduce the frequency of the collections to six weekly for £35 per bin per year (6 collections).

“Couldn’t afford any more than £28! Rather have green bags provided and take to Five Lanes myself”

“Please do not change the frequency. As it stands even being collected every two weeks the bins smell. If the frequency is extended the green material will break down further and will stick in the bins and will not be possible to empty. In addition, I subscribe to the number of bins I need (two), so if the frequency is extended then I will need more bins which I do not have room for nor the finances. It's an important service which we need to keep and encourage people to have gardens for the environment and wildlife.”

"This is truly outrageous, we pay enough for council tax as it is and mainly for services that I don't use, why don't you charge for council tax in the same way as garden waste collection? If you use it you pay for it....I don't use schools, libraries etc so why should I fund people that do.
Get a grip!"

“£50 per bin per fortnight is still of value if the alternative is to drive to Five Lanes with waste bags.”

“Get your issues of course but £50 is too much given that some councils do not charge at all?”

“It's a very useful service if you have a large garden and live a long way from with recycling centre. Both those things apply to us. Happy to pay extra for it. Would rather this than see other services cut back.”

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 Garden waste collections is a non-statutory chargeable service where residents opt-in. There are a number of options open to residents to treat garden waste that do not opt-in, including, home composting (MCC provide cost price home composters through the reuse shop), delivery of material to one of the Household Waste Recycling Centres, community composting at participating allotments etc.

4.2 The impact of increasing the charges will be felt by those on low incomes but at present the 14,361 customers are subsidised by all residents who may also be on low income without using the service.

4.3 We will continue to provide home composting bins at cost price. Home composting is environmentally friendly, meets waste proximity principles and provides a soil improver at source.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 Options appraised included “do nothing” “Uplift to £50 for existing service” “full cost recovery with service options”.

5.2 We know that the garden waste collection service is currently being subsidised by £240,000 and “do nothing” would increase the subsidy year on year. Given current increases in demand for service at £28 by 2023/24 we would need an additional vehicle plus crew. An additional 2000 customers would increase service costs by £200,000 and increase income by £56,000 leaving a total subsidy requirement of £384,000.

5.3 An “uplift to £50” is included as part of the consultation and this gives customers the option of service provision.

5.4 “Full cost recovery with frequency options” provides customers with options and each option provides a viable model to reduce subsidy.

5.5 Consultation results, as per Appendix 1.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 Customer retention

6.2 Reduction in subsidy

6.3 Sales of home composting bins

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 Reduce the subsidy on a non-statutory service.
- 7.2 Ensure the waste hierarchy and proximity principles for waste treatment are maximised.
- 7.3 Protect the environment and resources for future generations.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Any reductions in service may result in redundancy situation will be addressed through capitalisation and all efforts will be made to redeploy individuals.

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Member
Customers
Communities and Place Directorate Management Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

11. AUTHOR: Carl Touhig

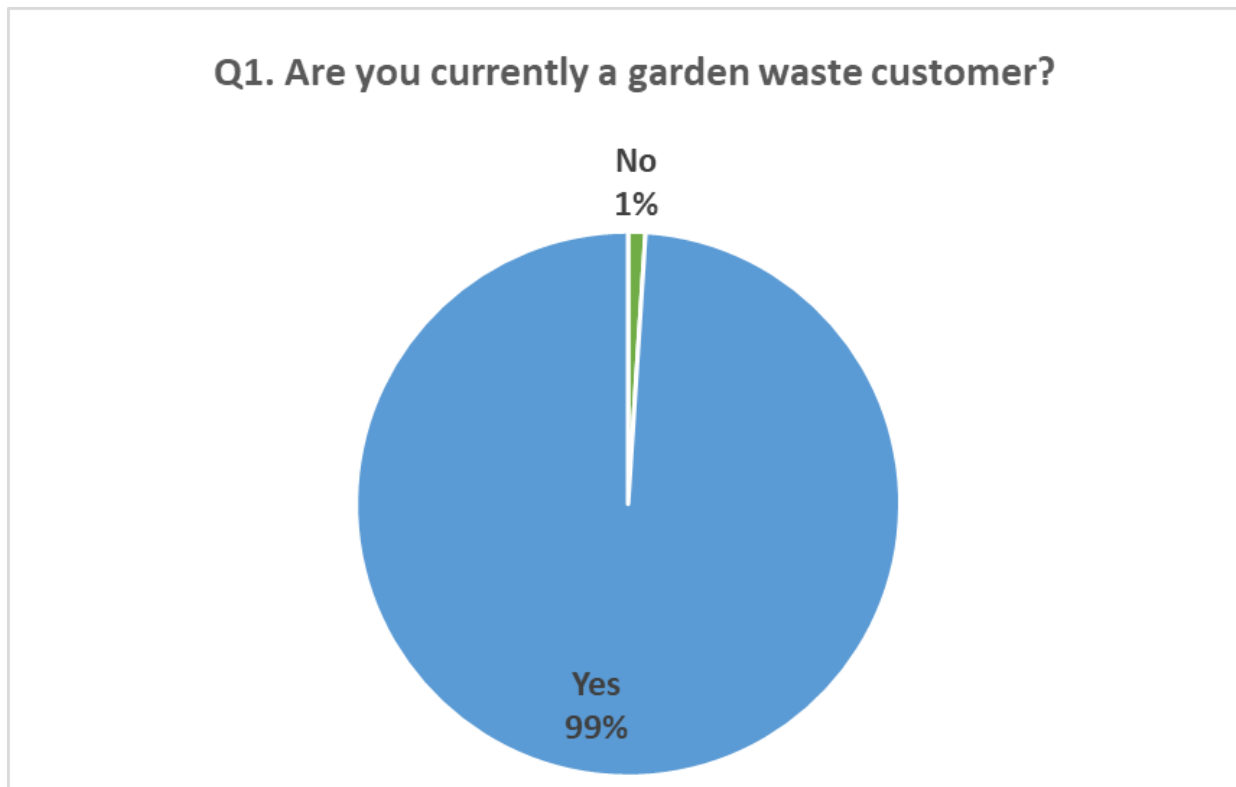
12. CONTACT DETAILS: carltouhig@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Garden waste consultation results

Number of responses: 6158

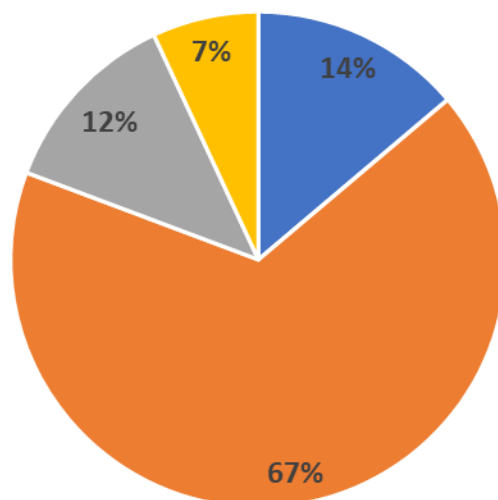
Language of responses: English – 6157

Cymraeg – 1



No	63
Yes	6095
Total	6158

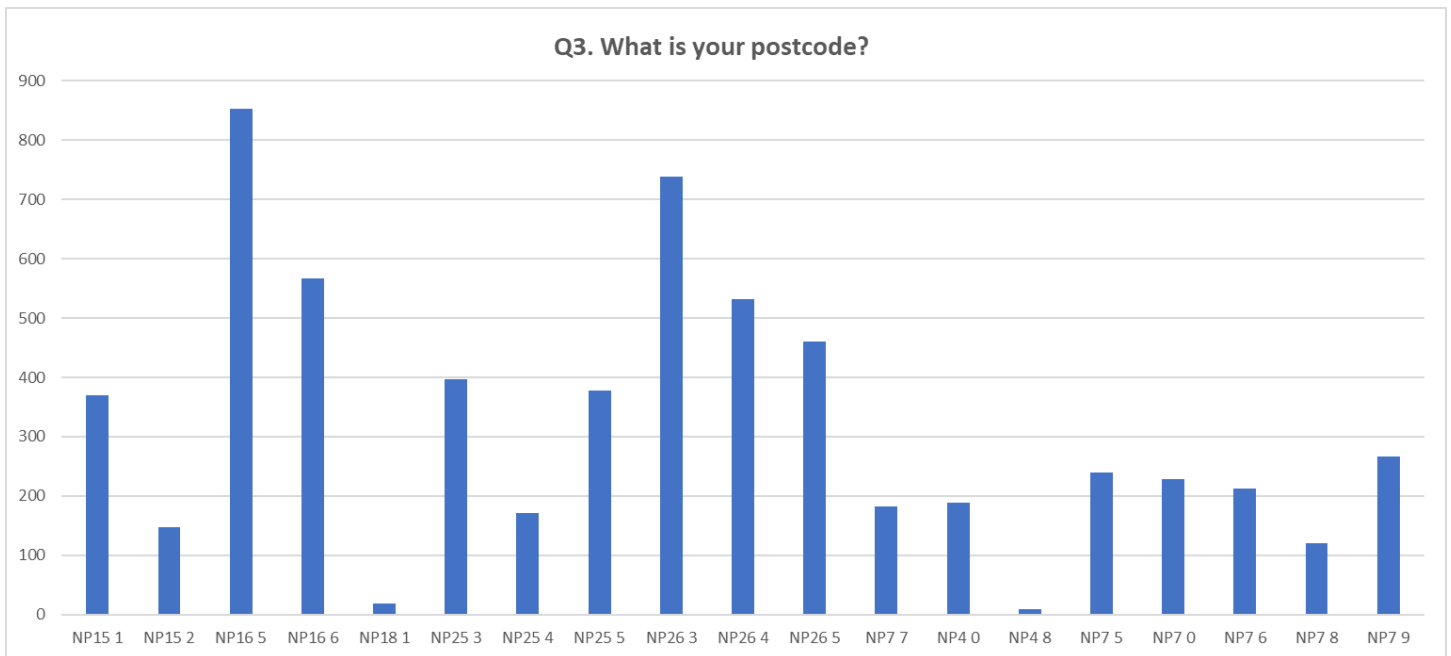
Q2. The options below seek to reduce the current subsidy and deliver a viable service for our customers and residents. Please select your preferred option:



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- Keep the service frequency as it is (fortnightly wheeled bin collection) for £50 per bin per year (20 collections).
- Reduce the frequency of the collections to four weekly for £42.50 per bin per year (10 collections).
- Reduce the frequency of the collections to six weekly for £35 per bin per year (6 collections).

The options below seek to reduce the current subsidy and deliver a viable service for our customers and residents. Please select your preferred option:

Cease collections - I would not use the service as laid out in any of the options above.	852
Keep the service frequency as it is (fortnightly wheeled bin collection) for £50 per bin per year (20 collections).	4118
Reduce the frequency of the collections to four weekly for £42.50 per bin per year (10 collections).	761
Reduce the frequency of the collections to six weekly for £35 per bin per year (6 collections).	427
Grand Total	6158



Postcodes	Number of responses
NP16 5	852
NP26 3	739
NP16 6	567
NP26 4	531
NP26 5	460
NP25 3	397
NP25 5	377
NP15 1	370
NP7 9	266
NP7 5	240
NP7 0	229
NP7 6	213
NP4 0	189
NP7 7	183
NP25 4	172
NP15 2	147
NP7 8	120
NP18 1	19
NP4 8	9

Q4. Please provide any additional comments

3211 people made a comment. Please see Appendix 1A

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Please provide any additional comments

Couldn't afford anymore than £28! Rather have green bags provided and take to Five Lanes myself

I live alone on a pension so have to seriously look at all my expenditure. The huge increase in my Council Tax (52% in 9 years) has seriously impacted on my ability to pay my bills.

We should not have to subsidise a non-statutory service. I like my garden waste collection and would like to keep it. I will continue to use the service.

If garden rubbish is left in a plastic bin too long in the summer, it starts fermenting and gets incredibly hot.

I would definitely want the collections fortnightly as we do now.

Please do not change the frequency. As it stands even being collected every two weeks the bins smell. If the frequency is extended the green material will break down further and will stick in the bins and will not be possible to empty. In addition I subscribe to the number of bins I need (two), so if the frequency is extended then I will need more bins which I do not have room for nor the finances. It's an important service which we need to keep and encourage people to have gardens for the environment and wildlife.

As a resident with a small garden the current Wheely bin is bigger than I need. Hence why six weekly collections are ok and I'd rather keep costs down. It would be better for smaller houses if the larger houses pay for more Wheely bins rather than charge smaller houses more.

All of these options are too expensive.

It is a valuable service but sadly ends too early to be fully valuable to those with large gardens who cannot easily use other means of disposal.

We are encouraged to recycle but the increase will put people off doing so. As our council tax is really high I don't think the increase amount is justified. £5 per bin would be more appropriate and fair.

The survey does not explain why the four weekly collections are not half the price. However, I would prefer to keep the current frequency. I would be grateful if the operators could be asked to return the bins to their original collection location as leaving them in the road is a highway hazard, blocks neighbours drives, and it also makes it obvious that householders are away for the weekend which is a burglary prevention concern.

Can't afford the service so we burn all garden waste

The size garden I have I can't manage the waste if collection was less often.

I think this is a great service and needs to continue. It's an easy way to get recycling out to people.

I don't need the service fortnightly so decreasing the frequency to the 4 or 6 weekly options I think are a good idea.

I think the cost should stay the same or increase slightly but still remain at the same amount of collections. I pay a huge amount of council tax each month and don't see a lot for it. I have recently moved to the area and am shocked by the amount of council tax you have to pay. My previous council tax was far less and had a far better recycling and collection service. Unsure why you are still using plastic bags to put recycling in! Should you not be reducing the amount of plastic!!

As a pensioner I need the garden waste service, but cannot afford the price increase especially as the council tax will inevitably increase as well next year. How about cutting out some of the waste and inefficiencies in the council to provide better services.

The service is vital to the village of Llangybi

This service is delivered well and, as a customer who has an assisted service I find that the collectors I have are great guys who do it with good will. Very much appreciated.

I would pay more for you to continue through November. It's mad to stop the service when all the leaves are dropping, we are all pruning and cutting back annuals for the winter. Every other week is perfect for me personally and am willing to pay £50 for 20 collections, I feel £2.50 per collection is a reasonable amount

The proposed cost is too expensive, especially as we don't fill the bin every fortnight throughout the whole collection period. A reduced frequency of collection is no use to us. Presumably garden waste will still be accepted at recycling centres. This is a great shame as it will increase car journeys and carbon emissions. The reduction in the service/increased cost runs counter to the MCC Climate Emergency declaration. Very disappointing.

Good service, worth the extra money

The fortnightly collection is fine but would not be able to afford £50 which is a shame as it's a much better system

To lose this facility would cause great inconvenience. We have no 'tip' facilities in Usk so would have to drive to a facility to get rid of garden waste. Not everyone has a car to be able to do this.

None

I see there was a no option to keep the price as is, that is a very high price increase ! Whilst I appreciate we have a cost of living crisis

I live in a 2 bed house with a small garden so 6 weekly collection would be sufficient
n/a

If you reduced the collection interval I would be forced to purchase more bins which would then increase plastic use. The refuse collectors would also have more bins to empty when they do collect. Also for houses with little storage available for the bins they could end up causing obstructions outside houses especially on collection day

The garden waste bins are full every fortnight. Changing it to a monthly collection would be a great inconvenience for pensioners like us. Also £50 is extortionate.

As one of the highest council tax rates already this move is disgusting.

We already pay considerably more council tax than all neighbouring constituencies all of which have garden waste services included.

Is this mismanagement by the council? How can we pay so much and get so little. I advise you to reconsider this cash grab and find the funds elsewhere.

The fortnightly service is invaluable please continue with it. Many thanks

Ridiculous

It is absolutely disgusting that this service was once included in our monthly council tax payments and now it isn't, with year on year price increases. I suggest you look elsewhere to make savings. I am not happy with the suggested price increases. Such short sightedness. This will inevitably lead to more fly tipping.

This just penalises the good people and encourage the less scrupulous to dump more rubbish illegally. The increases in cost will also encourage more trips to the tip causing more pollution

If there is no collection or the price goes up too much I worry there will be more people dumping their garden waste in the nearby woods. This increased noticeably when the price increased before. If it is 4 or 6 week collection the bins will get over filled and start to mulch, fortnightly is just about right.
n/a

I have been very pleased with the service. Summer 2022 saw less than average need for collections because of the drought, but I am happy to pay for the continued service on the basis that 2023 will be a normal year.

It is becoming an expensive service when added to the already increasing council tax bill. The problem will be that it becomes a limited service to those that can afford it and that will make it more expensive for the council to cover by way of area, staff, vehicle and fuel costs travelling the same distance to pick up fewer bins. Better to reduce the collection dates to March through to end of October

Would take to our local centre £50 is too much of an increase and any less than the current fortnightly collection would mean doing it ourselves anyway during summer months

The small price reduction by moving to 4 weekly collections does seem good value, and six weekly collections would be too infrequent to be of use.

If you do decide to reduce collection of garden waste can please then open up the Tip at Mitchel Troy without having to keep making an appointment.

valuable service but at £50 a bin, you must pick up every time, we had at least 2 completely missed collections this year and you did not return to pick up.

It is very difficult to dispose of garden waste in a responsible way other than the service currently provided. We value the service and particularly the green bin. The only option is to go to the recycling centre which is not feasible for us. Please continue the service

Has it been taken into account that an increase in fly tipping should be expected.

If the service is shut down you could consider a more local recycling centre. Since you shut usk our nearest centre is Abergavenny

Although the price increase is significant we generally fill our bins every fortnight so it is more economical than driving to the recycling centre. However, on at least a couple of occasions our bins have not been emptied so I would expect a better service for this increase.

Ridiculous thinking of stopping it ! Also if you reduce the collections to 10 (that's half the collections) surely the price should be reduced by half not just £8 !

Composting doesn't work for everyone or everything. If services cease will fly tipping increase, and therefore your, or other authorities costs?

£50 per bin per fortnight is still of value if the alternative is to drive to Five Lanes with waste bags.

Why do you describe the service as yearly when it clearly isn't! Trees drop leaves and we need to put them somewhere, but the service stops in December.

Very useful service that we would be lost without

This year the first 2 garden waste dates were not collected when due. If paying £50 will there be reimbursement for missed collection or credit carried forward for the next year? Travel to Five Lanes is additional cost when garden waste has to be disposed of by other means.

Close collections a month earlier is end of October

Whilst I fully understand we are all going through difficult times, I think increasing the collection fee from £28 per Green Waste bin to £50 is a little hefty! I think it's disgusting, as a Council, you're considering this! Do you really think people can afford the hefty increase with the cost of living crisis that's happening? It's a definite NO from me on your proposals.

I am happy to pay more for collections to remain at fortnightly as I would otherwise need multiple bins.

The incumbent council leadership possess tax raising powers at a Community, County, PCC and National level. They also control the formula that determines how much a rural council like Monmouthshire receives, relative to urban areas. It is entirely and absolutely within their political party's gift to address the £23mn funding gap faced by MCC - either through national redistribution by changing the rural funding formula, or the multiple layers of tax raising powers they possess. I trust MCC is not going to present the 'bloody stump' of a £23mn deficit at every public consultation, whether on garden waste or indeed something more substantive like social care or education? For the size of our garden this would be the minimum required.

A collection every 6 weeks would not be of any use. The bins are rather large and cumbersome to store in a small garden and to get through the garden gate. A smaller bin would be more useful or the garden waste bags that we have used in the past were preferable really. Perhaps we could return to using the garden bags?

very useful service

Reduce to 18 collections by finishing sooner

I don't use the service every fortnight, so I could live with 4 weekly collections - that seems more cost-efficient to the council than fortnightly collections.

I'll probably put it out in general waste

I do depend on this service

The increase in price is too high

The type of person who enjoys gardening and keeping their house looking pleasant needs a two weekly collection.

I'd only be happy to pay that ridiculous price if the bin is fit for purpose as too many bins are being broken and having to be replaced at additional cost.

If the refuse tip was open 7 days a week with unrestricted access by residents from Monday to Friday with appointments limited to Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays then we would dispose of the garden waste there and not use a garden bin. However, because of the restrictions placed on the opening times and access restraints to the recycling facility, we have to use the garden bin. We cannot store garden waste on our property without encouraging vermin. Your policy restricting access to the tip will increase fly-tipping. Please think beyond immediate savings and look to the greater cost of cleaning up fly tipping.

Having the garden bin emptied every 2 weeks has saved me ever going to the tip, excellent service since the introduction of the bins.

If paying even more I would expect every collection day to be honoured. Previous non collection (only twice) despite you being advised immediately and saying the bin would be emptied, never happened and you took it upon yourselves to update your computer system to say it had. Any paying system should ensure a 100% service. Thankyou

It's a very useful service if you have a large garden and live a long way from with recycling centre. Both those things apply to us. Happy to pay extra for it. Would rather this than see other services cut back.

To keep a fortnightly service I would not object to an increase in the "per bin" charge of up to £10; as any reduction in the frequency of collection would create more trips to the recycling centre. Monthly collections are not worth while ! Most people's bins will be overflowing by the time they are collected.

I would prefer collections to stay as they are. Or cease collections altogether. It would entice people to Fly tip. Also - Why do we still have to make an appointment to use the recycling facility in Llanfoist, it also makes no sense if you want to avoid fly tipping (I have seen it increase since the tip was appointment only.)

Bins need to be bigger

I would rather have it weekly

This⁹ will lead to more journeys being made and an increase in pollution. Is the intention to charge for visiting the recycling site?

I'll use Llanfoist tip for free instead

Excellent service would at twice as much.

To be honest it's getting very expensive for a service when we rarely put out our bin for every collection, however, the fortnightly option is the best value for money (price per collection). We're moving to a larger property and will be looking into home composting going forward.

It's a good service which I am happy to pay for. It's good I'm not driving to the tip anymore. Perhaps allowing us to buy extra bins would help.


Very expensive, but the inevitable garden waste will have to be disposed of somehow.

If frequency is reduced, we would be unlikely to use the service. We also believe 'fly tipping' of green waste and anti-social burning of green waste would both increase.

Excellent service. Weekly during the summer period could be popular

This should be covered by council tax regardless

Is there any reduction for a disabled pensioner receiving pension credit. There is no other way for me to dispose of garden waste other than having it collected.

A good service £50 in the present climate seems reasonable, going to the recycling dump costs in  fortnightly Apr- end September then four weekly on either side? I've not put my bin out for last 4 weeks, but always full during grass-cutting time.

As the local recycling centre is appointment only I feel this is the only option for me to dispose of my garden waste but feel disappointed that I have to pay extra for this service on top of the £3000 + council tax I already pay.


Appreciate that costs have to increase and am very happy with the service we receive

I'm really sorry that this service may disappear...it's been great for us....but in hardship times we must all watch our pennies and pounds.

Really understand your predicament and if it does go ...a huge thankyou to all involved xx

Cut bin collections. To only between may and September fortnightly , for the same money as know.

The amount of leaves that come off of council trees are the main source of our bin use during Oct/Nov (we back onto a park).

I don't see why I should have a garden full of leaves which I then put in my bin that really should be the responsibility of the Council. 

I would be happy with less frequent collections if you could access our tip without having to book a slot

The increase is terrible this will increase people to dump there garden waste else where

I think it's unfair to penalise pensioners with this hike in price. I am 90 years of age and have no other means of getting grass clippings and leaves to the tip so you have me over a barrel seemingly. Typical of the Council sadly. A monthly collection is a nonsense as it means I'd have to pay £85 for two bins as I couldn't hold the green waste in one bin for a month. Have you genuinely thought about this and the impact? I might be forced to dump my grass clippings in hedges around the village like other people do.

an invaluable service given the difficulty in getting to a skip. Would possibly be discriminatory to older residents and those who are disabled

This is still a very reasonable price for a good service. I fear if you decrease the frequency of collection some people will dump or burn their garden waste which is disastrous for the environment.

Finishing in Nov is too early as leaves are still on the trees! If you go to 4 weekly collection then I will need double the bins which seems an awful waste of everyone's resources so reluctantly I will stick with fortnightly collection. If you want to provide me with 4 bins then I have the space so would be happy for monthly for less money. Whilst I also appreciate it is not a statutory service and therefore you can charge when I look at how much I pay already and what little I get back, and how much money is wasted on vanity projects, charging very much for green bins is frankly legalised robbery. Any less frequent is of little practical use to gardeners

Would suggest a rebate for those tending to the public park areas that have been abandoned by the council under the pretence of an environmental measure

This is a huge increase at a time when council rates will be going up across the board. As a pensioner I have no option otherwise it means handling heavy bags at the tip. Please consider a discount for Over 75 year olds.

The system works well as it is

Can you not have a hybrid collection service so alter the frequency based on the season dates which may help mitigate the overall cost of running the service: -

Early spring, into autumn / winter have 4 weekly collections

Late Spring through Summer - bi-weekly collections.

Constantly pushing more services away from council tax and into discretionary payments is regressive and punishes poorer people to benefit the rich. It is disgraceful. At best this will lead to more fly tipping, which will cost us all more. What a waste of space and money you are.

Invaluable service that reduces fly tipping of waste materials

I paid for bin collection as it's greener having 1 truck pick it up rather than lots of cars travelling to tip to take rubbish

I have trees at the bottom of my garden which are subject to TPOs so I have to maintain them. The current garden waste collection service is inadequate for these because the leaves only start falling in October/November by which time there are too few collections left to dispose of the leaves (I already compost and bag up for leaf mold as much as I can, have a garden full of moldy leaves from previous years, and so currently have to deliver wet leaves to the recycling centre in my car - frankly its tempting just to throw them over the fence and let the highways agency deal with them, but my conscience prevents me doing that). Before October, I'd be happy with a monthly (£42.50) collection, as my usage is low. But after October I need it every week, or to have at least two more fortnightly collections before ceasing. So I'd like to caveat my response above that I'd pay £50 with ... if the service could allow some flexibility to cope with the autumn/winter peak. I understand that might be difficult logistically, but if the price does increase to £50 with the same 20 collection regime then I'd really need to consider whether I get value for money, given my usage profile, and may cancel altogether. Hope this helps.

I usually have 2 bins and would miss the collection. However, the only paying option I would have gone for is the £50 one. At £100 for 2 I think there will be greater use of the council dump or, an option I don't support in the slightest, fly tipping in our beautiful countryside!!

This is an essential service, please MCC keep it going

IT IS A GREAT SERVICE AND VERY GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY.

If the service is discontinued what will happen to the garden waste? It will probably end up being fly tipped!!!

Cease the collection at the end of October.

Another suggestion is to keep to fortnightly but start later and finish earlier as most use this spring to autumn

I think this service is essential to avoid fly tipping of garden waste on the sides of roads and lanes.

This can be seen in other areas of the UK and is both unsightly and dangerous.

I sympathise with the dilemma you are in and would still like to use the service

£50 is extremely expensive but in the summer fortnightly collections are needed

Reducing frequency will lead to waste rotting and smelling - grass cutting especially.

I would prefer a shorter season for fortnightly collection e.g. May to September.

Would be happy to revert to the old brown bags and take to a central location in Chepstow as an alternative to collection. Space for home composting is limited and having to book a tip slot is inconvenient

You have conveniently forgotten to say how much MCC makes from selling the garden waste after it's been composted- surely that would offset having to make such a big price rise for collection?

Why do we have to pay for our garden recycling when other council charge nothing for the same service.

This is truly outrageous, we pay enough for council tax as it is and mainly for services that I don't use, why don't you charge for council tax in the same way as garden waste collection? If you use it you pay for it....I don't use schools, libraries etc so why should I fund people that do.

Get a grip!

£35 for monthly pick ups is an option I would take

Service should be available whole year round for this pricing !

I am very disappointed with the above options as I feel we are being forced to select cease collections or a huge price hike of double the amount we are currently paying. We in Usk and are at a big disadvantage in terms of having our community waste disposal facility removed from us and face a 25 mile round trip to get to the closest one to us. Older residents who can manage putting some garden waste in a wheeled bin that gets collected but will struggle to remove the waste in other ways. We are likely to find a big increase in the number of polluting bonfires being lit if the service is discontinued as we have no other option. I feel it is grossly unfair that those of us in Usk pay the highest rates of all the county - in fact they are crippling high for many of us, but have very few local facilities close by. Please do not increase the cost or takeaway this service as well.

It's way too expensive I find the £28 we can just about manage to pay, how can people pay much more with everything else going up

Prefer the 20 collections and happy to pay £50 per bin as bins are full every fortnight

Excellent fortnightly service. Cost is fully justified.

This is absolutely disgusting. I cannot believe the extortionate prices you are trying to charge us, for an essential service which our neighbouring counties get for free. I will not be using this service for anything over £30 for 2 weekly collections.

If you're going to increase prices so dramatically, why don't you offer some incentives. For instance, if you're a garden waste customer, offer compost bins at a reduced cost. This may encourage people to throw less garden waste away and use it. Making it both economically and environmentally viable.

Given the small difference in cost for fortnightly as opposed to monthly this makes more sense. The waste collection will reduce trips to the recycling center which cost time and fuel.

Though I have expressed a preference here, I would wish to continue with the service however you decide to do it.

I think this is quite expensive.

The first option is too expensive and the others aren't frequent enough to make it viable for us.

Get your issues of course but £50 is too much given that some councils do not charge at all?

Why doesn't the council reduce its own operating costs instead of continually ripping off the residents who have no other option than to pay for the terrible services offered?

Monmouthshire council salaries as at April 2020:

Chief executive officer £147,665

Chief officer - children and young people £108,445

Chief officer - social care, safeguarding £108,445

Chief officer - resources & acting section 151 officer £108,445

Chief officer - enterprise £106,938

How are these justified when you are operating at a loss? Us lowly residents would be grateful to understand how this is okay, especially in the current economic climate. Not that the council will bother to even read this comment, let alone acknowledge or respond.

Most of our autumn garden waste is leaves from the trees on council owned land plus I'm paying over £3000 for council tax a year so it would have been nice to have the garden waste collected but I know the council is under a lot of financial pressure so I guess there's little choice really.

We compost our garden waste and have never used it. I wouldn't pay for this service

I am unable to take my waste to the Mitchell Troy recycling centre so need to use the waste collection service

Thanks for everything you do.

Collections at anything more than fortnightly would cause issues of unpleasant odours, especially in warm weather. During grass cutting season fortnightly is only just manageable, quantity of grass and smell. Any more time between collections could lead to a proliferation of unsightly bins in more urban settings.

What's the issue you are trying to solve? Have you thought about trying to get more households to sign up to the service?

The waste would still have to go somewhere, does removing this service risk increased numbers of bonfires etc?

The collection of bins is not as important to us in the summer, the spring and autumn are important as that's when most garden waste is produced. Therefore, if there were fortnightly collections in spring and autumn and none during the summer, we would be happy with that. We hope this comment helps your decision.

Really useful service - happy to pay - Usk recycling centre now closed so important to keep this.

I did vote no but on thinking about it it's only £2.50 for fortnightly collection and I'm up for that 👍
Please do not reduce the frequency of collections

this is a big increase for an 84 year old age pensioner it would be hard to afford an increase of of 3 times the current cost

Based on my actual frequency of usage, a four-weekly service would be ok, so I'd be happy with that option as well as having selected fortnightly. I've selected keeping the service fortnightly as I am happy to pay the larger amount for greater flexibility.

Disgusting charges! Should be in with the council tax, although I don't actually know why you charge as much as you do for that! Pavements, roads, services all in dire need of repairs, stop paying your top knobs so much money and start looking after the people who are funding you!
it's a great service for the price and hopefully it will continue - as an alternative I would not wish to track into a council tip myself, or burn on a garden fire.

That is a large increase in cost, but the reduced service doesn't appear to garner the appropriate reduction in cost, i.e. 50% service should be 50% cost. I have considered visiting the Dump, the cost involved and the eco wrongness of doing this, but the thought of regularly visiting the dump, and sitting in that queue outweighs the cost for me. I am concerned, however, that the net result of setting the cost too high, is that fly tipping will increase.

I understand your deficit in budget but as a Council tax payer having to pay an additional amount is basically to allow the council to spend on all their own misgivings and inadequate planning and spending in other areas constantly wasting funds on stuff that isn't required. We have are being held to ransom by the local authority

Price increases above seem astronomical but I need a collection as I'm a pensioner. My bin this month has been filled to the brim with leaves from trees in Thornwell School. The paths are not swept of leaves so creates a slip hazard in wet weather.

It's gone up a lot and at a time of massive increases to bills this seems like a cash grab

I ended this service earlier this year and had my bin collected. Thank you

I have bags rather than a bin as I live in a terraced house.

At certain times of the service it would be useful every week, but as summer draws to an end it could be once a month

I appreciate the budget cuts, that we are all feeling the pinch. Living in USK, having our recycling centre close down during Covid, I feel we are at a disadvantage, and am not surprised of increased fly tipping.

I feel that taking away this service is a great detriment to the community, and will encourage dumping green waste, which surely will be at an unwanted additional cost to the Council.

I get the need for cost increases and to be fair the £50.00 is inline with other councils. The price variation for the four weekly service offer doesn't make any sense. 50% of the service for a 15% reduction hardly a reasonable offer is it?

This is almost 100% increase in costs...when the cost of living has increased so much..this will not be a welcome addition to financial outgoings! How about giving everyone - with room - a free garden composter?

What are you going to cut next more money for less service. Open up Tip with out booking System I bet you are going to say it's all down to COVID and you will be putting up Council tax for less service so what are we getting for our money No police station roads not cleaned .Its so sad to see Caldicot looking as it is now

Great service, stops me needing to make repeated tip bookings which cost me in fuel/time/pollution

I wonder whether another option might be feasible. Gardening activity is likely to be less in March, April, October and November. Could you have monthly collections for these with fortnightly collections for the 'summer months?' Cost £45 per bin? I appreciate this may complicate things too much.

Absolutely disgusted by the price you are looking to charge!

I find the garden waste collections very useful and I'd be happy to pay more.

It would be straightforward for me to take my garden refuse to the tip either in Monmouth or Abergavenny, and in many ways I would prefer that option, except of course for the constant need to make an appointment. I believe the time has now come to make the tip available to ratepayers without the need for an appointment.

If you are to reduce the collections then the bin must be made bigger as one hedge cut and the bin is already overflowing

I value this service

You provide a valued and efficient service

You leave us with no choice but to pay the increase. As we couldn't leave the bins monthly over the summer. It would stink! But this seems a significant rise for the year. Disappointed!

I couldn't manage without this service. Hope it stays. I'd pay £100 for an all year fortnightly service. A disgraceful increase on any of the options at a time when all households are under severe financial pressure.

Excellent service at about £2/week. Worth every penny saving loading up the car and trailing up to the tip. Then cleaning the car after. Very sad if it's watered down or even stopped.

£28 to £50 is an unbelievable price hike for the same service.

Can I take green waste anywhere else locally to dispose of?

This is not a consultation and feels a little insulting to be honest, why bother?

Getting us to choose from 4 unfavourable options isn't truly asking for our opinion.

Would I like a kick in the shins or the face? I'll choose the shins but am I happy.... You know the answer

I have a lot of grass and hedge cuttings during the summer months and this tails off towards the end of the summer. We don't really need collections in March or November so maybe 14 collections would be a viable alternative between April and October (Fortnightly)?

Why don't our rates cover collection of garden waste ?.

We have a small garden and fill our bin during the summer months, Collections any less frequent than fortnightly would render the service useless as far as I'm concerned.

Make the Mitchel Troy recycling centre not bookable ie just turn up .

Your commitment to recycling is poor ! Centre closed part of week and by increasing pricing of garden collection or reducing its frequency alongside a poor recycling operation is ridiculous . One of the most expensive council taxes with no value for money

Currently good service. Keep it up. Many thanks.

Maybe neighbours who use the service but do not have much garden waste could share the scheme with their neighbour

This is a great service.

Unfortunately costs are increasing and it cannot be avoided. Therefore the options given are realistic. Still good value, at £2.50 per collection. It's less than the cost of driving to the tip.

With a large garden and unable to have bonfires because of proximity to a major road the garden waste collection is essential.

With the cessation of the recycling centre in Usk, paying the increased fee is the only viable option to us. Taking bags of garden waste to Llanfoist is costly in time and energy.

We use this scheme as it reduces considerably the number of car journeys we need to make to the recycling site. However, a main concern is that if there is no green collection scheme, we would not be able to undertake the clearing of leaves deposited by four large trees on the council managed green area opposite our house. We have undertaken this for the 12 years we have lived here & purchased a second green bin (& bags previously) at our own expense (money & time) to cope with the large quantities of leaves that affect the shared drive and access to 7 properties (no 46 to 52). This is ongoing, weekly, throughout the winter months due to the volume of leaves and tree debris. Later in the winter we end up doing trips to the recycling centre to dispose of the leaves. The combination of leaves and rain can be dangerous to pedestrians & drivers if left. At present, we maintain the area in front of our property & garage, being the initial access. If we simply swept up the leaves & left them on the green, they would simply be blown back onto the drive with the risk of becoming hazardous. Without the bins, another remedy by MCC would need to be found.

Keep the fortnightly collections as is.

The proposed cost should be indexed linked to average fuel costs for the previous years period March to November not increased without a clear mechanism for also adjusting down when energy costs subside.

A difficult choice

Would love to keep the service as is.

Better value keeping it as it is and no real cost-saving by reducing the collections.

Removing the service means those without cars or the elderly will find it difficult to access the recycling centres so suggest making the payments quarterly to help spread the cost.

I have had a very successful year as a garden waste customer. The wheelie bins are very easy to load and move about the garden. The service very reliable.

I note that at a time when households are already being squeezed from all sides, people are likely to just burn or fly tip their green waste as this is yet another increased cost. We'll have to reduce our bins from two to one at this price and burn what doesn't fit. (We already compost what we can!)

We need this service. It's too far to travel to the recycling facility and the booking system makes it really awkward. We both work full time and have commitments on weekends

It is a great service, £50 is not an unreasonable amount.

It's daylight robbery and will ultimately start to fill the recycle centres up. Most councils in Wales have free green collections too! Why not just make it part of the council tax and everyone pay it?

Garden waste collection should be free

Budget decisions need to factor in the costs to MCC of dealing with flytipped garden waste as a consequence of not providing an affordable service to ratepayers who are facing so many financial pressures in other areas. Also much clearer explanation needed as to why half the collections (i.e. from 20 to 10) does not generate a more meaningful reduction in cost- i.e. is enough being done to make the service more efficient so that the burden is more equitably shared?

With the new proposals there will be an increase in fly tipping . In these austere times people still have garden waste but will not be able to afford such increases especially the elderly and those in rural areas that have little enough services for the outrageous council tax they have to pay as it is ! None are palatable but necessary in the current climate

currently we use 2 bins we will need only 1 in future

I think our recycling & collections are great. I personally think glass collection could be monthly too but keep food, pink & purple bags weekly

Covering costs for collection service is understandable; but making it too expensive will encourage illegal dumping and subsequent costs incurred on council?

It's a good service as I don't need to travel to a tip

It is too expensive

Happy to keep bin collection and pay for the service.

Reducing frequency of collections would mean more garden bonfires with all the pollution and nuisance they cause. Now that Usk recycling centre has closed, those of us with large gardens and small cars need the fortnightly collections without resorting to burning it

A useful service that we would not want to lose.

Small / med size garden. We do not create enough garden waste to warrant fortnightly collection but would miss the service if it was withdrawn completely.

Whilst I'd rather not see the price increase I understand the pressures being put on Council budgets.

£50 for 20 collections works out at £2.50 a collection, which for a packed bin (which mine usually are) isn't too bad.

To reduce the collection frequency would mean I'd have to buy another bin which would push the price up to £85 a year which is then getting a bit steep.

Why are you making it so hard for me to dispose of my waste in a sensible manner?

It's already difficult enough in Monmouth now that the HWRC at Mitchell Troy is closed two days a week and no longer open from dawn until dusk.

It feels like anyone who does what the council asks and recycles/disposes of waste sensibly gets penalised, yet those who flytip seem to get away with it.

£50 for the collection service is something that I cannot afford in the current economic climate, and yet because of the restrictions at the HWRC I feel I have no other choice but to select that option as storing garden waste over the summer months for more than 2 weeks is simply not practical.

When I started using this service it was so much cheaper. I won't be able to afford these prices!

With the closure of Usk tip and the fact that my nearest refuse centre is almost half an hour away I cannot imagine losing this service. If it did stop then at the very least please remove the necessity to make appointments at the tip. It is arduous and you can't cancel which is often necessary because you have to book at least a couple of days in advance, so it must be very inefficient too. Cant believe with the amount of council tax we pay in Usk for limited local services, that you would even consider taking this collection away.

We would be willing to pay another £10 - £38.00 total, for 20 collections per year, but obviously we would be happier if you kept the payment to £28 for 20 collections, as it is at the moment.

4/6 weeks between collection is useless as I fill my bin every fortnight over the summer and the service at reduce collections will no longer be of interest to me.

I

My concern is if £50.00 becomes the base rate, it's only going to jump up again in the coming years. And what's a 3 weekly collection option.

I agree to keeping the frequency but £50 is absurd

We do not have transport suitable for carrying garden waste. Our garden generates sizeable amounts of garden waste at some stages in the year.

We regard this service as an essential component of the County's provision for many households. To remove it would be to encourage burning or other anti-social disposal methods being adopted by some of those households.

The increase seems excessive, but I value the service and wish to retain a fortnightly collection. The term "subsidy" is distasteful when the source of the "subsidy" is our own substantial Council tax payment.

Very happy with the service and willingly pay extra to keep it

I would also prefer it to run through the year. There is lots of debris in the late winter that we have no option for disposal. I'd be happy to purchase extra collections throughout the year

Alternative of cancelling booking at recycling depot should also be highlighted

Remove this service, and there will be more fly tipping!

1. Perhaps you might make the case for the £50 for 20 collections by being clear that this is only £2.50 per collection (the value for money case).

2. I would prefer any option before / other than 'cease collections'.

Could I pay per collection service work? We use fortnightly in peak season, but then don't use at all at for 6-8 weeks at times.

I don't have enough waste to justify the fortnightly cost, but would probably go with any of the options except cancellation.

Due to the amount of leaves dropping in the autumn I feel its important to keep the fortnightly schedule. Also in summer the bin is easily filled with grass cuttings. If you do seek to reduce or get rid of the garden waste collection, I feel it would be a better customer service experience to use the household recycling centre without appointment to get rid of garden and other waste where necessary.

Also, on your costings, if £50 gets 20 collections, then 10 collections a year should be half this price (£25)and so forth.

One potential income stream I could think of for your parks and Gardens team is to do leaf blowing and pickup for householders Gardens (Subject to a satisfactory fee).

Reducing the frequency means that the green waste is more likely to decompose and create a mould health hazard for the householders and especially for the council staff who have to empty the bins. The disturbance of emptying may create aerosols of mould spores to be breathed in.

My bin has not been collected every time this year. I have spoken to someone in the department and asked if the bin could be collected from JUST inside my drive as it presents a hazard at night, out on the pavement adjacent to the letter box. Also I shall be 80 and it is a little awkward to wheel out on my own. This was agreed with the relevant officer but has only happened once out of three visits since then. It is an essential service but I believe most could manage once every four weeks. Please could we have the SAME day i.e first Monday each month.

Alternatively the first and third in the month should it remain fortnightly. Thank you

We feel the service will remain good value for money - thank you. We have a large garden and do not have a sufficiently large vehicle to remove our garden waste ourselves.

Happy to £50 bi-weekly! The bins are not large enough to cope with the amount of waste if the collection was 4 weekly/6 weekly and would also become too heavy to move.

What is the point, any comments will be ignored. This will probably encourage fly tipping.

I do not mind paying more for collections I would be willing to pay £35 for two weekly collections but not £42.50 for half the collections

I find the garden waste fortnightly service invaluable

The booking system for using Llanfoist refuse/recycling centre needs to be removed. There is no conceivable reason for it to remain post-covid. If the centre could be used ad hoc, people could return to using it as needed for garden waste. For those of us who work booking a slot is not possible, especially for garden waste. Highest volumes of garden waste are created when we're off work, free and the weather is good enough to prune trees, cut hedges, etc. We need to then be able to dispose of this waste at that time, not have to book a slot in advance when we don't know if we'll need it or have the waste hanging around for weeks if unable to get a slot straight away. There is simply no need to maintain this system and reverting to open access would remove much of the requirement for home collection.

At £2.50 per collection still a lower cost than driving to Llanfoist from Raglan

If you decide to stop the service at least improve the availability for green waste at the recycling site and make available reusable sacks for purchase. If you make recycling any more difficult I suspect fly tipping will increase resulting in extra cost to us all.

Great service and please keep it going.

A service well worth paying for.

Fly tipping will increase if service stopped

I would be prepared to pay £40 for a fortnightly collection. If these proposals go ahead I will probably revert to taking garden waste to the recycling centre, endeavouring to do so on shopping trips to minimise carbon footprint.

Whilst I fully appreciate demands on the public purse these are disgusting increases. We fill our bin every 2 weeks with grass (we dont have a larger than average garden) so any decrease in frequency is not an option. Also I fail to see how a 50% reduction in collections from 20 to 10 would only provide a 15% reduction in cost from £50 to £42-50. Especially as we already have a bin. Perhaps you should consider a higher cost on year 1 to pay for the bin. Getting a spot on a convenient day at 5 lanes is also difficult so that's not really an option. I would employ you to look at other options Think it's very expensive but some of us have no option but to pay.

For a great number of people with gardens, the need is there for a two weekly collection but the proposed increase in charges for this service may well prove to high for many households. My concern is that more and more people will fly tip their garden waste, creating an even greater problem for Monmouthshire County Council Services and therefore a greater expenditure for Monmouthshire County Council, which will ultimately, increase Rate Payers Rates.

Think it is still rather expensive. Not everyone can get out to the tip, I personally have difficulty when trying to find a slot for the tip

I personally think its a good service

The bins are easy to move around and can take lots to fill.

Those of us that have bigger gardens would be disappointed if the frequency of collections got reduced or ceased altogether.

If the council ceased the fortnightly collection, we would have to go to the tip, more cars on the road and more work for the council at the tip... thank you kind regards

We pay enough in Council tax already this shouldn't be increasing I already have way more garden waste than I can fit in one bin on a fortnightly basis but cannot afford to pay for a second bin. How else are residents supported to dispose of their garden waste if you don't make it affordable to collect it.

What would be the portion of a booking system for collections similar to booking service for recycling centre. People pay per collection and these can be grouped then by MCC into post code areas to reduce unnecessary mileage, plus people are then generally putting out full bins rather than half empty "just because it's garden waste day". Would be a more efficient use of collection staff Invaluable service that is efficient and well run.

We are not happy with the increased cost as we are pensioners and already pay very high council tax therefore it's out of our budget range

Increase from £28 to £50 is a shock, but £2.50 per bin is not too much. However I suspect the headline number could kill the service, not enough people will sign up so you'll still run a loss, but time will tell! Do other Welsh councils provide a garden waste service, and at what cost?

Anything less frequent than fortnightly would not be workable. We do not have space for our own garden compost bin and, even if we did, the volume of grass cuttings etc would not compost quickly enough.

4 weekly collection would only be suitable at certain times of the year, so I would rather a 2 weekly option even if I don't use every collection

We fill up our bin at least every two weeks, so would need to continue to do so.

Necessary fortnightly but that is a ridiculous cost. It's ridiculous that you still have to book a slot at Llanfoist waste tip so impossible to dispose of green or any waste. Please consider remove booking system to reduce fly tipping which has increased. I have personally seen an increase whilst walking my dog.

ALL ROUND THIS IS A GOOD SERVICE

I think this will cause many to stop and use the recycle centres or even fly tip

The underlying problem is the huge waste of funds by the Council.

We have a substantial garden, as do others in this area, reducing the collections would be a nightmare, we would need bags for the tip during the spring/summer months.

I am concerned that people/residents who are unable to afford the increase will start dumping illegally

Another Service, which I use regularly, under threat :(

Big increase in price - will probably still use but would need to consider new cost first

Would use the tip more, and therefore need less collections, if booking wasn't required

Consider providing the option to pay by adding a supplement to the monthly rates direct debit to cover the service ie £5 a month.

Recognising the Monmouth Councils problems with expenditure and funding I do not object to the increase in cost. However currently I have two bins but will be reducing this to one next year. As an observation I hope these increases and changes do not increase fly tipping of garden waste which in the long term could be more costly. Fly tipping is already an issue around Magor. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I really value this service and hope it continues

four or 6 weekly is not going to be regular enough. we would have difficulty in sending garden waste to the recycling centres as our vehicle is not big enough.

Whilst I appreciate your finances are not great, no-one else's is either. Somewhere you have to say no more and I'm afraid this would be the tipping point for me.

I'm very pleased with the way in which the workers have handled my bin over the past year, even when I have been away from home. They deserve recognition.

The service needs to be fortnightly

It's a good service. I do not drive so I would have to pay someone else to collect my refuse.

£35 to cover full costs to £50 seems a disproportionate charge- 40% increase,

Living in a rural area means this service is very important to us.

At a time when we are looking to go carbon neutral think about the total number of extra miles

monmouthshire residents will accumulate travelling to recycling centres

It doesn't make ecological sense to stop the service and would guarantee an increase in fly tipping

Is the council planning to replace the fleet of diesels with electric vehicles |

Most people around this village cannot drive to the recycle centre or indeed get waste into their cars, they need the bins on a two weekly basis, otherwise tipping will happen in local woods or unscrupulous collectors will take money to remove and then tip, this is already happening its getting to much in cost i don't mind a small fee but any more i do it my self

Nearly doubling the fee for collection is not acceptable

Expect more fly tipping if you reduce or cancel the service.

We have a large garden and rely on this service as we are not able to take our garden waste to a recycling centre.

Very good service, which avoids need to go weekly to recycling centre. I would however question why increase to £50, when similar service is provided in Torfaen area for free, and our council rates are higher.

Think the cost is high but need the service every two weeks

It is an important service for those with gardens, particularly the elderly, or those who work full time who are unable to go themselves to the refuse centre. Shame that the increase in cost is so large.

There is no appreciable reduction in cost between the 10 or 20 collection so would opt to remain with 20.

Increased risk of fly tipping of garden waste which would cost local authority more

The garden waste collection is an important service for us. The alternative is to use the recycling centre

at Mitchel Troy at great inconvenience during the busy gardening times of the year.

The reduction in cost for 4 weekly should surely be half or maybe £35 but I definitely wouldn't want the service to cease

Worried that it will increase fly tipping ?

Three weekly at £42.50 would be a better choice

What happens to the "oversize" bins MCC provided? I hope you will recover them at no cost! Tories :(

Although I appreciate you have costs to endure so do the residents and unfortunately we have a large garden so you have us in a corner...we have to have garden waste collection to maintain our garden for us and others. We therefore would opt for the increase in charge and keep to fortnightly....however hard this is.. It's a pity Monmouthshire can't adopt Newport's policy as my mum has Two bins and no charge... maybe we have to endure this charge for being in a rural area. So after my rant I would opt to stay the same and pay the extra.

It's a vital service for many residents with gardens and should still remain. Although I would agree that fortnightly may be too frequent and therefore reducing the frequency would be acceptable. However, I don't agree that the price should increase as well as this. If there are fewer collections, then the price should decrease, or at the very least stay the same.

Would find it hard to find the extra government should cut their waste

If the service is not kept then it will start to be dumped which would be a disaster.

As it was seen fit to close our recycling centre we have no other option but to have it collected. We are elderly, my Husband cannot be left for long periods so I don't even have the option of driving to Monmouth or Abergavenny to take my waste.

We will reduce down to one bin instead of two at that price

An excellent service as I couldn't get to the Tip

Would willingly pay 35 pounds but cannot agree with once in 6week collection

Make the bin larger.

This is an essential service for anyone with a garden as there's no other easy way to dispose of garden waste, especially if you don't drive or have anywhere to store it. Please do not stop this service!

Reopen the tip in Usk

A very large price rise for the same service! Why is it free in Cardiff but not Monmouth, £28 was fair £50 is too much

No

Double the price... really??? I'll save up green bags and drive to the council tip

I live in a rural area where I am already seeing an increase in garden waste being dumped in farmers fields and fly tipped. If there is a substantial increase in flytipping surely this would counter act any costs saved as as a Council you would need to remove the flytipping surely?

The wheelie bins provided since the last consultation have been very good and won't need replacing any time soon.

I think a Garden Waste Collection service priced at the equivalent of £2.50 per bin per collection is good value.

In terms of timing, this year December 2nd is before many trees will have shed their leaves, which will cause problems for some gardeners. Please would you take this into account when fixing the dates of service provision for next year. Maybe a break in mid summer when collected volumes drop (?) for a period could allow the service to run on for a further 2 or 4 weeks while retaining 20 collections.

Grass will compact by itself if left for a couple of weeks in the bins - I would have thought this makes up a large part of the collection as not everybody has the land, space or ability to compost. The 50 pounds is very high on top of other rising costs and for the many in money difficulties. However, the costs of the other options do not decrease much in relation to the infrequency of proposed collections. In order to reduce fly tipping .. may I suggest a drop off site for regular gardeners or self employed gardeners on low wages ... if the bin collection schedule should be cut by much ?

Waste needs to be collected on a regular basis especially during the spring and summer months; you aren't really providing any feasible options/solutions. The increase in price for the service is extortionate especially for pensioners. There also needs to be a greater financial incentive if you opt to reduce the frequency of collections (the prices quoted in the options are too high/not enough of a reduction).

Far too expensive it's going to cause fly tipping as if it's not bad enough as it should remain the same after all we pay council tax which should subsidise the cost

If you fail to provide a suitable service you will encourage fly tipping

I have little choice but to use the collection service as I am obliged by planning to keep mature trees and maintain hedges on the property and this combined with grass cuttings requires 3 bins. I am being heavily penalised for maintaining a large green area within the village. The rise proposed is extortion. The take up is likely to be low and total income will drop and the service will still struggle to wash its face. Fly tipping will expand.

£50 is a ludicrous amount to charge for a fortnightly collection, although if it was spaced out over the year that might not be so bad. I am 79 years old and doing my garden is one thing that keeps me active and out of hospital. I currently make my own trips to the tip as well as using the green bin, but with worsening eyesight what am I supposed to do when my optician tells me to stop driving? The fortnightly collection is the least you can do. I would prefer it to continue over the winter as well. I don't think you're considering the needs of pensioners at all. And you certainly can't be serious about option 4. I would pay someone to collect my waste and dump it on your doorstep if this is how we're going to be treated.

Reducing to 10 collections and saving only £7.50 is bad value for money and six collections is hardly worth it either.

It is nearly double the current cost and is it viable if most people drop out due to these rising costs? At some point it becomes cheaper to do regular tip runs.

It's a shame that councils are being put in these situations as this was a good service.

Make the council tips more accessible without having to make an appointment. Sell residents the bags for garden waste as previously used. Offer residents green waste only days at the tips. Whilst I wouldn't want to see a year on year increase, the fortnightly service is excellent and incredibly convenient.

Best value for money is £50 and 20 collections at £2.50 a collection but up front expenditure is challenging for households and 6 collections is arguably enough.

The restricted opening times and need to book a slot at the local recycling centre make it inconvenient to use. My only option is to use the wheel bin collection. Withdrawal of this service will result in fly tipping and increased costs to the council.

Each of the above options is too expensive in view of the current cost of living/inflation situation.

Raising the cost will result in more fly tipping of waste. Make savings by cutting county hall numbers/expenses/salaries/waste.

Ceasing the service will mean taking the waste produced weekly on a ten mile round trip to the tip I personally think if you increase the costs this much, council tax shouldn't be going up.

Happy to pay more for the current garden waste service, as I would find difficulty in disposal of garden waste if the service stopped.

If collections were to be less frequent than fortnightly it would be awful (we have a big garden)

If inflation is running at 11% I feel a 100% increase is a bit steep. We are encouraged to recycle and these proposals will lead to more fly tipping. My nearest waste recycling centre is approx 16 miles round trip. There should be a green waste deposit system set up in my village of Goytre at no extra charge. I already pay in excess of £2600 per annum council tax and I think that should cover the cost. As i am a old age pensioner i cant aford to pay a gardener as i am able to do the garden myself the bin is very handy.without the bin i cant dispose garden waste

Ever four weeks would probably be okay, but the cost difference between the two options doesn't make it worth it.

Price increases of this level are obscene and will lead to more fly tipping. I am very dissatisfied with such a proposal.

The fortnightly to 4 weekly collection price is not a fair decrease in price compared to the reduction in collections.

I understand the financial pressures you are facing but yet again it is the hard working tax payer that is having to bear the brunt of these things. Life is hard enough without these kind of increases which is close to 100%. How the heck do you arrive at a £23 million pound deficit especially considering the state of our roads etc. with not a lot appearing to get done. Yet another kick in the teeth for the ordinary struggling person.

use the service but feel it is a massive increase at a time when money is tight. last time filled out a survey felt ignored

We need to keep the service as it helps to reduce the chances of fly tipping, which can harm the environment and wildlife.

I am happy to keep the service as it is. Thank You.

Definitely be very keen to keep at fortnightly and happy to pay £50 for the year.

Being disabled I am unable to get rid of my unwanted garden waste. It's hard enough as it is now. It would seem to be uncaring if the service was stopped. Living off a pension £50 would be a lot of money but none of the other options are feasible as far as I am concerned.

Would obviously prefer it at the old price, but monthly would be of no use at all to me. If not fortnightly I would not renew.

I would probably only have one bin, whereas I currently have two. If it goes to four or six weekly, I wouldn't use it at all - I have a big lawn and need to get rid of the cuttings regularly. I would rather book a weekly slot at the tip than have so long between collections.

EXCELLENT SYSTEM AT PRESENT AND AT A YEARLY COST PER WEEK OF £1.00p WOULD STILL BE GOOD VALUE

This is an important service for our household. We pay alot of money to the Council through the council tax system with many of the services on offer that we do not use or need to use.

Our wheelie bin is full for every two week collection and my question would be if the service was stopped or even reduced what the Council would expect households to do with the garden waste. Collections less than fortnightly would cause us to need to increase the number of bins we have to 2, thus making it a more expensive option and means an extra bin has to be made using up more plastic. This is why I would like to keep the collection fortnightly.

Life is hard enough as it is, I would not be to afford what you are asking

I would rather pay the extra and keep to fortnightly pick up as the bins do start to smell in the sunshine.

We pay one of the highest rates in Wales and England and they do not have to pay extra for garden waste collection! We used to get paths and curbs sprayed and cleared of weeds but that hasn't happened for over 2 years now! Services dropped but fees go up!!

I would like to see a phased approach, so we reduce the frequency in spring and autumn and more frequent in the summer when most of the gardening is undertaken.

Anything less than a fortnightly collection is impractical; I understand that MCC receives one of the lowest, if not the lowest, grants from the Welsh government. Consequently Council Tax is higher than it should be, and this will obviously increase in 2023. Contrary to popular, if erroneous, belief we residents are not all high wealth, Range Rover driving individuals, and for many (such as us) ALL additional costs have to come out of a fixed income. As we now have a Labour led council, perhaps an improved grant could be negotiated with the First Minister! Otherwise any price increase for services will be a bitter pill to swallow!

Happy to pay more for regular service

any increase in cost is an absolute disgrace. I'm a pensioner.how am I able to afford an increase.

Some of you need to realise how hard it is to survive on a pension.

You all talk about cuts to services. You should be looking at proper man management. When collecting waste in my area and grass maintenance you have 1 man working and 2 watching. Rather than charging more you should be looking at cost efficiency within your services

Absolutely disgusted with the price increase. I have to cut my garden every week throughout summer, so therefore have no choice but to have this service. When are Monmouthshire going to realise these type of actions are what causes people to fly tip? This is punishment to the people who try to keep the area tidy.

Only option suitable is the first one but price of £50 pounds is far too much as council tax is due to rise 5% along with gas electric and food will take it to tip myself

I think it's disgusting you are asking for so much money from us! We are not cash cows!! In addition we are on the new estate and we had a collection last week, but not for a while before that. What are we paying for?!

Please keep it fortnightly, it will not be worth it otherwise, i think the service is a good one and happy to pay more for it, but understand others people may have difficulty in paying

We have 3 bins. You may like to consider a pricing structure like:-

Bin 1 = £50

Bin 2 =£ 45

Bin 3 = £40

etc for more bins.

I suggest this as in the summer 3 bins every 2 weeks can be a struggle with so much grass. Similarly in the Autumn the leaves easily fill 3 bins every 2 weeks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nigel Elsby. Springfield House.

I think going from £28 to £50 is a huge increase but less collections will lead to more temptation from some to dump in hedgerows etc . If there is a way to keep the same number of collections with a smaller increase that would be the preferred option.

Not sure I understand the logic behind the options outlined. 20 collections at £50 = £2.50 a pop compared to £4.50 or £5.80 for the others. Or choose to get 10 collections for £42.50 but you can get an extra 10 collections for only another £7.50. This looks like you're trying to get more people to cease rather than provide some more tangible options. Not knowing the budgetary constraints perhaps muddies the options

How dare you increase the price of collections during a cost of living crisis. We are the highest paying council tax in Wales and other councils get this for free. Just because we live in Monmouthshire, it does not mean we are well off! Fly tipping will increase ten fold, the poorest will be punished.

Why is it that Newport borough Council residents get garden waste collected for no extra charge (included in Council Tax charge) and are also supplied with black general waste bags for no extra charge (also included in Council Tax charge) whereas we in Monmouthshire County Council area are charged for garden waste collections and expected to supply black bags for general waste, at our cost?

Question 2 is considered unfair - where is then option to leave as is..

The 'Cease collections' looks like a ransom position to me..

I find this service amazing ... and totally understand why there has to be an increase in price in these difficult times. Although MCC do try and make it know that it has compost bins available, maybe there should be a bigger promotion? Maybe communities/neighbours could share compost bins or even share garden waste collection bins - especially those with small gardens?

I would support a rise in cost in line with inflation, but a 40% increase is not acceptable.

I live next to council trees which produce huge volumes of leaves and the like. I shouldn't have to pay extra for disposing your own waste which is what you are asking to do as the above £50 is a bit steep

This used to be carried out via Brown bag collections as part of the council responsibility. Then it went to £18 in 2019, then £28 and now you are putting it up to £50. For the same service. Obviously this is not related to inflation. I believe that with the need to pre book a visit to a recycling centre this will lead to more fly tipping and the associated cost of cleaning up the mess.

I hope the collections continue as it saves transporting garden waste to Mitchel Troy in the car.

Only had three bin collection last year

The options you are giving are absolutely ridiculous.....£50 to stay as we are is disgusting especially as people who have been having collections for years already have the bins ! Not to mention we are all struggling to even heat our homes at present . If the collections are spread out more the bins will smell and overflow.

No doubt council tax will have a ridiculous rise too.

I can only afford 1 bin at £50, so I'll have to order just the one bin. It's hardly worth paying £85.00 for two bins and collections cut by half. There's going to be flytipping almost everywhere because of MCC taking this course of action

It would be a real shame to not use / pay for this service but I think nearly doubling the price is too excessive !!

This service is essential for me. I compost all I can, so I use the bin for perennial weeds, brambles and some grass cuttings. I cannot have a bonfire and cannot easily carry stuff to the tip. Please continue to empty garden bins.

not used

Your recycle collection team are lovely and brilliant at what they do, thank you

I think it is an excellent service but wish it started earlier in the year and finished later. I would certainly not like less frequent collections.

We would find it difficult to manage without collections. Reducing to once every 4 weeks would be the most we could reasonably cope with.

We are very grateful for the service, so thank you for your continuing efforts.

Its a good service with generous sized bins. And for most people its a quite a journey to reach a nearby disposal site, also the visit has to be arranged on line beforehand.

Several times during the year my pick up did not happen on the date scheduled and I had to telephone the service to arrange a pick up which because my pick up is on a Friday did not happen for several (4 or more) days later.

It is still quite good value for money at £50, it would be better if the recycling centre at Llanfoist was fully opened without prior bookings.

Council services seem to reduce year on year and council tax increase year on year, in past years, higher than inflation. How much has been spent on council buildings, facilities and increase salaries and expenses for councillors as a percentage each of the last 5 years? Pleas supply the information.

With the limitations on the use of the HWRC at Llanfoist it gives us little choice but to accept this price increase. I imagine other people will make the decision to start fly tipping instead.

I find this a very useful service and accept that costs will have to increase.

I have a big garden and the gardener comes fortnightly,so my bin is collected and emptied on the Tuesday before he comes on the Friday. If the collections were wider apart he would have nowhere to put the garden waste,and he therefore would have double the waste but only room to have one lot collected if collection was once a month.

We thoroughly regret the closure of the Usk Recycling Centre. The nearest now are a 20 mile round trip away, if you are able to drive.

Whilst know one wants to pay more for this service I understand why you need to do this. One of the alternative options of ceasing the service would be a pain - having to drop the waste off at the recycling centre - increasing car usage further, plus an issue for those who don't have a car.

Removing the service will lead to increased fly tipping, this is already common practice in the area. Please keep the service as it is impossible to get access to Llafoist tip because of the stupid booking system

Collections must not be less than fortnightly, there are already issues of people dumping grass cuttings. £50 is too much though

Overall this is a disgrace. I moved here from Bucks last year and was surprised that my council tax was 20% more for fewer services, despite the fact the value of my property is considerably lower. No street cleaning, no lights. I didn't have to pay extra for green waste either. You don't even provide a full breakdown of where the money goes. I expect in juicy final salary pensions for you all

We really value these collections as my husband is disabled and therefore we do find it difficult to get to the recycling centre with anything that is bulky or heavy. The wheeled bins have proved invaluable. I'm a single elderly woman with a large garden so I don't have much choice.

The service at the moment allows 1 x bin to be collected every 2 x weeks. Most residents feel that this is sufficient and I personally, most of the time, have space capacity in my wheelybin. If the majority of the cost of maintaining this service is in the Collection (which it would appear to be as the collections go down with the cost above), why not offer other options, which may be more appealing to residents having to take a 'hit' in service when the chances are the Council Tax will go 'up' again, for example offering 2 x bins (how much does each wheelybin cost? surely the cost of this is less impacting than the cost of a collection) - such as:-

First Option of keeping the service as is - not available.

Reduce the frequency of collections to four weekly for £42.50 for 2 bins (10 collections) no detriment to current service.

Reduce the frequency of the collections to six weekly for £35 for 2 bins (6 collections) slight detriment to current service.

If residents find that they do not use the 2 bins provided, they can return 1 x bin for a £5/10 reduction yearly after a minimum of 4 collections.

You can also tweak the length of collections in the middle of the year - most gardeners generate more green waste at the beginning and end of the gardening year - but less in the summer - so you could mix the two up - and do 3 x 4 weekly, then some six weekly, then back to 4 weekly...

Start investing in electric powered waste collection and other high mileage MCC service vehicles.

When spring/summer comes I think 2 weekly is fine anymore and the bins would be full. I would not be willing to pay for a second bin to compensate this

Less than fortnightly is useless - frequency should stay as is please.

I can afford those prices but I'm not willing to pay them as they are extremely high for the service provided. I feel I am getting less and less for my council tax and having to pay for garden waste was already a joke. I appreciate that cuts have to be made but expecting people to pay those rates is unbelievable.

As we're retired with everything increasing in cost we can budget for a 6 weekly collection

Finishing on December 2nd is too early as many more tree and shrub leaves (deciduous) shed their leave later than that.

I have a big garden and already have 4 compost bins plus 3 hand made with pallets but I would still need this service.

If the garden waste collection ceases Monmouthshire should take back control of Abergavenny recycling centre and remove the unnecessary booking system so that garden waste can be taken whenever a resident needs to take it there. Queues were rarely a problem prior to Covid and booking is now unnecessary

Stopping collections would increase traffic at Five Lanes and thus impact on air quality

If collections are cancelled maybe it would be wise to scrap the booking procedure when visiting the recycling centre for garden waste. Also would the old type sacks be available and what happens to the garden bins?

Regards

There is no alternative to this service unless you want thousands of individuals making unnecessary journeys to the tip. If the cost needs to increase then so be it, but the frequency should not change. It would help if the arrangements for visiting the waste/recycling site were easier
Scandalous, get my black bins collected twice a month, recycling weekly which by all account ends in landfill all for the paltry sum of £2400 a year council tax. Tell me do you honestly think that's value for money, you don't even grit our road in winter. Time for all these local authorities to amalgamate and make the same sacrifices we have to in the private sector. Gold plated pensions at my expense, the list goes on. Pfhhhhh.

n/a

We would most likely go to the recycling centre to dispose of garden refuse. We do think that it is important that this service remains available to residents who do not have cars or who cannot carry bulky garden waste to put in their car.

Happy to do my bit to support a great council

What am I paying council tax for???

£50 per bin for 9 months collecting Garden Waste! The cost of daily living is increasing, do you really think your residents can afford the MASSIVE price rise? Especially when other Councils in the Gwent area.....charge a minimal fee....oh.....Blaenau Gwent's Garden Waste collection is currently FREE!

What makes you think Monmouthshire Council is so "special"? Shame on each and every one of you for this disgusting proposal!!!!!!

As you have closed the Usk Recycling depot, it is not easy for us (and several elderly neighbours) to travel to Five Lanes or Llanfoist to transport the amount of garden waste you currently collect. In other words, you have us over a barrel, so we have no choice but to pay more. Not fair, not helping climate change and penalising those of us who relied on Usk. If the site of the Usk Recycling depot was not fit for purpose, then surely there is another option in this area.

The discounted prices that you suggest do not offer value.

For my minimalist garden a four weekly collection would suffice although I feel the price hype seems unfair from where it had been.

We only have a smaller garden so could cope with this. Love the wheelie bin over the bags.

WE have had excellent service over the past 2 years we have lived here for which we thank you - it was much needed in sorting out the garden when we first moved in. We feel it may be of more limited use next year for a variety of reasons so have decided to enter 'Cease Collections' box but would like to review again for the following year please.

To expensive for the service this will only make people start flytipping and you sell this for compost to make money get a grip of your self

Four weekly is too expensive compared to the fortnightly collections. It is also difficult for senior citizens to get to the council tip to dispose of garden waste so we have to rely on collections. I would probably drop down to 1 bin rather than 2.

I have 5 bins that I put my grass cuttings in, that just about cover the 2 weeks. Longer between collections would mean more bins for me, and where would I keep them. Also the grass cuttings start to rot and become congealed, and many a time this last year some of bins have been left a quarter full as not all falls out when they tip it in to lorry and the operatives don't check them, and they smell.

I am disappointed that the council have decided to increase the price so much. Everybody has seen a change with the recent economic climate with increased prices, and if the Welsh government stopped wasting money (e.g. wasting millions on reducing speed limits when we have no money), perhaps life could get a bit easier for everyone.

I am not happy with any of the above options - I feel the £50 is too large an increase for the limited service offered - gardening does not stop from December to March! I am not able to physically take my garden refuse to the waste sites on a regular basis and so, reluctantly, option 1 would be the only option available to me.

N/A

Please consider making it 22 collections a year as leaves are still coming down in December. I appreciate the rising costs, but as a resident of Little Mill, I see no return in services for my money. It seems apparent that a restructure of the wastage in officials and high salaries would result in better quality and value for money.

With respect to the green waste.

There would be no problem taking the waste to the centre at Llanfoist, except your booking system is an utter shambles.

Usk recycling station was shut, causing great inconvenience to locals. What actions will the council take when people start tipping the garden waste on the side of the road.

In the current economic climate, a 100% plus increase is not acceptable to me.

There is another option, keep the frequency as it is, for £60 - £70 per bin per year

None of the other terms would be viable as the bin during summer months is frequently full after 2 weeks, would probably withdraw if the collection was less than fortnightly.

No Comment

I don't see why we have to pay for garden waste collections. Other borough councils offer the same service without extra charge. We seem to pay more community fees and get less for it.

I am disabled and cannot get garden waste to the tip myself. I rely on this service.

We do not get very much in our locality from the MCC but suffer from badly maintained pavements in the village. They have not been resurfaced in the 39 yrs I have lived here and my wife suffered a serious foot injury as a result. I think a thorough look at how you operate is appropriate at this point in time!

I am very disappointed that the increase is so high, but this is a necessary service as some residents are likely to start 'fly tipping' their garden waste if the service is unavailable. I do not believe that anything in excess of a two week collection period will work very well.

I would have to have more bins to hold the accumulated excess garden waste if collection frequency is decreased so it would end up costing me double. Therefore I am happy to pay more for continued weekly collections.

Not happy in doing this as it appears the council is recouping losses instead of maintaining it. We pay enough in our council tax compared to the rest of Wales. This will only cause more fly tipping. I feel this is an excessive increase and will have to take my garden waste to the tip.....difficult for older people I think

The £50 fortnightly collection appears to be more economical..

I would find it difficult to dispose of the garden waste without garden waste collection... I do already have a garden composter which is invaluable.

Perhaps you might consider supplying composter/ these at cost for residents.

Thank you

The alternatives if there are no collections would mean lighting a fire to dispose of it. Unable to carry to recycling. What happens to all the bins if no collection? What a waste.

Since the introduction of fortnightly collections the service is not sufficient to cover the periods of high volume garden waste particularly in the Spring and Autumn.

I cannot see how MCC can justify a jump from £28 - £50 per bin.

As a retired resident with mobility issues I am unable to use the refuse sites and rely on Green Waste collections.

As everyone is being hit by increasing costs across the board it will be difficult to face yet another one. Surely it is not acceptable to ask for more the 11.1% inflationary uplift to the cost of the service. Absolutely ridiculous even providing the service if you decrease it to 1 collection every 6 weeks. Why not give the option of a bag to people with very small gardens. There is going to be a huge increase in green waste being flytipped or even put in black bags. Strange how Newport council manage to collect their green waste free of charge.

If we look at the cost benefit analysis for our household of paying more for the same frequency of service against the numbers of trips we would have to make to the local waste site, then paying more for the same service wins out. As MCC has an aim to reduce its carbon footprint and, is trying to encourage us all to do the same, then endless trips by us (and others) to the local waste site with garden waste is only going to increase the carbon footprint of the County. We have a large garden and fill three bins every fortnight throughout the 20 collection points. We also have 4 large composts bins in our garden. We do not support a reduction in the frequency of the service.

Our bin was not collected three times during the current year, and was missed a fourth time when an emergency team was sent out to collect missed bins in our area. We are already receiving a substandard service, I definitely would not pay more for it.

My council tax is £170 a month with a single person discount, don't see why I should have to pay again on top of this

Over 70s rely on this service as not fit enough to use recycling site. £50 is a huge increase for those on fixed incomes.

If the service ceases that means more people will need to book more slots on a regular basis at the recycling centres!

At present, have 2 bins and permits, but under the present proposals would only have one.

We have a fairly large garden and use the fortnightly service.

I don't have much garden waste so reducing the frequency will not impact me .. but others that have large garden waste will be the complete opposite .. the key thing here is the service needs to remain or people will start putting their garden waste in the black bin collection ..

We live in a very leafy development where the roads have not yet been adopted by MCC. We fill our garden waste bin every fortnight (plus more which we then have to dispose of ourselves).

We have to clear the road and pavements of leaves as this is not yet being done by MCC and the drains get blocked. We could not possibly reduce the number of collections. Increasing the price also means it would be unfair to expect us to purchase multiple bins. How can this be fair?

All these cuts encourage fly tipping

I do not think I would be prepared to pay more than the option I have chosen above. A figure of £2.50 per fortnight seems fair to me but if any other option was deemed more appropriate then I would, with reluctance, bow out of the scheme

There will be an increase in fly tipping in local woods. Perhaps the Councillors should reduce their expenses/income and tighten their belts the same as the majority of us are doing! The percentage of increase is not acceptable if it was 35.00 for 10 collections that would be.

This is a great service which hopefully reduces fly tipping etc. If you break down the cost for each pick up it's great value for money to the user. Love my garden waste bin 🍷

Subsidised wormeries and/or compost bins would decrease the need for this service so that collections could be less frequent

£2:50 per collection works out cheaper than driving to the tip but a £50 outlay will unfortunately be beyond a lot of people. We are heading for some difficult times with more and more services being threatened.

Put the microchip in the bins ffs!

Loads of people realise you're not checking and haven't paid this year (more fool you!!)

We have no realistic option since the Usk Civic Amenity Site was closed. Shame on you.

If ceased altogether we would have to travel by car to the amenity site and not everyone is able to do this

Any less frequent than fortnightly is not worth bothering with, it could do with being weekly as it is and £50 per bin is becoming non-justifiable

Overpriced for people with disabilities. What value for money are your customers getting for the excessive council tax???

I really value the garden waste collection service and would ideally like it to continue past the current finishing date as winter is the time when I have more hedge cuttings, twiggy clearance etc which is difficult to compost at home.

I would also like to ask if it would be possible to buy the compost created from garden waste collections please?

Still believe it's too expensive especially for older households that have difficulty accessing recycling centres

I would like to use service but price is too high and not good value for lowest price given number of collections proposed. Council should be inclusive and not cut out poorer citizens. Cost should reflect actual cost of collecting and not include profit.

Will seriously consider not using this service as the price has nearly doubled for less service which could well lead to more waste being dumped on the roads of the area. Surely the council can come up with a 3 week collection service for less than £40, which most households could accept

Living in Oaklands Park with numerous trees with preservation orders on, fortnightly is not enough! I have 4 bins now. No more collections for this year and many leaves still to fall. The increase in price over the years has been steep and next years even bigger!! I think this survey is just trying to manage expectations and not wanting our input at all.

Is there not a way to make money from the garden waste and subsidise the collections - companies that make compost?

I really value the green waste collection and strongly urge the council to keep it going.

As a pensioner this provides an invaluable service that we take full advantage of and would be happy to pay more to retain the fortnightly collection.

None of the services are worth the amount you are asking for, after the autumn budget you are obviously going to drastically raise the council tax so have this service as part of your future extortionate rise

I know of inflation but £22 increase is a bit much

To reduce collections to less than once a fortnight makes service unusable. It seems it's either accept the cost or do not use. If I discontinue use, would not wish to see any further reduction in opening hours for Five Lanes Recycling Centre. Not everyone has a large garden to compost their garden waste so there has to be a means to be able to easily remove it, either via collection or visit to tip. I believe we all appreciate what the current circumstances are and i think we just got to bite the bullet and hopefully things will get better in a couple of years time.

It went up in price this year to £28. Now you want to increase it to £50? Even at reduced frequency that is a massive price increase - who do you think can afford that at the moment?! But then what an earth are we supposed to do with our garden waste instead? I think you're going to find this causes more problems than you might anticipate.

I have already answered this once, but have another idea I wish to share with you....

If you are going to reduce garden waste collections, because the collections themselves cost the money, why don't you try and combine the Food and Garden Waste as well as creating a central location bank for composting locations within small areas.

By combining garden and food, you will give some people the option to reduce their collections whilst opening a bank of 'agreed' addresses where people are home composting and happy to receive peoples food waste.

Is there a reason the two are collected separate?

The issue with reducing any recycling service is that you will encourage dumping. The Council are not the only ones who have to tighten their belts, residents do too. The Council will put their tax demands up, but residents are unable to acquire additional funding in this way - so you must be more inventive on how you can reduce but encourage - which is what recycling is all about.

With the cost of living crisis - is someone looking at the 'amount' or weight of food being recycled at the moment, surely this is going down? People do not waste food like they used to. Could you not reduce the food recycling and leave the garden waste?

too expensive

Whilst reducing frequency of collections makes financial sense, I'd suggest this may present difficulties for customers during the summer months, when more frequent trimming, grass cutting, etc. is necessary. How about, for example, a 'half-way house' option - something like fortnightly from May - September, then four weekly other times?

I think the county can expect an increase in fly tipping when you combine this price increase with the limited access to the recycling centres!

THIS IS A REDICULOUS INCREASE, and CAN NOT BE JUSTIFIED. What are we paying council tax for. only last year you were stating that the increase was to ensure the future service!!!. I am sure people will resort to burning of their garden waste as an alternative. This will lead to increased CO2 etc and a lot more complaints. There must be a better solution than this it is daylight robbery!!!!.

Would be helpful if we didn't have to book a slot in the recycling centres

Please do not stop collections. Irresponsible people already do far too much fly tipping.

For the residents with trees in their gardens a 10 month a year collection fails to cover the period when leaves form the bulk of garden waste, have you given consideration in your plans as I can't see anything that covers this area.

If you remove the booking necessity at recycling centres and open them 7 days a week I think you may find people may elect to cancel green waste collections totally. This would give you substantial cost savings set against smaller increases by opening 7 days.

I have also noticed how quiet the recycling Center at 5 Lanes is on many occasions, perhaps it's worth opening 2 half days to save some cost.

I think some creative thinking should provide your answers and I hope these thoughts help.

If no service is offered I think it is likely to encourage some people to fly tip their garden waste in the countryside as some people are not prepared to drive to the waste recycling point.

This system for collecting garden waste is very good, please retain.

I would prefer to book a slot at the recycling centre to dispose of my garden waste if you introduce any of the above.

Vital service for elderly and those without cars. Please don't stop it.

The service is essential as every household has garden waste. If you stop this service it will encourage fly tipping which will cost the council even more to sort. I'm happy to pay a bit more for it. Appreciate the consultation, thanks.

Without such a service there will be less recycling and more illegal dumping. Would it be possible for subscribers to have discounted compost?

It's starting to become unaffordable now, especially for pensioners in their eighties.

No other alternative way of disposal.

This is an essential service and should be maintained

It is a good service. The alternative, which is to take my green waste to 5 Lanes, would incur time and fuel costs which would probably cost me £50 in fuel per year plus the inconvenience of the mess in my car!

None

This year's service was awful. More missed collections than actual collections. I had to report this nine times. You need to do better.

Too expensive. Other councils offer this service for free. It only results in fly tipping which cost the council even more money. Will the council ever learn!

Any of the options will hit people hard, either in their pocket or through having to then take garden waste to the recycling centres, which, of course, a lot of people couldn't do. However, I understand why this needs to happen.

Could not survive a monthly collection. Have too much waste! £50 it will have to be. HOpe this is the out come from all other residents,

Is there anyway that the community could access some of the composted materials? We could pay to re-use the compost, thereby supporting the system and reducing the need to buy in expensive compost from outside the local area.

An option to charge per pickup would be a better option in my view. That way collection could then be seasonal rather than fixed weekly/monthly
I manage to fill my bins each collection.
If you reduce the number of collections please have a 'free flow' at tip one day a week.

Cheaper to take the garden waste to the recycling centre
This is expensive. Surely it doesn't need to be this cost!
The cost is far too expensive as quoted above. If you were to scrap garden waste, I would expect that you make it easier to visit the tip, so remove current appointments as there is no need for these now all Covid restrictions are removed.
The changes you describe above are very disappointing and makes our council far more expensive than others I know.
This may not be a compulsory collection but it is vital none the less. Many people cannot get to the local tip so how are they supposed to dispose of their garden waste? I think the charge of £50 a year is abhorrent but what choice do we have, a collection once a month would be useless you may as well withdraw it all together.

Fifty pounds for a pensioner is very expensive especially that we pay two thousand seven hundred pounds per year council tax and exorbitant other utilities...I expect we will just have to suck it up ..
Do away with the booking system at five lanes would make it easier for many to dispose of surplus rather than fly tipping
Would there be a discount if you were to have more than one bin, which could then reduce the weekly collection from fortnightly to four weekly ?
Really pleased with the garden service. I find it invaluable.
Leaving the collection later than fortnightly would result in a smelly sludge being collected ! If collection is ceased then a lot more fly tipping of garden waste may result!
The service should be more integrated to get the behaviour we want to see long term. Why not charge for domestic collections (black bag) and make recycling free? (Then fine people who recycle stuff they shouldn't)?
we recently moved from another south wales district. Here the council tax was much more affordable and garden waste collections were at no additional cost. I frankly am shocked by the lack of public service provided in kerb side collection in this area. The fact you are charging extra for this service and now even more is appalling.
Maybe a better idea is to have monthly collections early and later in the year and during spring & summer fortnightly? It's a brilliant service and the staff are really helpful.
Please keep this excellent service running at current twice a month. If necessary to keep running, we are happy to pay/contribute more towards its cost. Thank you.
We are already one of the few boroughs that pay for this service. We also pay amongst the highest community charge for very little return in rural areas. I already feel the current charge is excessive and will opt out of this service if it increases. As a pensioner rising costs are at a point that an increase would not be affordable for me.
Can the recycle centre in five lanes go back to open to all without making appointments? It is difficult enough to get a spot when you work full time.
The garden waste is collected but at times you require more collections or more frequently. This council
Is one of the most expensive councils and yet I feel it doesn't give value for money. I find it shambolic we have high rates and yet we receive an email to discuss the frequency and costs of garden waste and the possible termination of this service. Further cost increase in this current climate, People are feeling the pinch as it is
It's an invaluable service.

Valued servic

There is still a lot of garden waste produced in December and early Jan. Consideration should be given to extending the service to cover this.

Should be free the amount of tax taken!!

This is becoming very expensive, if fuel prices drop does the waste collection charges drop?

Reducing the collections from 20 per year is not viable. I already compost as much as i can but you can only use so much compost! The garden still produces waste and there are times when the amounts are only just coped with. Taking to the "local^ skip increases the car journeys with the accompanying fuel useage

Reducing the service would result in more air pollution as people like me have to take excess waste to the Mitchell Troy tip. I have bags rather than a bin so hope the cost is comparable for the same volume of waster collected fortnightly

Torfaen give this service for free so would expect the same service from MCC as it is now Labour controlled. More trips to the waste recycling centre ahead. Will there be a garden wheelie bin collection service as it will no longer be required.

I dont have a huge garden so don't brim the bin every time but I dont have space to home-compost, neither do I want to have to take my garden waste in my car to Llanfoist tip, so please don't cancel the collections entirely.

Maybe one of the anaerobic composting stations could collect directly? Maybe Monmouth could invest in some of these facilities to generate power for the local communities?

6 collections year

This is a really good service, and well worth the cost

Too expensive

Can the bins be brushed out?

If you do this need to open tips more or fly tipping will increase. Also need to stop promoting yourselves as committed to green agenda

No issues or concerns with present set up.

I would like to say, I've been delighted with the service and the facility the bin.

I feel £50 is acceptable, but it is rather a lot in the current climate. Nevertheless, it's better than driving over to that (dangerous)dreadful recycling centre in Mitchel Troy.

Will have to make tip appointment which is nuisance as Oap

I am prepared to pay the £50 but it is certainly a big increase from this years charge of £28 so how can you justify it.

I think the money you use to subsidise this service should be used elsewhere. I can use the Mitchel Troy waste site.

Even I have said 4 weekly I still think the amount is expensive and we are pensioners.

When considering the cost of this service, that is provided to council tax payers, can you please include the cost of clearing away the rubbish that is fly tipped in the area.

Some context:

1/ I have a street light outside my home that was hit by a car over 18 months after I reported it - its still awaiting repair.

2/ The roads in Penallt are extremely pot holed and aren't being repaired.

3/ Council tax in Monmouthshire has had substantial increases over the last few years and yet services continue to decline.

4/ I accept that this situation is driving this exact consultation but when the Welsh government is willing to force/fund Welsh language road signs and the erecting of 20mph speed limit signs throughout residential areas within Wales, whilst also proposing to increase the number of MP's in the Welsh government, I question the priorities being imposed on residents..

You wouldn't want to know!!

The above is my initial thought....

I definitely would not pay more than that in the following year
an invaluable service worth £50 per bin

Given our rural location without a collection service people without access to a vehicle will struggle to dispose of certain waste as even composting has its limitations

this is a regrettable state of affairs but we do use this service and have no option.

if this goes through I feel that fly tipping would become a massive problem and cost the local authorities more than the current cost of the waste collection

The frequency is important when it meets the peak production rate of such waste from the average garden - if less frequent at these on-season peaks it runs the risk of people dumping their surplus in an antisocial way.

But the peaks are not continuous - have you considered less frequent collections at off season times?

Emptying half-full bins is inefficient

Please keep this service, it's excellent.

The fortnightly collection is not always convenient during summer. To book a slot at the recycling station requires predicting the weather several days in advance of cutting lawns.

Reducing the frequency would mean the service would be of no use. This is frustrating and will mean more car journeys to recycling centres or more back garden pollution from burning green waste.

There are limited funds though and prioritising more essential services has to be done.

As costs go up relentlessly I think a consultation like this should be offered annually.

We have a large garden and would need fortnightly collections, I feel this is a large jump from 28.00 to 50.00 as we have two bins. I would definitely have to rethink how many bins I had at what price!

I'd pay extra if they would also collect my Christmas tree

Ridiculous options really. Obviously the more expensive option is more cost effective..... however I think for £50 you should be offering more collections per year.

I have opted for the £50 per year but it is expensive for what the service actually is considering how high our council tax is.

Yet again we are to be penalised. A far poorer service and no reduction in rates.

Our main reason for needing this service is to collect the oak leaves which descend on to our property from a tree by the village hall (which we presume is council property.) If this service is removed we will simply brush them into the road which will then clog the drains!

I am too elderly to take my garden rubbish to the tip because I cannot lift the bags in and out of the car, but this price rise is a serious increase for me to manage. If I chose a less frequent collection, I would be unable to wheel the weight of my bin from my garden to the pavement for collection. The 2 week collection is by far the best. A 4 weekly is too long. The grass grows too quickly in the summer.

As a non driver I am not able to take garden waste to council waste site. Bins are necessary for me.

£50 is a massive increase but is the only sensible option of those given, I can see a huge increase in fly tipping ahead of us. With cost of living the way it is I worry this service will come to an end. Thinking caps on for alternative options. Don't want to see increase in garden fires either

The current service is excellent. A big thank you to all the staff involved in providing this service. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

I would like to see perhaps a monthly collection in addition to the current service in Jan and Feb as the winter is when the leaves fall and all the pruning in the garden is carried out.

Cut grass already smells only collecting every other week any longer and the smell would be unbearable

If the service is stopped it will increase the use of black bags and create more visits to the tip so there will be an increase in cost elsewhere i.e. no savings to MCC.

Setup a local site around Usk for residents to take garden waste

Is the service provided by council employees or subcontracted? How do these compare? I would assume the former makes more sense and would cost less?

We are all facing additional cost, this is now getting too expensive. Can't the Council use the garden waste to make compost and sell to cover some of the cost.

Reducing frequency is not helpful. I'd end up having to go to the recycling centre in between so no point in doing it.

Whilst I understand why garden waste is charged for as someone who has never used a lot of services from yourselves e.g. schools, nappy waste collection etc and someone who lives alone so sometimes doesn't even put out a black bag every fortnight this does feel unfair. I think it will also lead to an increase in 'waste collection' services advertised online and an increase in flytipping. Flytipping of green waste including Christmas trees has occurred for the past 3 years near Garden City.

£50 a bin is a lot of money but still good value. The effort of trying to get garden waste to the skips is too much as you get older. Please keep the service going Thank you

I cannot understand why the rate increases from £2.50 per collection to just under £6 per collection based on frequency. Presumably whatever option is chosen will affect potential redundancies etc. for staff undertaking this work. This is going to increase the likelihood of fly tipping and disposing of the garden waste in the black bags which is driving the wrong behaviours.

I also presume that the Council will be taking the opportunity to increase the Council Tax up to the maximum permitted. We currently don't see some council services like street cleaning. The roads have weeds growing at the sides at the moment. And we are being asked to contribute more to a less of a service.

If you cancel the service all garden waste will end up fly tipped or placed in black bags which will increase the amount the council has to pay for landfill.

Unfortunately as pensioners we would not be able to pay that amount.

Appalling that you keep rising prices. I would consider paying the council any further monies for waste collection. Many councils in Wales do not charge.

Unbelievable increase..,Not impressed in the slightest..I suppose the council tax will increase in the same manner. You wonder why people fly tip? There's your answer. Not everyone can afford these extortionate prices. Not happy 😞

I am a pensioner and the current system at the recycling centre makes it physically very difficult for me to load/unload green bags into my car and then lift them to tip into the container. In the past the container has often been full making it even more difficult to tip bags.

I will have to calculate if its cheaper for this service or the diesel to go to the recycling centre.

Fortnightly collection is great for us.

Garden waste service is convenient by saving the strain on the recycling centres. Reduces bonfires creating air pollution and inconvenience on neighbours.

This is rather expensive

Happy to pay extra if needed but would prefer the 2 weekly collection

What are we supposed to do with garden waste if you cease your service?

This is a vital service for those with garden waste. The alternative is frequent car journeys to the Tip.

This is exceedingly environmentally "unfriendly"

I currently have 2 bins and have found during the year that I don't fill them both and thus don't get value for money.

I would like to continue but with only 1 bin.

10 collections £42.50. Why not £25 ??

6 collections, your ripping us off

Some people will not pay these prices

Your encouraging people to fly tip.

This is a vital service to me as I am a pensioner and am suffering from a debilitating illness so cannot carry heavy bags of garden waste any distance myself but have several hedges that need regular cutting . There are several others living in the same road who have the same problems. Please don't cancel this valuable service.

We fill our bin every 2 weeks and feel that keeping to a 2 weekly collection and increasing the cost is by far the best option 4 weekly or 6 weekly would not meet our needs so if we were going to Llanfoist HWRC in between I feel it would be pointless paying for a service

We pay enough money in council tax, and the price should stay as it is.

I really appreciate this service. I do understand the very difficult decisions you have to make re available budgets. Fingers crossed you will be able to continue as now. Thank you

Service should really end at the end of December as garden waste still being produced - lawn cuttings / leaves / prunings / weeds from flower beds etc etc

Problems of disposal now during December !!

£50 is really expensive, not too pleased with the price

Should be covered in council tax price

An invaluable service that saves numerous trips to the tip and therefore keeps traffic off the roads Consider lowering costs when there is no longer a shortfall in funding.

This is an invaluable service. We have a large garden and already compost large volumes of compostibles before even using the wheelie bin. We are in our 70s and would find it physically difficult and take multiple trips to the recycling centre and need help when we get there, not currently available. We believe our garden is an asset to the village and would not be able to keep up the maintenance without the green collection.

It's still good value

We have a large garden. Hedges on all 3 sides. It takes 6 weeks at the moment to cut my hedges as I fill all 3 bins just on one side of my garden. I could not manage without garden waste bins.

There is no significant cost difference between monthly and fortnightly

Having moved from the Forest of Dean to Monmouthshire i was surprised at how cheap the garden bins are. Which is why we got 2. I would still use the service at a higher price but might just pay for 1 bin.

Why no option for a weekly service or a longer collection window given the change in climate

Expensive but necessary now you have closed the facility in Usk

Very keen to keep this service going

Yikes....£50 is a lot though.

I really do need a frequent service as I have a front and back garden.

How about 3-weekly (15 collections)?

anything less than once a fortnight and 20 collections per year would be totally inadequate, I am more than happy to pay £50 and would pay more to retain the service

Getting VERY expensive! This will encourage fly tipping!

Any other solution would surely increase vehicle traffic to your HWRC sites?

Represents good value at present, however not sure at £50 per year.

Seems a lot to be honest considering the amount of council tax we pay, but I n balance I would probably pay however would have issues getting it past the wife.

The current booking setup at the recycling centres should be considered as part of the review. The staff up there are obviously keen to retain the current setup, however it is inconvenient for residents who want to drop their things when it's ready to go, not have waste lying round their homes.

If the restrictions at the recycling centre were to be removed, I would consider this appropriate

Reducing frequency will significantly reduce the usefulness of the service to the extent the other options won't be viable and I would drop out

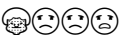
For me it's obvious, for £15 more I can have 20 collections instead of just 6. I do hope this option will be chosen.

I am keen to continue kerb side garden waste collections and am less concerned about the cost.

Since the closure of the Usk recycling facility, the other sites are much further away and far less convenient. We have valued the fortnightly service and it has made the removal of garden waste very easy. We also understand the financial pressures that Local Authorities are facing and the need to charge more.

I currently have 2 bins and frequently fill both during the spring and summer. Less frequent collections would mean I need to buy additional bins which would lead me to difficulty in storing them. I strongly support retaining a fortnightly service
Do not agree with the maths as 4 weekly collection requires less vehicles and less staff
That is a ridiculous price rise and I won't be using this service.
Where is your detailed explanation or cost break down to justify any increase?
Don't I pay my council tax to have my waste collected?!

Less frequent collections would not work for our household. We would need 2 bins which would be a more expensive option. We are happy to pay the increased charge for this good service and we are aware of the financial constraints on local authorities. Thank you
These are all pretty grim options to be honest. I feel it would have been clearer and more fair to also include in this form how much we pay now. Every once in a while a collection is missed, how could that possibly work when there's so few collections.
* keep two weekly but not at this price* Without this service people will start to fly tip their garden waste. We cannot afford to pay £50. We feel 2 weekly is needed in the summer but now we are not using are bin as much. We already pay a ridiculously high council tax and are struggling to pay. Personally I am unsure what we will do with our garden waste next year. As it is just not a viable option for us to spend £50 on garden waste. That is nearly a 50% increase. A garden seems to be a luxury we cannot afford
Another rip off on top of totally outrageous Council Tax to keep all the chair polishers in comfort at my expense.

A classical example of Labour mismanagement and incompetence.
I think the existing service is excellent; however, if the consensus is in favour of four-weekly collections then that will also be OK I'm sure.
Cost seems excessive
4 or 6 weekly is not viable in Summer months. It would increase traffic going to recycling centres and demand already outstrips supply of slots during the Summer. This could result in more dumping in random places.
there is a cost of living crisis. Such an increase is not affordable. I would fly tip instead
Disappointed to see increase when other boroughs are still free collections. I could do with a free bin as no road clearance out here and we keep the road swept.
The price for the same frequency is almost double what we're paying now!!
I think keeping the collections is a good thing if possible, it a very economical way of getting rid of garden waste.
After closing the Usk Town waste disposal point some three years ago, the garden waste scheme fortnightly collection throughout the Spring to late Autumn has been a valuable service greatly appreciated by residents.
The elderly of the town in particular will struggle again with making appointments, loading their vehicle, driving to a waste centre to offload heavy bags, with little or no help from busy workers.

What is the financial breakdown? £24.00 to double!! Why? It has increased annually ever since you started to charge. That means more cars visiting sites to dump waste, more pollution, more fuel. What about older people with/without a car? How do they manage. This will increase fly tipping, a proven fact. MCC ends up paying more anyway.

This is crazy - what does our council tax buy us??? no way would I pay £50 for this service and frankly as a single parent with a small income I am really unhappy about paying £42.50 for half the service. Why dont you keep the fortnightly collections in the peak summer months June-September when garden waste is at its highest and then from October - December and March April May drop to a monthly service - that would cut out c. 6 collections and then you shoulder the rest of the 4 collections costs!

I cannot see the point of reducing the frequency of collections. I want a regular service and I am prepared to pay for it. Anything less and I might as well load the car up and go to the tip.
Great service. Happy to pay a bit more.

This is an excellent service which I would not want to lose. We are lucky to have the service - I have a large garden and would not want to have find alternative ways to dispose of my garden waste. It's good value for money at £50 pa.

It is a good service worth paying for

If the charge meets the cost then there is little if any complaint to be made. One must however be on guard for increases in people disposing of garden waste themselves in a manner irresponsibly as a result of almost doubling of price!

I am happy to continue the service, it works well as we are both in our 90s and need all the help we can get .

Mary Rogers

The difference in price between monthly and fortnightly is so small as to make it worth paying the extra few pounds and keeping service as it is. Six weekly is not frequent enough in the high summer months but in early and late season 6 weekly would be more than enough.

Charge the true cost. It's a luxury service and we are lucky to have it.

It's still a lot cheaper and easier than taking the garden refuse to Five Lanes ourselves.

Revert to bag collection fortnightly at £18?/annum. The current and proposed wheeled bin collections are only suitable for large gardened properties. The wheeled bins are far too big and cumbersome for the vast majority of residents. Perhaps a better solution might be to have communal bins at the end/ beginning of each street which residents and ratepayers could use at their convenience. It would not take too many months to establish the collection requirement for each bin. Empty each one as and when. The recycling centre booking system and hours makes it very, very difficult to dispose of rubbish and garden waste ad hoc.

I don't think reducing the service in terms of pick up is practice in terms of our garden waste.

However no one likes an increase in costs especially when council tax is astronomical and its hard to see that we are getting value for money.

We appreciate the cost has to go up its a fantastic service thank-you

As a pensioner costs suggested would be prohibitive. Would need to seek suitable alternative methods of disposal.

I have 2 bins, but will probably go down to one next year, particularly if the cost rises (not just due to cost - I don't use 2 bins every collection, and I have reduced garden waste with the removal of hedges this year)

I think the cost of this will increase the amount of fly tipping in the countryside which will impact on the cost of council to clear it.

If the rate was going up by the rate of inflation which is about 10% and would mean a £3-ish increase and not almost doubling in price I would go for the fortnightly collection. I would also prefer to see a much smaller lorry coming round so we can dump our own garden waste into the back of it from green bags along with the scrapping of the appointment system for the tip so we can go as and when we need to as we used to do pre-covid.

I like to garden but find it difficult to take the garden waste to the recycling.

I do home compost, but produce too much for the space available.

The difference in cost between 20 and 10 is negligible so not a consideration for me. However we do use the service less later in the year, so maybe an option to increase the gaps from October-December (its mostly leaves for us).

A bit pricey but I appreciate the service and would like it to continue

Go back to bags for the garden waste not bins, we do not have room to store a huge bin, so our grass goes into black bags for waste , collections should be at least every 2 weeks, and £50 to collect is ridiculous before long you won't be worrying about grass collections it will be where you will home us all When we lose our houses due to the soaring cost of living crisis!

Any longer than 2 weeks in pointless, it smells and bins will overflow

To help all forms of waste collection and recycling including garden waste stop the non-sense of the need to book at recycling centres immediately.

As a result of my partners health problems we no longer have a car in order to access the recycling site .,Therefore regular garden waste collections are very important to us especially as gardening is a therapy . I would be prepared to pay the extra but it is a massive price hike at a time when everyone is feeling “ the pinch “ .

As senior citizens it is not possible for us to physically get rid of garden waste

We are very pleased with the service to date - thank you

Elderly will not be able to afford this service, bins are emptied but always grass in the bins left

Good service that would be missed and less useful at monthly or six weekly intervals.

If cost increases I will personally take to recycling centre myself.

If you are going to increase the cost, there is still garden waste through the year so maybe every 2 weeks on normal schedule then one a month in December, January and February

Some of my neighbours just put their grass cuttings in black bags and other people living on elan way and Wentwood view just tip theirs onto park. People should be fined for this activity

I think the options are a bit much! I am happy to pay extra but not almost double but I am a disabled female widow with a small garden. I usually manage to almost fill one bin every two weeks just looking after my small garden. I could not manage without this service so taking it away would be taking away my independence.

I cannot believe you would increase the price we already pay high council tax in Monmouthshire for a refuse collection compared to other local authority we have no police presence no library and extremely poor service in grass cutting and maintenance in magor and undy what are you doing with the money making it unaffordable will increase possibly fly tipping garden fires

Every 3 weeks??

So have the collection every 4 weeks but only £7.50 deduction. Not good. What a massive jump.

Please keep service as is please don't change anything

It would be extremely disappointing to lose the garden waste service, particularly noting that it's no longer possible to simply 'turn up' to current recycling sites without booking. The alternative to the service is residents building bonfires with the associated risks and environmental challenges this creates.

It's such a good service living on my own I could not lift a bag into the car to take to the tip Perhaps £ 25 a month would be better

As I have a certificate of visual impairment issued by Monmouthshire County Council do I still have to pay for the emptying of my bins.. I ask this because my eyesight is such that I am unable to drive and therefore I am unable to take waste to the tip./ I have friends who live in other local authority areas will have the garden waste collected free of charge also they do not have to buy black bags for the waste product is this caused by the fact that Monmouthshire is underfunded and therefore whatever it is being made by the county council to improve the funding paid to Monmouthshire..

Provided that this option does not restrict usage of the refuse collection points (Five Lanes) for any additional garden (green) waste.

You are supposed to cut the verges and sweep the road - you don't do either! You constantly want us to pick up the tab for everything! You virtually make it impossible to go to the recycling center which is costing you the same with a fraction going through there and then wonder why there is fly tipping all over the countryside!!

Reducing frequency is not viable as bins smell, attract mice

We only pay £28 for our fortnightly service now - increasing it to £50 is outrageous and I would want to know what the additional charge was for

I don't mind a small rise or even one in line with inflation but these choices are totally unacceptable. The ruling group on MCC should get their friends at the Welsh Senedd to give Monmouthshire a proper funding settlement and not based on political bias that everyone in the county is well off. Highest council tax in country and can't provide this service. Inefficiency? Incompetence? Uncaring? Not sure but MCC does not provide anything resembling VFM

I think that a 75% increase is difficult to justify. This large increase can only lead to more fly tipping, the cost of which may be in excess of extra income derived from increased cost of garden waste collection

Cost of living gone up along with utilities and plus council tax. I think we are paying enough.....

Any decision to reduce collections would have to take into account:

1. Increasing the availability of the slots for Monmouth Recycling Centre
2. Ensuring there was no limit to the number of garden waste bags that could be taken at any one time (a near 20 mile round trip for a few bags is unacceptable both financially and for the environment)
3. Ensuring the Monmouth Recycling Centre had more capacity for Green Waste - at present there are times when bins are full, resulting in a 20 mile wasted car journey.

I would really appreciate the paid for fortnightly collection actually being done fortnightly. Our collection has been missed on at least half a dozen occasions this year and I've had to waste my time reporting it to you and attempting to ascertain as to why we were consistently being overlooked. I think a refund option should be set up so if the collection is missed, we can receive some of our money back. This will make the council more accountable for providing a proper and professional service.

Scandalous but we need the collection!!

It's the frequency of collections that are important to us.

£5 per collection is not acceptable and is too expensive. I would not use the service.

A good service well worth paying for

I would be happy to reduce the frequency to every 3 or 4 weeks. But am happy to have it every 2 weeks even with the additional cost in the summer as the grass waste can become substantial.

Longer than fortnightly will mean we will need more bins and we don't have the space for that
Please consider increasing the number of slots available at Waste tips.

£50 represents a huge increase on the present year cost of £28 per bin per year. A 56% increase at this time is outrageous. The Council should be cutting its costs to meet its income, as we ratepayers at the end of the line with no-one to pass on extra costs to, have to do. The options are impractical as nature does not reduce growth.

The lack of such a service would lead to illegal tipping and bonfires that might cause a danger or nuisance

i dont think £50 a year is a huge amount to pay but everyone is finding it hard at the moment and we are only on a pension ourselves some people may not want to pay that amount so a lot of people may drop out

If the garden waste collection is abandoned this will inevitably result in more frequent visits to the local area waste

collection site. I would hope the council will allow residents to go there without the need to book a slot.

Please keep this service it helps stop fly tipping and helps keep Caldicot tidy

This isn't clear.

The current situation is to purchase a bin and collection is free for the year.

Are the prices increasing just for the bin purchase?

Also you are supplying a local business with garden waste they recycle into compost. I assume you're making money from this as well?

Councils are already being given the Ok to increase the already ridiculous taxes in the working people trying to make ends meet and we really don't want idiots to dump garden waste on the street for collection that way. I know there are fools who would do that.

We pay the taxes and expect some services, not just a free ride for the minority.

Will try home composting

Could you not allocate a morning or afternoon (weekend's),

Where all skips could be used for garden waste ,

Personally I would prefer to take my waste to five lanes but even with time slots it takes far too long to get off loaded .

We have a large garden. Fortnightly collection is what we need. We cannot go longer, esp in the spring and summer.

Useful service from the property and a larger bin than some other Local Authorities so a less frequent collection service would be fine for me.

We have some of the highest council tax rates in Wales we should have our garden waste collected within this cost. How do Newport manage to charge some of the lowest council tax rates in Wales but still provide this service to their residents.

As an aside I did begrudgingly sign up this year (for the last 6 months) and had to phone no less than 4 times due to non collection.

We are an elderly couple and would be unable to dispose of our garden waste in any other way.

NONE

If the service stopped, I would find it difficult to dispose of my garden waste.

Yes, please do something about people putting out numerous black bin bags full of grass waste and cat litter. Why should we be subsidising these people when we have to park for grass waste. Also those people tipping garden waste over their fences into the woodland walks nearby.

We are encouraged to recycle but MCC appear to be putting overt available obstacle in the way! Since the closure of Usk recycling centre, it's more than 36 mile round trip to the nearest facility! How can this be good for the environment? Do not be surprised if there's a big increase in fly tipping! Unless much larger bins are provided fewer collections a year are not worth it.

THIS IS BEYOND RIDICULOUS. COUNCIL TAX IS THROUGH THE ROOF AS IT IS AND NOW YOU WANT TO PRACTICALLY DOUBLE THE AMOUNT PER BIN?!! STOP BEING SUCH GREEDY BASTARDS.

I rely on the fortnightly garden waste collection service and without it I would be unable to dispose of non-compostable garden waste myself as I do not drive and my husband is mobility impaired. Although the proposed cost increase is steep, it would still be cheaper than hiring someone on a regular basis to take my garden waste to the community recycling centre. The alternative proposed options, with lower collection frequencies, are not good value for money. I am also concerned that the complete withdrawal of the service would result in more people burning garden waste, leading to more air pollution.

I feel that the charges above are absurd. I reluctantly pay at the moment but with the cost of living increasing as it is, I feel you will lose a lot of people opting with any of the above. The service of any less than 20 weeks wouldnt be enough at all. Council charges already going up along with living costs so can't see many people accepting the cost increase. Garden waste (leaves etc) are still gathered in the winter - the gap isn't helpful

Present collection service is good. Any decent sized garden will require minimum of 2 week collection. This is a big jump in price well above inflation!

Appreciate that costs are increasing but there are councils in England who collect garden waste for free so whilst I am happy to pay a charge it seems a lot more than previously. I have selected four weekly as preferred, but if costs are genuinely this high I may not sign up at all. It's a very useful service and encourages people to keep their gardens tidy. Booking and driving to the skip is getting more difficult as one gets older

Garden waste collection has been fantastic and I would definitely use it again but, at £50 it is a lot of money for a fortnightly collection. With the tip in Llanfoist closed so much it is the easiest option

If there were still a recycling/ rubbish disposal site in Usk it would not be a problem for us. There isn't now, what will you be advising to us to do with garden waste if the service ceases?

NP26 4HR

I rely on this service because I am 88-years old & not as strong as I once was.

I think the cost will incur more fly tipping tbh. If we had local garden waste dump bins in Caldicot or on the industrial site nstead this would be much better. Monmouthshire as a whole pays much higher rates than any of the surrounding areas.

The service is very useful as there is very little other means of dealing with garden waste, apart from trying to burn it, which is not desirable. It is particularly helpful at this time of year when the leaves are falling and, ideally, we could use one further collection to deal with this.

There's absolutely no way that I could afford any of them shocking prices!! I pay enough council tax as it is, just wow!!!

My preference would be to increase collections rather than reduce them.

Recycling of garden waste is essential to meet any carbon targets

Working perfectly as it is thank you

Any more than a two week collection wouldn't be an option for me as I have a large garden and fill my bin. I have NO transport to go to Five Lanes.

Could we start later and finish earlier. The busy period in the gardens is usually during pruning of trees and roses / shrubs which would need fortnightly collection

The waste service in general is increasingly unfit for purpose. A complete rethink focusing on improved service and value for council tax payers is essential.

I am a female 77 year old pensioner living alone. This service is invaluable for me. I could not manage digging a compost heap in my small garden and carrying heavy garden bags to the tip would be impossible for me. Please keep this service. I will willingly pay £50.

Even though I am unhappy for any increase in the cost as the price is high enough compared to other local authorities, reducing the collection I do not believe is a viable option especially during autumn months due to the amount of leaves that fall onto the pathways and highway. My neighbour and I sweep up as much as possible to help prevent the blocking of drains and a slip hazard to the elderly residents who live in the area. One elderly lady a couple of years ago did slip and broke her ankle.

The service is a good one and at a fair price, however, in spite of your comments about including the service to all households: the service is provided as a fully funded part of the general council tax to all households in Swansea.

The effect, apparently, has been to reduce the incidents of "fly tipping" of household garden waste. Since such fly tipping is very prevalent in Monmouthshire, especially along the length of the B4235 Usk to Chepstow road, would it not be worth giving serious consideration to such an option instead of using the coverall

"can't be done" excuse.

Incidentally households in Swansea are not charged for the disposal element which, you state, is not legal!

A total of 20 collections for £2.50 each is by far the best value of the available options and this is what I would use. I have benefitted from the service as it has operated this year.

None

The price increased with the addition of the wheeled bin which was understandable. Unfortunately the renewal for this financial year did not reduce to reflect the re-using (and therefore not replacing) of the bin.

The proposed increase to £50 to maintain the service level will be prohibitive to many, and we will see flytipping increase (my neighbour already tips theirs on the green outside my house!!).

I have a small garden so only put my bin out every couple of months anyway.

For us it will be worth £50 a year compared to taking all our garden waste to the council depot, even at these very expensive cost-of-living times.

I appreciate the service and understand that the council has no option other than increasing the cost to cover the expense.

I'm sorry to lose the service, I can't afford the extra cost as I presume the council tax will be going up too.

I would prefer the last collection to be in mid or late December as there are always thousands of leaves left on my oak tree and my neighbour's sycamore tree that cover the public footpath to my property. Other people say the same around herethat is why the address is Fayre OAKS.

As someone with an above average size garden to have to reduce the number of collections is not preferable but paying an extra £50 in the current climate is also difficult. Plus we have to book a slot at the recycling centre and it's not open seven days a week. I wouldn't be surprised if fly-tipping increased which will cost more in the long run.

I think the garden service is very useful but mainly because of the nonsensical way the local tip is run. I am having to book up and often when I arrive there are very few vehicles there. The limitations on one visit per day are also farcical. The staffing levels often mean they are stood around doing nothing. In these times of austerity with the price of fuel energy food and council tax a rise of over 78 percent for this service is too much for pensioners such as we.

Will Five Lanes recycling centre remain on a booking system? While it does, I am happy to pay for my garden waste collection as it saves having to plan ahead and think about booking a slot for getting rid of garden waste myself.

Why can't collections be amalgamated, so that less vehicles are used. Collections are made nearly every day and vehicles are covering the same ground day in day out.

Very expensive for me I'm retired and can not afford those prices

Very difficult decision for the council we are all struggling with the cost of living but now nil income instead of 28

This service is much appreciated and saves fuel, time and hassle compared to visiting the recycling centre individually, especially since I have a small car and tiny boot space!

Disappointed to see increased to £50

If the collection service goes I hope that it will still be able to take garden waste to 5 lanes

I have great concerns about reduction in service & increased costs as this will inevitably increase fly-tipping (already considerable increase in our area due to having to pre-book recycling centres).

We compost as much as we can ourselves, however the garden waste scheme has been a great help as we have a very large garden. Your collections/collectors are great. We have missed it during winter months as we don't stop clearing up throughout winter! Certainly would say we are not the only household who think along these lines. My father, who is 90+ (in another Monmouth household) would also appreciate the service all year round, he would struggle to get to the recycling centre, that is when it's at all feasible to book a slot. £50, although reasonable for 20 collections, would be a lot to pay in one go, maybe you could split payments for the year.

This service is essential for those without cars, elderly or disabled and unable to lift heavy loads or even just responsible for a large garden. MCC should be considering not only what is required by statute, but services that will support the needs of its residents, avoid fly tipping and help keep our environs tidy. A £240,000 subsidy does not seem a large price to pay for this. Council tax overall should be increased maintain services like this that the community values. Other Council's also seem to be able to provide this service year-round and more cheaply. Perhaps you should consider making it cheaper, rather than more expensive, so that a lot more residents opt in and you get more economies of scale, rather than pricing less affluent residents out of the service. I personally would not use a collection that was less frequent than fortnightly given your suggested price points and anything more than fortnightly does not really meet a gardener's needs.

I depend greatly on the green waste collections. It was a great innovation when they were introduced. Don't stop them please!

I agree that the service shouldn't be free as some people don't have garden waste, but the increase is huge for those who do have gardens, who probably pay a lot more in council tax too. I can see that the increase will make more people fly tip green waste (which already happens in our village). Maybe the council should look at other methods of collection, eg large collection points in each town village (not just at the tips) where people can bring their green waste and the council only empties when full. We compost a large amount of our green waste but as we have a larger garden (1/8 acre) we can't compost all of it!

Every 2 weeks is the minimum frequency that would be of any use

Disappointed with this as Monmouthshire seems to be the most expensive county to live in and no doubt the council tax will be increasing also. I wouldn't be surprised if you start to price yourself out of the market and before i pay for next years service I will be exploring other options from local companies.

Disappointed with the almost 40% rise in cost for this service when council tax is so high already and we are unable to take the garden waste to the recycling centre ourselves.

SHOCKING PRICE INCREASE. I'm retired and don't drive, i take care of my garden and can't afford these increases. Just encouraging fly tipping, bonfires and people putting garden rubbish in their black general waste bags. Why is garden waste collected in NEWPORT FREE. Perhaps a reduced price for pensioners??? Stop wasting money on council members.Go back to garden waste bags which are cheaper than bins. Very upset garden waste resident.

My real concern is that if you are going to stop the service getting a slot is not the easiest at the recycling centre. Will there be more slots available for just green waste, if not this will inevitably lead to illegal dumping. It is also a bit premature to ask now when we have no idea of how much extra you'll be asking in council tax. My pension will only stretch so far and at £50 you've almost doubled the charge.

If reducing the frequency of the service, it would be incredibly helpful to have a regular email reminder for when the bins are to be collected.

Maybe an additional option to consider could be shaving a service off the start and the end of the year - keeping the frequency of collections steadier in the summer months when people are gardening

I am 81 years old and it would be impossible for me to take it to recycling centre. If a small reduction could be made for senior citizens it would be much appreciated.

I'm happy to pay the increased cost as in summer it helps me get rid of enormous amounts of garden waste

Thankyou

The increase from £28 per month to £50 cannot be justified - even in the current challenging times. I will either use an Independent contractor or take my waste to the tip myself

The fortnightly option is likely the only option I'd actually use. 6 per year seems pretty pointless - not worth having to have a large bin taking up garden-space. 10 per year is becoming useful, but at nearly the same price as 20 collections, it's very expensive. So 20 it has to be.

I guess a lot of people will balk at the price - but at £2-50 per collection, it's still not much money compared to the full cost of driving to a municipal tip... certainly a lot less time-consuming/ more convenient - and I imagine a lot more ecologically friendly than having lots of cars driving to the tips from all directions (that will tie up your staff too!). These sorts of benefits will need to be marketed pretty well, I guess!

Now that the tip is less accessible than it used to be this service has proven very very useful in reducing the journeys I make: I'm happy to pay a little extra for it and 50 pounds for 6-9 months of service seems fair.

I do not believe any of these options will save money - the majority of residents have gardening waste to dispose of, many have already taken to using the black bag system to get rid of their garden waste since the demise of the green bag system, I suspect many more (most) will now rely on the free black bag system to get rid of garden waste, increasing the amount for landfill!!!!

Very impressed with the current garden waste collection service.

Whilst not Statutory waste, it is a vital service. The alternative would be for more visits to the recycling centres in the county and thus increased costs at these centres. Has this been considered in the cost equation?

Daylight robbery!!!

Would not use if they became 4weekly or more as have too much waste and would just use the tip
If you could just attend the council recycling tip when you wanted without having to prebook days in advance I would prefer to dispose of my own garden waste. I do not understand the need for prebooking?

My ideal solution would be the restoration of the garden waste skip (and the other recycling and waste skips) in Usk.

At 79 I would find it difficult without the collection service so happy to pay more while reducing the frequency of collection.

If you reduce the frequency of collections to four weekly I will need twice as many green bins, and you offer very little reduction, so it will cost me almost double. And it will take much longer for the people emptying the green bins if other residents also take more bins, and where will we put them all? Either in our gardens or when we put them out for emptying. They will become a hazard for road users.

I don't understand why the 4 options listed above are the only options being considered. This does not represent a "choice."

If the council stopped wasting so much money all the time on altering road layouts and then putting them back twice, it wouldn't be in such a financial mess. This huge increase is not at all acceptable especially for those like us who hardly have any garden waste. Expect even more fly tipping from people now

How on earth would expect pensioners to pay this utterly mad
It's going to get expensive but it's a service I require as cant get to the tip regularly
There is already a considerable amount of garden waste dumped in the woodland at the rear of our property so I feel that these prices will certainly not encourage those responsible to change their habits. All these options are very expensive for pensioners like ourselves to afford but gardening is a very popular hobby in our age group

It is shocking that we have to pay for this service in the first place. Other authorities provide the service for free. We pay such high council tax for very little return in Usk. This is a pay per use service, yet our council tax pays for services we don't use within the community. Whilst I wouldn't dream of suggesting other services are reduced, why is it considered acceptable to charge people with gardens an additional charge when everyone contributes to other services even if they don't use them; why should it be different for waste collection? Without the recycling facility in Usk it is impossible to remove garden waste now. I compost as much as I can but rely on the garden waste collection. I appreciate in these austere times that difficult decisions need to be made but there is already a high incidence of fly tipping, with further reductions in waste collection services, or increased costs, this problem is likely to increase. I'm assuming there is then a cost to the council to either clear illegal waste dumping or pursue offenders. It seems short sighted.

The reduced frequency options are not attractive as they would create a garden waste issue that could only be resolved by driving the waste to Llanfoist Waste Centre. As you can now only visit Llanfoist twice a month this will create a capacity issue with any other waste/recycling.

I see far too much fly-tipping as I cycle around the local area; it is clearly self defeating to make waste/recycling more difficult for residents.

This is an essential service for those with an active garden

Any reduction in current collections of every fortnight means bins will get much fuller so may require the purchase of a 2nd bin and also lead to more likelihood of increasing unpleasant smells from garden waste especially in hot weather

I am willing to pay £50 a year but I would like the collection's to carry on through December, there are still lots of leaves to fall and I feel that if they are not cleared up they get very slippery on roads and pavements

Would like the garden bin still to be collected as over 70 years of age it would be difficult to keep going to the waste stations.

The other options are of little use to the average gardener and would almost certainly mean storing more bins at considerably more cost. More bins storage will potentially add to the already unsightly mess of bins outside many properties. I'm fortunate in being able to store mygreen bin out of sight. I am 88-years old & I only drive my car within Chepstow.

Please keep this valuable service.

Thank you!

Peter Jordan

I'm disgusted by this. I have always believed that my council tax covered this service, now you want £50 per collection!

I know that you will soon be charging for all waste/recycling disposal.

Do you not realise that this will increase fly tipping and fires?

The cost is a significant increase but a vital service. However it seems to be common knowledge that many people have not paid for the service this year even though they have put out the green wheelie bin. More efficiency's are needed in the systems used!

This should be reduced for pensioners. Also although I have ticked keep the existing service, I have done so as I need to use this service but believe the cost to be a good £10 a month to much. I feel the prices quoted above are excessive with the rise in council tax and the cost of living crisis, I feel the council could do more to support its residents.

It is a good deal of money for some of us to find, but only works out at £2.50 a collection. As I do not have a car and a large garden and hedges it is a lifesaver and not something I could easily do without.

It's not practical to compost the volume of garden waste produced, and unless this service continues in some form or other, we are going to see more waste being dumped in the locality. We cannot store garden waste for 3 or 4 weeks, and a 20 mile return journey to the nearest recycling centre is not an option on a regular basis.

Reducing the frequency of collection is going to be a problem where grass cuttings are involved, as they already ferment in the fortnightly bins and produce liquid in the bottom of the bin.

Not really agreeable to any of above options, however:

I would be happy with a lesser collection, instead of March to November (9 months) how about April to September (6 months)

APRIL - SEPTEMBER EVERY THREE WEEKS 8 COLLECTIONS FOR £38.00. (6 months)

Totally understand the predicament you guys are in - please keep going!

We get very little for our rates as it is. If it is decided to finish the service, will we get more slots at Llanfoist waste centre and who would collect the wheelie bins and give us a rebate.

Keeping the service at fortnightly collections is vital as we have nowhere to store grass cuttings, tree branches etc. It is already a struggle at fortnightly during the summer!!

Frequency of less than fortnightly seems pointless and would lead to the need for multiple bins at each collection point.

Whilst we are happy to pay this increased cost have you considered the extra costs you are likely to incur from illegal tipping.

We use this service as it's convenient to dispose of the grass cuttings and flowers/foilage so we would not like to see it disappear

Thanks

None of the options is ideal. The minimal price difference between 20 and 10 collections does not reflect the halving of the number of deliveries. My preferred option would be every four weeks but at a pro rata cost.

£50 IS MY ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM I WOULD PAY AS LONG AS ITS STOPS AT THAT PRICE. IF YOU RAISE IT TOO MUCH IT WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FLY TIP.

I am on a pension,so my income is limited .I feel £50 is rather excessive.

I hope that a more favourable option can be offered

This is a good service i want to keep

No a very satisfactory situation. I know that times are difficult, but you will be increasing the Poll Tax by 5% very shortly. This situation will increase Fly Tipping, which will be incredibly costly to clear up.

☹️

None of the above. You have got to be kidding !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This service was free where I used to live. You are not promoting recycling with these exorbitant charges.

With all the other prices rises coming next year is it really fair to almost double the price of garden waste collections? I can understand a small price increase but an almost 50% rise is ridiculous. If the decision is taken to reduce the frequency of collections to four or six weekly I am unlikely to continue to use the service since it wouldn't be much of a practical help for us. I would switch (reluctantly) to taking garden waste bags to the recycling centre. Residents should receive a rebate for every missed collection.

If you stop this service the frequency of dumping and accumulation of waste will rapidly increase. It's a good service as it is but to have less collections would need more bins! I would really like to have collections in the winter when I do most of my tree pruning (even if this meant being less frequent in the summer)

The alternative for us would be to take our green waste to Mitchel Troy. We estimate that this might cost us something like £50 per annum to cover the costs of running our car. This does not take account of the cost to the environment of driving to Mitchel Troy. So, taking all factors into account, we would prefer to continue with the same level of service even at the proposed increase in cost. This provides the most environmentally sensitive solution for us
Not providing a good service would obviously cause fly tipping
Would it be possible to provide one mid-month collection in February? Or start the fortnightly service in February?
Keen gardeners are already starting work in January - especially if the weather is mild.

It's a great service and we had several years of free collections before the charges came in. So difficult to continue to provide a great service without putting up the charges.

I only have a small amount of waste as small garden an only have a bag as no where to store your huge bin . I can't you consider a smaller tariff for lower usage. Just to also say alot of pensioners who nolonger drive have no other way of disposal of garden waste so this service is essential. Finally why do we even have to pay for this service as many other local authorities pay nothing for this service and have lower council tax bills. I don't use many services I pay for as part of my council tax but waste is one I do. Thank you
The proposed 79% increase is not in any way reasonable or fair especially given current pressures on home finances. Lower frequency of collection is not useful to me as I would have to take two bins and that would cost even more. I would continue to take the (20 collection) service for a more reasonable increase.

Taking garden waste by car to the local centre is NOT a good option. A car will be needed, that will add to the very crowded traffic in Monmouth. Visits to the skip will need to be booked in advance. All that will add to the duties of the council to provide a service if the collections are ceased, or indeed reduced. The service as at present once a fortnight, allows for garden waste to be cleared effectively. Ceasing it, or putting it to 4 or 6 weekly would make it INEFFECTIVE - I would NOT subscribe to something that collects once a month or once in 6 weeks - so the Council would lose a lot of income which would make the whole scheme NOT VIABLE. I expect that reducing or ceasing the service will lead to unwanted (and illegal?) bonfires, and/or increased dumping of garden waste on farmland, which will bring the farmers on to the Council, rightly complaining.

Very large increase. Is there no compromise?
I have a large garden and fortnightly collection is essential.

The cost of our council tax is already extortionate, why do we have to pay for garden waste disposal when Newport residents do not.

This has been a bargain. It's hard for everyone at the moment but it works out at a reasonable cost. Maybe you could offer paying in installments?

This is disgusting when I know you'll put the council tax up !

I am disabled and elderly and cannot take my garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

A garden waste collection service should be provided, in part as an attempt to minimize fly-tipping.

Ouch! :(

Would like it all year round

It's a brilliant service.

None of these options are good and I can't believe you cannot find any better ones in terms of value for money. This is a huge amount of money for a minimal service for people already paying high council tax rates. I would have no choice but to use it as I have a huge amount of leaves fall into my garden from an enormous tree in the lane to the rear of my house which would have been planted by the council in the first place. This means that I need at least fortnightly collections in the autumn months and could do with an additional one in December too. I don't see why I should have to pay £50 for this when the tree is not on private land and was clearly planted, along with the other matching 2 in the back lane, by the council when the council houses were built. The lower priced options are even worse value as they are not much less for a vastly reduced service. Even the 6 weekly option costs more than this year for 33% of the service! Even the current inflation rate does not explain this level of increase in cost!

I accept that the cost of everything is increasing, however paying almost double for a two weekly service I believe is extortionate. Extending to 4 or 6 weekly collections is too long a period between collections and having to keep track then of collection dates may be difficult for some. I feel people will return to taking their green waste to the local tip or even maybe fly tipping!!!

The service as it is works well and I think most people would accept paying up to £40 a year to keep the 2 weekly service

Understand this is difficult but this is a substantial increase for my currently one bin per fortnight which is my need - been to Five lanes probably three times in the year with vegetation. If I had 2 bins I would require it less frequently but it would cost me even more.

For me personally keeping to fortnightly collection is the only option

Even though this is a large increase it will cost me more in time and fuel to take garden waste to Llanfoist recycling

Any fewer collections than fortnightly would mean alot of garden waste would be collected we already have 3 bins and they are often all full in the summer .(grass cutting season)if collections went to every 4 weeks we would need at least 5 or 6 bins.

Please keep fortnightly service.

Your reference to the cost and frequency of 'per bin per year' is very misleading as the service only runs from March to the end of November. Unfortunately, my trees have not been trained to shed all their leaves by the time the service ends in any calendar year.

None of the options is particularly good for gardeners!!!!

We are really disappointed by the options put forwards. An increase to £50 per bin per year is almost double the current cost for a fortnightly collection which is needed in the summer when cutting lawns and hedges, surely there is another option to meet in the middle instead of such a significant jump? e.g. £35-40 for fortnightly collection. We pay one of the highest Council Taxes in the area and deserve to have affordable services available as other areas in the country can have access to green waste collections for free. The Usk tip was closed which would have helped significantly with green waste disposal - we now have to do a 35 mile round trip just to take grass cuttings from the lawn to the tip which is totally unacceptable. Monmouthshire County Council needs to re-think the options made available to residents.

Less frequent collections would make it very difficult for us to manage the garden and would mean making trips to the recycling centre to dispose of the waste

The service is a must for us our neighbours and the Rural community. It stops/reduces fly tipping. It is economical for all the above reasons as well as being environmentally friendly. I would have to make 2 to 4 trips to empty the same amount of waste using unnecessary amounts of petrol. If the service was stopped then more bonfires would result causing an environmental problem. No this service must be retained for all especially us pensioners. A side issue is that whittingly or otherwise your staff check and see/ make sure we are all ok. Please retain this service. I'm happy to pay for this service I understand that the cost of everything is rising.

The service should be from April to the end of December. There is much more waste from the garden in December compared with March. Really this price should be for the whole year.

Collections less frequently than currently (2 weekly) would be no good to me. I would need extra bins so would spend more. And it is hard enough dragging one bin to the collection point. I may decide that I can't afford £50 though and find another way to dispose of garden waste that is unsuitable for home composting.

It's an excellent service and I don't mind paying the extra money but keep it at two week collection please

I strongly disagree with any suggestion that the collection times should be anything less than fortnightly because that would only add to the existing problem of fly tipping, which is already getting out of hand in some areas, and encourage the disgusting habit of bonfires which in my opinion is an anti social, environmental health hazard!!

With the cost of living increasing monthly, this certainly will put more pressure on households. What a shambles this council has become all your charges going up and services deteriorating. As an individual householder not sure any more what I'm actually getting from the council that seems to benefit me.

All I see are more and more houses being built and no infrastructure to support. Why don't you not inform the residents what your detailed plans are going forward to elevate these measures and improve the council overall efficiency.

Fortnightly collections are necessary (3 weekly MAX). An increase in cost would be acceptable but £50 is too much. Don't forget increases of this magnitude would greatly increase traffic at the recycling centre (Tip)

I value the service and wish it to continue. I shall pay the additional cost for our 2 bins.

Doubling the cost of the service seems unreasonable especially in a cost of living crisis. I would expect a price increase of around £35 maximum for a 2 weekly collection. Reducing collections with only one bin does not make gardening possible even for a small lawn in the summer months and would cause many bins to be over weighted causing issues with the bin vehicles and residents.

I would consider £50 but only for all year round fortnightly collection (26 a year)-

Maybe an idea to ask neighbours to share costs.

I would happily share a bin for £50 for fortnightly collection with my neighbour.

None of the suggested times/ prices are acceptable

I would find it very difficult if the service was reduced in any way.

I would be prepared to double the cost for a weekly service

Good reliable service but agree tough decisions to be made due to economic climate.

Value this service as a means of getting rid of weeds I don't want in my compost. Pricing structure makes fortnightly collections better value for money, and I do fill up the bin most times so would want the service to continue.

I think that making it easier to access the recycling centre in Monmouth would be helpful.

Some of the restrictions introduced during covid could be relaxed. Introducing an annual charge to use the facility might be a way forward. Perhaps the set up costs for a voucher or similar scheme might be prohibitive. You have to be mindful that if too much increase in charges occurs ,fly tipping could increase and then your left with the costs of clearing that up.

Happy to pay the extra to retain the service as in 2022 which suits our requirements

We would really struggle in the autumn with less frequent collections. We currently have 3 bins and are already struggling and would ideally need an extra 2 collections this year alone with all the leaves that have fallen.

Your waste sites are an absolute shambles in terms of structure, organisation, functionality and customer focus, in particular at Monmouth.

In particular, the modus operandi of “make it up as you go along or as your mood proceeds” Hence, please keep the garden collection service. ☹

I'm would be easier to dispose of our own garden at the recycling sites if you went back to precovid operation ie no requirement to book a slot & you could make more than 1 visit a day. You might want to retain bookings for weekends but every time I've gone to the recycling centre (midweek) there has only my car and a maximum of one other. I also think this would help to reduce fly tipping

It's a fabulous service and I would miss the fortnightly collection. Please continue with this and I'm more than happy to pay the extra.

That's very expensive and I may consider not using the service.

Is there not an option for locals to donate their composite material to a local allotment centres? Can you not composite and sell to people who need composite? What about working with local garden centres, supermarkets and community hubs to sell or give it away?

Torfaen gets this for free!

The cost of this service is now ridiculous. £50 for 20 collections but £42.50 for 10 collections. Who did the maths?

This should be a free service!!

It's a great service, I hope the council will be able to continue to provide it. I completely understand the need for the increase in price and would be happy to pay £50 for a collection every 4 weeks.

Whichever option is decided on, the waste collection point in Mitcheltroy needs to be reopened to the public without needing to book an appointment, since the pandemic - which required social distancing - is long past.

Use of the service seems to be very high and failure to make it economic at the present cost is surprising.

Clearly, fuel costs are a factor but when we return to normality there should be some opportunity to reduce the cost from £50 p.a.

Very expensive. I would revert to using 5 Lanes to take my garden waste.

Less and less services but an increase in council tax?!?

Living in a rural area the collection is the most viable option

Very disappointed that the cost of the service will be rising so much. However as a pensioner, aged 75 years, it would not be convenient for me to make regular trips to the recycling centre to dispose of my garden waste especially as I would need to book a day and time slot. I cannot, like in the past, decide on the day to make the trip.

Very few people in my road have a bin but cut their grass. Green waste is put in their black bags. How about penalising these? It doesn't seem fair

I would rather swap to home composting than pay this much for the service options

Personally, I don't need collection so frequent, but when the big work is done, one bin isn't enough and waiting time of 4 weeks is too long...

Keep garden waste collections as frequent as possible. It will reduce fly tipping and reduce pressures on the local waste centres.

If this service stops some people will compost their garden waste but I fear some will try to burn it with the associated nuisance and air pollution.

Scaling of bins to properties was better under the brown bag scheme. Unless we share with neighbours, smaller properties who don't need the large wheelie bins pay disproportionately more than larger properties.

My rear garden has a large lawn and fortnightly collections are vital.

Excellent service, far better than the bags.

I do think that there should be provision for collecting Christmas trees after Christmas, possibly just as a one-off recycling opportunity

Cuffert collection suits my needs as I would be unable to take waste to household waste depot due to my age (80)

The period needs to be extended by 4 weeks. The seasons are shifting. This addition of two further collections, 1 at the start and 2 at the end would be useful. And can be used as a further justification of the price rise.

Six weeks is fine for me

Whilst I find it unacceptable that the charge will near double even with the circumstances as they are I have a large garden and no choice other than opt for collections every two weeks as it is now. The logic behind less frequent collections makes no sense as the charges are not balanced against it as they become even more expensive per bin per collection.

20 = £50

10 = £42.50 (Saving £7.50 !)

We are all having to make choices with the current high prices due to the cost of living and I find reading about MCC's failed investments in property quite unacceptable with the funds being procured from local council taxes for one. To then have to come to us nearly doubling the charge really sums things up.

If the bins are chipped why can you not provide a two weekly service and attach a cost per collection, scan the bin charge the customer that is more logical to me and fairer all around. ☹

I have 3 bins. If the frequency was reduced, I would have to make many trips to tip using the old green and brown bags at certain times of the year.

I was a little confused by the way you put Option 2 & 3 - I assume the second option is a once-a-month collection, and the third option is a collection once every six weeks? In any event, I'd be happy to continue the current once-a-fortnight service and pay £50 a bin per year.

This is a valuable service that myself and my garden would struggle without! I have hedging between myself and neighbours to maintain and no space to compost it myself!!

Very expensive

Please consider pensioners who are not able to take garden waste to tip.

This is a fantastic green service and vital to avoid unnecessary garden waste burning. I have too much green waste in my garden to compost any more and have just bought a shredder to reduce volume.

Trips to 5 lanes are not environmentally friendly and ruin the car. Please keep as frequent as possible.

Thanks

No comment

Happy with the service as it is and accept the need to increase the price.

I recognise the cost pressures on the council - would prefer less frequent collection if necessary rather than none at all.

I think this leaves the area open to more fly tipping as the cost of individual collections is raised from £1.40 to potentially £5.83! I understand the point about funding, but surely it's more expensive to clear up illegally dumped rubbish than to subsidise the collections?

If you price this service too high then fly tipping will proliferate.

extremely useful service.

This MUST be last cost increase in a service that is provided free by other councils

6 collections a year is enough for a small garden as the bins are large.

I need collection at least fortnightly to warrant paying for service as always have a lot of garden waste Got to do what you got to do. Even for £50 pounds I still think it's good value.

I fail to understand the fortnightly price of £50. Then a reduction of £7.50 if the collection period is increased to monthly. As the vehicles will be used less and therefore use less fuel a saving can be made. What will your staff be doing if it's decided, say to increase collections to monthly? They will no doubt be used for other duties possibly not connected to waste disposal. I understand that budgets are tight but I fail to see the benefit of pricing residents out of this scheme where invariably more car journeys will then have to be made to the waste collection points.

I would suggest an inflationary increase of the current amount of £28 would be acceptable.

This service is becoming unaffordable, not sure if I would renew at £50. Could the collection period be extended at the new rate ?

Fully satisfied with this service - and would be willing to pay more for it to continue

I think it is disgusting, We pay annual £2,700 Council Tax for a already bad service. (Inc, £415 for the police which are invisible with sorting out the crime in our area) We are old age pensioners and are struggling already what with paying the increase of Gas/Electricity bills. The garden waste collections costing at the moment are £28 per year (9 months !!) and you want to charge us £50 a £22 increase !! We just as well burn the garden waste.

Regards

Lyndon Needs

Would a subsidised compost bin help with the reduction of service and avoid people fly tipping
Already pay more than enough council tax. Should be included in that fee

I would prefer collections to continue for a couple more weeks, our last collection was 23rd November and in the next few weeks we will have a huge amount of dead leaves which are yet to fall from the oak trees that surround the properties in the area. We will now need to book additional slots at Mitchell Troy.

It is already an expense and incomplete service. If you raise costs higher people will simply dispose green waste as black bag waste.

I probably would not have got rid of my home composting system completely this year if I had been informed earlier of the price rise.

We 100 100 still would use it

Although we are not happy about this significant increase: we did not opt for a wheelie bin and presumably, this is more expensive than the old bags that we were using, we would still need to use the service; the alternative being to take our garden waste to Five Lanes once a fortnight.

Perhaps the council should have stayed with the garden bag service. This seemed to work well enough!

I understand the need to save the Authority money.

I would prefer to pay for a more regular service. In the middle of the year chopping back items in the garden requires more than a once every 4 week collection. Whilst some have the option to drive to the tip, others like my elderly neighbour would not be able to do that. I would also be concerned that reducing the frequency will result in more dumping of garden waste in non approved places (the end of Piercefield Avenue is a good example

I thought it was expensive when you did the bags, then you changed it to bins and I thought it was great value for. Money.. I just can't justify paying all that for garden waste to be taken away, along with what the increase in council tax will be, especially when other local. Councils don't charge at all.... families are struggling enough as it is. So I won't be renewing it. I expect there will be more fires and fly tipping as people just won't pay that!!

This is so difficult. £100 seems far too much for two bins and I'm sure a lot of households will opt out of the service and therefore the service will no longer be viable. I fill both of my bins each fortnight as well as four compost bins so will have to opt for fortnightly collection but not happy.

Given the volume of garden waste produced from the garden, it would not be practical to reduce the frequency of collections. Just wondering whether there is scope to change from a fixed frequency, to one that varies during the year e.g. more frequent in autumn as leaves fall.

A shambles, less immigrants taking up our services and having free handouts hence they keep coming over yet you charge us more, yeah right

I have elderly neighbours who would not be able to access the local recycling centre to get rid of garden waste so I make my bin available to them. Also with the reduced recycling facilities and only being able to book x 2 slots a month I find this a useful service.

I currently have 2 bins, at £50 I would only purchase use of one next year.

I resent paying for this service when the collections are often missed, or the staff collecting the bin refuse to take it for unspecified reasons. If the price is going to almost double, the collections would need to be timely and it would be sensible to have either a sticker with a checkbox list for staff to tick or different stickers for the different reasons for not collecting bins.

An even better idea would be to set up a community composting initiative where people could take their garden waste, and then have access to the compost produced. This would be welcomed in Rogiet with the allotments, The Wildlife Friendly Village group and the new proposed community allotment.

It's a good service and has always been very reasonably priced. I don't mind if the frequency goes to once every 4 weeks, I chose the first option to show that I don't mind paying more for the service, I'd very much like it to keep going. Thank you.

Two weekly is required but £50 is crazy. Will just lead to everyone dumping everything everywhere and cost the council more in the long run!

If the recycling centre in Abergavenny stopped the requirement for a permit prior to using the facility i.e. allow people to enter as and when they need to that would give people who can travel there another option at their own cost and not be a burden on council finances.

Even with current levels of inflation, it's difficult to justify such large increases in costs. I know of local authorities where garden waste is currently collected at no extra charge, i.e. within the standard council charges. Disposal is also made more difficult with the requirement to pre-book at the recycling centre.

Instead of wheelie bins, why not provide (for a nominal fee) home compost bins for garden waste and potentially, food waste? This would reduce the number of collections and help the environment greatly.

I think this is a very essential, reliable and worthwhile service but by doubling the charge per bin I strongly believe that this will encourage many instances of fly-tipping. This has already been seen in and around Catbrook and neighbouring villages. This is unsightly and can cause a hazard, and ultimately the council would be legally obliged to collect and dispose of said waste, incurring expensive charges. The doubling of the charge per bin for the next year is astronomical, following on from a doubling this year. Therefore I do not agree with the multi-choice options above, and strongly consider the charges should remain as is. Thank you for reading my comments.

What a scam!

While the increase on this scale is unwelcome, a fortnightly collection is the only viable option. Longer intervals would lead to too much waste accumulation. I already compost most soft waste like grass cutting, but woody waste from pruning and hedge trimming go for collection. The cost of taking these to Abergavenny is more than £50 over a year - and I'm getting older. If the Usk recycling centre was reopened I would go there. My only alternative suggestion would be for MCC to open some mini green waste dumps around the county.

Keep up the good work on waste.

I have a home compost bin and due to a change of circumstances, I don't anticipate needing a council collection in future.

It's a very good service . I wish it were weekly but , if it can't be weekly , I'll need to order an extra bin or two next year .

If the collections ceased would I be able to take garden waste to my nearest waste disposal site? Newport city council do not charge for collecting garden waste and as your council tax is higher than theirs I do not see why we should have to pay for collection
At the height of the growing season, even fortnightly collections can't always keep up, so I'd be keen to see the frequency remain high.

Make some efficiencies elsewhere too (I suspect some of consulting fees and costs that you rack up could be revisited if you wanted to).

Also, why isn't there an option to close the loop with the garden waste. For instance, what do you do with all the composting that takes place? Why can't residents buy back per sack of mulched/composted green waste? I don't know what you do with all this waste, but you could be making money back to cover the outlying costs very easily. Look at some of the European models that currently exist. There doesn't appear to be much interest by Mon council to think creatively with these issues and you should test out some new ideas. What about community composting too? Given how open and vast some local areas of Monmouthshire are, surely there could be more local green waste hubs for those in the villages or bigger towns to benefit from reusing green waste and allowing the council to cut overheads, including the lorries you use and sheer number of drivers. Again, look to other European models. In France, you have no more than 2 guys attached to a collection truck (much more rural settings than Monmouthshire too). Here, can have 4 or 5 people just collecting waste on a round.... Just some ideas here for you.

Please can you explain the plan to manage the inevitable increase in fly tipping that will result from this cost increase.

It's not really value for money at £50 a bin. $£35 + £7 = £42$. Inflation at 10 %, this would give £46.20, not sure why it would be £50?

Stop the booking in system at recycle centre. It was only brought in at start of Covid pandemic. Now that Covid is under control you should revert to drop in recycle centres. I only started using garden waste collection because I couldn't visit recycle centre every time I cut grass
Fly tipping will increase with whatever you do.

Better publicity of the availability of home composting bins, what is available and how much do they cost and in addition widely advertise when the re-use shops are open.
Please keep this service running, it is well used in this area.

I only put my bin out twice this year so 50 pound is far too much for me just for 2 collection's
Not ideal but understandable given chronic year on year underfunding and high inflationary pressure

It is difficult enough keeping track of fortnightly collections. The other alternatives are not viable
More than two weekly collection would mean I would need to get another bin so I would prefer to pay more and have the two weekly collection.

Really valuable service, especially at the height of Summer and when the leaves drop!

Up to know it's been an excellent service Thankyou but please consider how much council tax we currently pay. It's extortionate

Garden waste collection used to be free included in the council tax.

Rediculous to charge extra.

I am a pensioner. How do you expect me to pay for this on top of council tax.

This service should be free for pensioners.

£50 is a big rise

Moving to less frequency than 2 weeks would be pointless. We already fill the current bin in 2 weeks so any change would result in us going to the local tip in any case. A fortnightly bin collection costing £50 would be 2 or 3 times the cost of taking garden waste to the local tip. Not something we can afford in these stringent times as pensioners with the prospect of large increases to the council tax and heating bills in any event.

We have a lot of garden waste and appreciate the service that we get

Higher costs for garden waste collection together with compulsory bookings to go to the tip with garden waste are likely to increase fly tipping. When increasing prices for garden waste collection please Stop compulsory bookings to go to the tip

We understand that costs need to be increased, however, the proposed increase is unaffordable for most families and will result in more fly tipping.

Why can we not revert back to the old system of taking green waste to the recycling site, without an appointment. This is extremely tedious, not everyone is in a position to access this by online application, particularly if you are working away from home full time.

Will the money that is saved by this exorbitant increase be earmarked for practical uses such as roadworks and potholes, and improve services?

Failure to collect garden waste will put additional strain on Recycling Centres and adversely affect those residents who are not mobile. Appreciate difficult decisions on finances, but MCC is a SERVICE provider and should remain so at all costs.

I rarely filled a whole bin with the size of my grass however when cutting back branches and so on it was good to have regular collections.

It's far too expensive

I think the cost is already excessive on top of the council tax.

Currently, I keep the pavements and roads clear around our property whenever possible, but at these prices I will need to concentrate just on the garden waste on our own property.

Please consider road vehicle usage in this service. My only alternative is a 20 mile round trip to the waste centre. Each journey creates traffic, and adds to CO2 emissions. Garden waste is very bulky. Typically 2-3 runtrups for one waste bin constant. So, 60 miles of car journey eliminated by one collection, per each household.

Don't increase the cost, we are already paying for a service that should be free.

Reopen waste recycling centres for anytime use without having to make an appointment

Feel I already pay Council tax so not sure why this should be extra

I think the service works well at the moment. If you cease to collect the bins people without transport to the recycling centres will have no way of disposing of garden waste. This will surely lead to another increase in fly-tipping, already massively more widespread due to the restrictions on using the recycling centres brought in during the pandemic. Waste collection is surely part of the service we pay for with our council taxes.

The first option, you are increasing the cost by nearly 100%, is the option I prefer.

However due to that increase I would cease my involvement.

The other options are to infrequent, for myself. Having a large lawn and hedge border.

I can see an increase of "fly tipping" of the waste, as you are only allowed 2 x monthly slots at the Waste Centre. And in summer months with gardening at its peak, and other household rubbish, this is inadequate.

This is an essential service and it would be wrong to discontinue it. If you do you run the risk of garden waste being dumped in public. Also not everyone can get to the recycling centre easily with garden waste. Yellow bags are always difficult to get hold of.

Please also include Christmas tree recycling in this service

I think it's a bit expensive but I need to get rid of my garden waste hedges etc like so many

I think you could look into reducing it for pensions as we have limited income

Thank you

Need fortnightly as garden waste is a lot with my garden size.

We rarely use our bin. Out of choice I would not subscribe to this service but have to as Monmouthshire make booking a tip slot so very difficult and because you have to book a slot, you can't get rid of garden waste as and when you create it. The price per collection is so much more costly for 6 collections as opposed to 20. Not sure what the reason for this would be

What are supposed to do with garden waste otherwise

If we all take it to the tip that causes more CO2 !!!

All options will increase illegal fly tipping.

This service is extremely helpful as not able to always carry the bags if going to a recycling centre

That is such a huge financial leap especially since council tax is bound to rise next April

I would have gone for 4 weekly if the cost was also half the amount, a difference of £7.50 for collecting it half as often is not acceptable.

That is a big hike. We already get garden waste dumped regularly on Tredilion Road and over the bridge into the Gavenny itself. I can only see that increasing with these plans. So more clean ups by MCC.

I think that it would be more appropriate to keep the current collection service as is, but maybe an increase of 10%, given that the cost of living crisis is hitting hard, also if your proposed plan is implemented you could increase fly tipping, as many more people will not be able to afford such a large increase of the cost. also perhaps it's time for the recycling centre to be opened up again without any need for an appointment..

The suggested increase is almost by 100%. This is totally ludicrous. I personally would like to see the calculations made to justify this increase as inflation hit 10.1% and not 100% which is the suggested increase. We already pay over £3300 per year on council tax for two of us to live in a 5 bed house. Just because it is a 5 bed house does not mean that we create/generate what a 5 bed house with 10 occupant's would generate. Crime in our area has increased. Rubbish dumped in our area has increased. Dog fouling in our area has increased. Vehicle noise caused by illegal exhausts and speeding in our area has increased. We only have one each recycling bag per week and one bag of general waste per fortnight. I am starting to wonder that our local authority are bordering incompetence on the management of funding. Perhaps it is time to submit some freedom of information requests and make comment on social media and to the press with my views and findings.

I need it please as I use it for my old animal straw and hay.

I am happy to contribute to have the as it is and pay the additional charges

I'm fortunate in being able to compost a lot of garden waste at home and drive to the llanfoist centre on the occasions I need to. So with the increased cost I would likely revert to these options. A shame as I like the service and seems a big waste of the green bin.

Why cannot the refuse collection centre at llanfoist not return to the old system whereby residents can turn up and deliver their own waste at opportune times . This I feel would greatly reduce the risk of fly tipping and the associated costs to the council and landowners who are not at fault as well as be better for the environment.

The staff at the centre could still supervise as now but maybe with a smile

We use are bin throughout the year, it's always full and sometimes c as my get it all in especially when we cut the lawn. Where will it go otherwise !!

If you do not collect the only option is burning off in a bonfire which is not good for the environment or neighbours

Taking one's garden waste to a disposal centre is impractical as there are so of them, and inconveniently located at the fringes of the council area.

why not collect frequently may-oct then reduce to 4 wkly oct ,nov

Would it be cheaper to go back to brown bags

We cannot do without this service and frequency

Thank you for consulting us

I would like to know what happens to the garden waste after it is collected, if it composted and if so is this available to buy.

It would be very difficult for many people to dispose of any garden waste at the recycling centres due to lack of suitable transport, difficulty in booking slots, centres being closed etc.

It would cause a problem if the service was ceased altogether

It's a very good service

Perhaps it would have been better NOT to have closed our local recycling/rubbish facility in Usk, then we would have used that for garden waste.

What are residents without access to cars expected to do with their garden waste if the kerbside bin service stops?

The increase to £50 per bin is massive, but we will reluctantly pay this as we need the service, and any less frequent than fortnightly just doesn't work especially during the main growing season.

Perhaps a more flexible approach with more collections in June, July and August and less in the other months as less gardening is done.

Ok for me at present

Like many old people, I find the bins when full too heavy to wheel up my drive. I rely on others to do it, as do some neighbours. I can't see any alternative as the old bags were bad for the operatives' backs. I think four-weekly would be far too infrequent except for people with small gardens.

Whilst we appreciate the difficulties that the current budgetary constraints provide, we cannot see how such an increase fits in with targets for recycling and environmental responsibility.

Monmouthshire is a rural community, people like us have large gardens and during the spring/summer months we easily fill 2 bins for each fortnightly collection and usually have surplus waiting to place in the emptied bins. Being responsible people, we take pride in looking after our garden which enhances the appearance and general appeal of the area. However less community minded types (and those already financially tested) will not travel to the tip and will either burn rubbish, which we are asked not to do, or will fly tip or simply avoid necessary garden maintenance. We have dutifully paid for garden waste collection since the inception of the scheme and through several increases in charge and yet had 5 missed collections since May of this year, but not been offered a reduction in costs. We get very little or no benefit from the council tax we pay and see this increase as a real insult, especially as the council saw fit to close Usk recycling centre. The increased use of vehicles to travel to the nearest tip at Five Lanes is hardly conducive to reducing the carbon footprint. The only viable option for us would be the huge increase of £100 for our 2 bins, which we would reluctantly choose, but we wish to place on record our great dissatisfaction with the extra financial imposition this places on families at this difficult time.

I appreciate that the cost of providing this service has increased and are grateful that this service is provided and are luckily in a financial position to pay for the increase but appreciate that not everyone is.

The bins in summer will become insufferable with stench if left any longer than two weeks with grass and plant cuttings. Our garden is too small to comfortably accommodate a composter for the very same reason.

It is so helpful. Maybe if you increased the frequency over the summer months as people always out in the garden de cluttering and cutting the grass and then reduce when it gets a bit colder? Could that be helpful

As the recycling centre in Usk has permanently closed a local garden waste collection service is considered to be essential.

Making the collection any less than every two weeks would not be attractive .. we have a large garden and generate a lot of garden waste .. we would be happy to pay the extra .. we certainly do not want to encourage people to burn their waste .. we would prefer to see garden bonfires banned. It would be good to keep the service to avoid multiple car trips to the recycling centres.

Collections are paramount as not only will various members of the public deposit their garden waste on the other side of the green on Croesonen Parc but will be unable to continually take it to the tip with the present appointment system.

We seem to have no choice but to pay more for a service that was included in our already very high council tax we have to pay. Seeing as you have also shut Usk recycling centre and cut the days that the others are open and the hours that they are open, what would we do with the garden waste. One other point who would want their garden waste to be hanging around for 4 or 6 weeks!! This leaves me no other option but to fork out £50.00 for the service I already have to pay for.

I fill a bin with one now as I have a large garden , I could not cope with a monthly collection This is an excellent service. I appreciate it very much. It offers value for money. Best regards from 10 Hillside.

I would probably settle for four weekly collections if that turns out to be the majority choice but I would not be interested in the six weekly collection service.

The collection guys do a great service and the bins are quite big anyway so keep up the good service. But in the end of the day I would rather have a collection service than no service at all.

Those are appalling options, we have a lot of elderly residents here who have no option to drive to the tip and money is already tight. Halving the cost for halving the service would be better but it is all already much more than we paid last year. Perhaps you need to start ousting the Tories to get some decent facilities for people

or keep it the same Fortnightly @ £23.00. You are only going to encourage fly tipping.

This is disgusting no way would we pay this

The option of taking our green-waste to the local waste centre has become too arduous and time consuming.

I have previously taken my waste in a small trailer to the waste site at Mitchel Troy, but this option has been removed. This action will only lead to more garden fires and fly-tipping which had reduced over recent times.

An idea could be to pay a yearly Bin fee of say £10 and utilise a booking system where each collection carries a small fee. Much like the tip booking system. Those that use a lot will pay more and those who have smaller gardens will pay less

Why is it more per collection for less frequent collections? Could you start collections later in the year to reduce costs further?

Do the prices quoted depend on a critical number of people purchasing the service ? £50 seems a lot of money but I don't think any of the other options are viable.

If garden waste collections are to stop then you need to improve availability to the council tips by removing the requirement to prebook. A system without booking worked perfectly well before covid and provides the flexibility to access the tip to dispose of garden waste without having to preplan a booking.

Already expensive and this on top of increases in council tax is almost unbelievable, us the general public are constantly being forced to pay more for less by local councils and central government, shame on you all, between you the UK is becoming a complete mess.

Too expensive rather use corner of garden.

Could you not do a pay as you go booking option on line as an alternative option for those who want a service but not as regularly.

Would it be possible/practical to have monthly collections at the start and end of the growing season, but maintain the fortnightly collections when they are most needed.

Hope the price increase does not need to go up again.

FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF, COLLECTIONS ARE USEFUL

Be very careful not to encourage fly tipping by pushing the price up every year!

Reluctant to change to 4 weekly in case I forget to put the bin out

Consider a reduced rate for pensioners

I don't think it's right that we need to pay £50 a year for Grass to be picked up when council tax is expensive enough. It's hard enough trying to keep the garden tidy when Mha planted plants with thorny branches that grown over the public path of I don't cut it back and put them In the grass bin. Current service is a good standard.

I live alone no other way to dispose of my garden rubbish

Cost of living increases would force me to take my green waste to the tip for only the cost of fuel in the car. Not good for the plant mind extra trips on the road . other council's have this service for free or a small fee so your increases will kill the service you offer for a lot of people that can't afford it and will only increase fly tipping that you will end up cleaning up and cost you more in the long run.

The bin collections have been sometimes on different days and hit and miss. We haven't managed to get purs emptied every time so reduced pick ups would not impact but clear information on the days and times of collections and notice of changes are more important if they are reduced.

With a large garden, I easily fill 3 bins a fortnight. To go 4 weekly would require me to increase the number of bins I have to about 6, which would be a significant increase in costs,

Too expensive for a part time service.

None

The service is far too expensive to justify it. People will just burn their garden waste for free, creating more pollution. I remember, not so long ago, paying £15 for the year, with weekly collections. All options far too expensive, not frequent enough collections.

£50 is far too much - I would be an increase but £50 is outrageous.

The service currently offered serves us very well.

Fortnightly is about right

It would cost me a lot more every month privately to remove the waste so would rather pay the amount stated above for the year.

The garden waste collection is, for us, a valuable service which I would be very unhappy to lose.

Therefore I am happy to pay more for the fortnightly collection. We save money by only having one bin like our neighbours, and we share the bins between us which usually works well. For example, if one neighbour has been cutting, mowing, etc. a lot of things in their garden and has filled their bin, and we have spare capacity in our bin, then they top-up our bin and, if needed, top-up the other neighbours' bins if they have space. Obviously sometimes we have an overflow which we put in our old garden waste bags and decant them into the waste bins when they are empty. Perhaps a message to users to try sharing instead of giving up the service might be helpful.

the option of six times a year is farcical. In these difficult times, it would also be good to know that the service cost is not going to be hiked every year to subsidise other areas.

It used to be £12 per bag then that increased and new smaller bags provided. Neighbouring authorities provide this service as free of charge. I do not intend to use this service should it increase to £50.

Whilst everyone appreciates that there are budget constraints on the authority consideration should be given to household budgets especially for those that have two people that work in the public service sector and have seen below inflation pay rises since 2010 and suffered significant personal strain on budgets.

I will not be renewing for this massive increase

Too expensive and no tip locally to take garden waste to since usk tip closed! Very disappointed at the costs outlined!

Reducing the number of collections is not viable for people with gardens. I regularly fill 3 bins.

Doubling the price is also a joke. Appreciate times are tough but increasing the price by 46% is just taking it to far

Whilst you have attempted to justify the ridiculous increase, the jump for £28 to £50 for the same level of service is completely unreasonable. Even with the £35 full unsubsidised cost (as per your FAQ) no more than 10% (inflation) on top of this is reasonable - i.e. £38.50. ...so my question is who's pockets are being lined?

As a lady on her own I find the bins very cumbersome to move. Also they are so big it's finding a place to store and clean them.

Could there be a choice for residents like myself to be able to carry on using bags.

I await your response.

If Monmouth recycling centre was more organised & more accessible I would have chosen to stop collections

Seems an expensive service for a service where I never fully fill my bin. Also is this product being no being sold on after it has been processed or sorted in some way

Will broken wheely bins be replaced - free of charge?

Is it still possible to take garden waste to Llanfoist - free of charge ?

These increases are totally unacceptable for what we would get in return. Other local authorities i.e. Cardiff don't charge at all, plus they get free bins. So stop ripping us off!!!

Are there no other alternatives? For example in the summer months, June July, August, I think bi-weekly collections are required. But for April, May, September, October, November, every other week seems quite a lot. (Maybe 1 every 3?) It would be better to maybe evaluate the months their required in rather than a blanket approach April-November

My preference is to reduce the frequency of the collections to keep the fee as low as possible. I don't tend to utilise the current 2 weekly collection as the bin isn't always full. If the service remained at 2 weekly and increased to £50 I would cease to use the service as it would not be viable for me based on current usage.

Believe at £59 it's too expensive especially for retired people who might have no way of getting rid of garden waste.

Understandable, but not great as I expect the CT will go up as well. The frequency could be reduced March/April and Oct/Nov/December

It is a shame you have to put such a large increase in the cost. It is difficult to get the balance right between folk wanting to use your great service and you encouraging them to "Fly type"

It's terrible that the cost is increasing this much. It means more people will have to drive to a waste depot which causes far more harm to the environment via car fumes. Awful. Certainly considering the huge cost of Monmouthshire council tax. I love Monmouthshire. I do not love Monmouthshire council. ☹

I would like the garden waste collection to stay fortnightly. Being pensioners it is not easy for us to take the garden waste to the refuse disposal site.

I am hoping to move from above in the new year

Having large gardens less frequent collections would be of no use. If you allowed us to attend the recycling centre without booking then I would consider this option. Working full time difficult to remember to book appointments and always used to go to the centre when I did my garden so no waste hanging around

Good Luck

Prices above are a bit to steep this will lead to people dumping there waste and therefore increasing the work load to collect with no payment.

I would prefer stick with the fortnightly collection but not with such a high increase. £28.00 for this year £22.00 increase to £50.00. This is a 78.5% increase. Could understand if the increase was not as much. Everyone else is also facing the increases in prices in all aspects of life but this is way to much. Any collection less than fortnightly is not viable. There would not be enough room in the bin 4 weekly.

Also they would stink and be a health hazard to your collectors.

I would pay for 1 bin 2 weekly.

Clive Chappe

If any less than a fortnight collection, this service will be useless to me as I will end up down the Five Lanes tip every week. That must cost the council more, and that's a free service.

Heavily rely on this service, without it I'd have no where to put my garden waste

The options presented in this consultation are pretty poor - why does it cost only £7.50 less for half the number of collections? Also, you say there was no cost increase in 21/22 as if that was some kind of magnanimous gesture - given this is paid for annually in advance it would have been pretty difficult to retrospectively increase the price. The bigger issue you also don't address is the fact that this garden waste and the food waste are not put to sufficiently good use within the county.

The proposed price increase for the same fortnightly service (£28 to £50, a 79% increase) is far too high, especially in the current economic environment. Although not increased last year, this was already a significant increase on the cost of the old bagged service. This is likely to price a lot of people out of this service, and result in increased flytipping, which will result in additional costs to MCC to clear up. I think a more reasonable price increase would be in the region of 10%, or up to 25% maximum.

Garden waste is essential service for home owners as is refuse collection I consider an increase to £40 a fair charge for a 2 week service provision in consideration of the substantial increase in council tax revenue on household bills

I currently fill three wheelie bins every fortnight, without this I would have to take my car to Five Lanes every week. That is an impossible situation with a return journey of 10 miles, let alone the time I cannot afford. I would rather pay more for the existing service.

This is a valued and valuable service. Please maintain it

Works well thank you.

Living alone with large garden. Find this service essential.

What will happen to customers who are at the start of each cycle (ie in first week of a four- or six-week cycle)? That would make the last collection of the year in mid-late October - just before most people would need to clear their gardens for the year.

Why reduce this service when it's still much needed? I would not be happy having such a big garden if this service was reduced from every other week to every 4/6 weeks

I really value this service because I enjoy gardening but would be unable to take waste to the recycling hub because I don't have a suitable vehicle.

As a housebound 90 yr old householder with no close family I cannot get my garden waste to the dump so would have to opt for the 20 collections. Any reduced option for very old pensioners would be appreciated.

The seasons have noticeably changed and we are still mowing admittedly less often now and also the trees still have leaves. Is it possible to start the collection later in the year, say mid March or end of March and end later in December. We are 'week 1' collection and therefore end on the 22 November, moving to mid December would make a real difference. Thank you.

Whilst I appreciate that budgets are squeezed to the limits, this also applies to the majority of households. This may lead to more fly tipping which has extortionate costs for councils. Any loss in services needs consideration as to what the repercussions may be.

If the 4 weekly collection was cheaper (nearer the price of the 6 week on) then I would happily use that. At only £6.50 difference for half the collections, the 4 weekly option is poor value for money. Smaller annual collections offer poor value for money. 20 collections is a significant price rise on previous to what is already a hefty council tax bill.

It would be a waste of bins if you stopped the service now. You only just supplied them last year. Not very environmentally friendly. I would be happier to pay £60 a year for fortnightly collection
An opportunity to pay by instalments perhaps by Direct debit?

Almost doubling the price does seem rather a lot, and it may well be that i would no longer use it, but before that can be decided i would need further information on other price increases (council tax etc). I find this a very useful service and would be prepared to pay the increase in charges. However, some people may not be in a financial position to do this.

The current service is good and, although the bin is not filled to capacity for every collection, it is still useful to have a fortnightly service.

Absolute money grabbing disgrace. We pay the highest level of council tax in Monmouthshire and still you try and wring more out of us. People will end up dumping it in the woods like the rest of lower Bulwark do.

We fill our bins for every collection. Any reduction in frequency of collection would cause us problems. We would be happy to pay more to keep a fortnightly collection

Quite simply one collection per month is just not enough.

I am 83 years old and rely on your regular fortnightly collections. Please continue with them.

The price decrease for the lesser options do not warrant those as a viable choice.

Really welcome the garden waste service. Wouldn't be convenient to take waste to household recycling sites especially as need to book. Find the current service convenient and prepared to pay more to keep service going.

We really do require at least a fortnightly collection.

Why can't we keep to original price we are having to pay extra on other services we are in our seventies

This service is invaluable to older people who are unable to get to the tip
Summer months garden waste is consumed more. Once autumn commences garden waste is less.
Perhaps fortnightly through May to September with the remainder monthly. Not sure if this would be feasible

50 quid is a massive increase for the same level of service, but I suppose we will have to get used to price increases. Good job I'm getting an 80% pay rise to help pay for this potential 80% increase in cost. Oh wait, that's not going to happen...

It's just too much to pay.. a real steep in price....

The price is way too expensive. Sort it out!

I think the top option is a viable option and would be happy to use it.

I can usually fill one bin a fortnight but this year because of the warm wet weather I am still producing garden waste and hence I am filling the bin the contents of which will have to stay in the bin until collections start again in the next financial year. I am unable to drive so am totally dependent on this service

I loathe the ridiculous situation of having to book a tip slot and driving to a site where the bins are already full to bursting with those residents who are too meanfisted and unwilling to pay for an excellent service.

It makes no sense for the council as you still get as much green waste to process but the summer at recycling centre is one long stream of cars waiting to offload a couple of bags of grass.

Also what about those without cars, computers or the strength to pick up waste?

How green and inclusive is that?

Really appreciate the service. Thankyou!

It wouldn't be cost effective for the amount of times I put the bin out (about once a month). Please note I will expect you to pick up the bin as I don't want it (I say this because I've heard of people who still have their bins). I think it is a shame you are planning to make the service unaffordable, but at least I'm able to drive to 5 Lanes to take green waste.

I would be willing to pay more for the service if it was a monthly direct debit. Having to pay all up front in this current climate is difficult. £8 a month would equate to £80 a year and is a manageable monthly amount. Perhaps amend the survey to give a monthly payment as an option?

Extortionate !!!!

The council provides an invaluable service, It assists in the maintenance of the county's precious gardens. It reduces the likelihood of fly tipping. It is fair for gardeners to contribute to the costs at a time when other important services are threatened. The service has built up a reputation over time and it would be a mistake to discontinue it or to seriously reduce its effectiveness

If I choose not to proceed with any future green waste collections, what will happen with the bin that I have.

How much money will the Council be writing off, if bins are discarded, given that they were only provided a couple of years ago, not to mention presumably the lifting adaptations made to the refuse vehicles?

We really appreciate this service and the prices you show are still far below what it would cost us to take our garden waste to the local Council Recycling Centre.

Really hope we can keep this service but realise in the current financial climate MCC could not justify subsidising this. Thank you.

The service is not value for money as it is now.

Fly tipping will increase

some of the fortnightly collections did not take place. Even when reported it was not collected until the following fortnight.

If collections are changed to monthly then it is even more important that all the collections happen.

It is obviously more ECO friendly for the collections to be reduced to monthly but not if the waste is allowed to back up when collections are missed.

This is outrageous, at a time where there is a cost of living crisis and budgets are continually being squeezed Monmouthshire Council are consistently increasing costs for services yet the services and their quality are continually being reduced.

We have already had our recycling centres change from 1 day a week closure, to 2 days a week. I suspect that you'll also have the audacity to increase the Council Tax at the next and earliest opportunity.

Increasing these costs will just result in residents using black bag or food waste collections as a means to remove their garden waste or fly tipping, which is already an issue in areas.

Moreover, the sheer amount of money the council has wasted on refuse vehicles, which are unsuitable for the roads in Rogiet shows the sheer incompetence at those in charge of making these decisions. This is just one example of the waste of money and resources, the council has undertaken. I would probably reduce from 4 bins to 3 bins to reduce the cost.

Whilst I appreciate there would be an increase in price £50 per bin is extortionate, considering what I pay in Council Tax, but I have no option to pay. You do run the risk of encouraging increased fly tipping in hedges which could cause increased problems and cost for the Council.

I can understand it going up to £35 if you take away the subsidy of £7. Also, an increase in 10% for inflation would still only take it to £38.50. So why the further increase of £11.50 to £50 which is a further 33% increase?

A fewer number of collections would not be adequate for my requirements and at £50, twenty collections of a large wheelie bin is a fair price.

Garden waste disposal is an essential service and I would not be in a position to take this waste to the recycle centre myself, and nor would my elderly neighbours. Maintaining and caring for your garden is positive for your mental health and that includes the removal of garden waste.

This is an essential service. Without collections there would be fly tipping. Personally, I would have to cart waste to 5 Lanes which is extra car journeys and not best for the environment.

It's a good service for a very fair price...

Options offered are far too expensive

I find the service excellent as it is, so don't wish to change it.

To take garden waste to a refuse site we are required to book a "slot" at a fixed time. This is impractical for me as I cannot always find the time to navigate the web site to do this due to working commitments. I then find when I try to book later in the week the web site states there are no slots left? I could understand the booking system during Covid but why now? If we want this service then it needs to be paid for. Anything less than the current collection schedule would not be suitable for me. Anything other than a fortnightly collection would be insufficient for my needs. The cost is more than I think fair.

Service is needed fortnightly otherwise it would not be a practical service.

I see waste disposal (of any kind) as an essential service which county councils should carry out with the cost taken from taxation collected by each authority. I cannot see any justification for a charge. My choice is therefore to either drive to the local dump with a large green bin, which I have paid for every 2 weeks or paid the charge. Fortunately I can afford this extra cost, many may not be able to. I could go for fewer collections if I could opt in and out of weeks. As at certain times I don't always need one, but then I'd need lots in a row - I tend to have small periods of lots of garden waste rather than a regular amount, but would probably still need 15 with this system - also think you need to take into account the increase in fly tipping if you reduce too much or make too expensive - obviously not suggesting I would do this but know that there is a link to cost and fly tipping in standard waste removal

As a retired resident living alone the service is invaluable to myself, also for elderly residents who are not able bodied to lift and transport garden waste, and those without transport to take to the waste collection centre. I hope it will continue. Everything is increasing in price but some services are essential for some people and I hope you will continue fortnightly collections

Being a female over 70 with a disability I value having the kerbside service as I would be unable to lift bags of garden waste into my car and then to empty them at the re-cycling centre. I understand the financial dilemma facing the council but I definitely welcome the service and am prepared to pay for a kerbside collection.

I currently pay £5 a day and for this I have 1 small bag of landfill every 2 weeks and 2 bags of recycle about every 6 weeks. Stop wasting my money on employing idiots who come up with stupid woke traffic schemes that cost a fortune to implement and then a fortune to put back to where they were when they don't work.

I ticked 20x a year because it looks like good value compared to £42.50 for 10 collections. However, I would be happy with 10 collections, possibly a bit cheaper?

Although the increase is way above the rate of inflation, we would rather pay £2.50 per bin collection (20 collections p.a.), rather than £4.25 per bin collection (10 collections p.a.) or £5.83 per bin collection (6 collections p.a.).

Also, there is a significant risk of even more instances of fly-tipping occurring if this service is very significantly reduced or abolished altogether.

Please also bear in mind the environmental impact of a significant number of people having to take their garden waste to a recycling centre by car (and we in Llandegveth have to travel much further to a recycling centre since the Usk centre was closed).

If it goes beyond a fortnightly collection I would find that extremely difficult, as my bin is normally full to the top under the present collection frequency. So I propose to leave it as it is. Thank you.

I really value this service and use it frequently, so would appreciate it continuing as it is.
If the collection is stopped what do you see as happening to garden waste. Will there be an alternative place for residents to take their waste?
I feel that fly tipping will increase in our area.
Burning waste is not an option and environmentally unacceptable.

I am disgusted with this proposal because you took our recycling site away and increased travel to Llanfoist etc. harming the environment. this proposal will also increase fly tipping along the river bank etc. we are proud of Usk and work hard to keep it tidy. Taking away this service will not help us
Reducing the frequency will create confusion of collection days and during the summer months if you have a holiday it could mean garden waste rotting in the bins for several weeks. Probably making them more difficult for the operatives to empty.
yes fortnightly, but from june to end sept ie 8 collections say 38 pds per big per year

We are going to re-think how our garden works. Build more composting bins and try to compost much more than our 3 current compost bins and leaf store. My aim is to garden for nature, but it's difficult to know whether we can process all the waste, if indeed there is any, if I do it properly. I don't know what to do going forward if this doesn't work well.
Would be lost without it -
At these prices taking waste my self is preferable

I have kept the option as now: fortnightly. The reason being I don't have space to compost the amount of green waste I collect (although I have a bio pile in the garden made up of branches not able to be cut down for the green bin). The cost to drive to Five lanes recycling centre with the amount of green waste would be difficult and restrictive plus the queuing time if more people have to use it for green waste - although I use Five Lanes now and again for household items. £50 amounts to £2.50 per collection over 20 weeks and is, as far as i am concerned as senior citizen, very good value. Although with just a difference of £7.50 between the 10 week (£50) and 20 week (£42.50) collection, it points to the 20 week collection being the better value by far. If the service was reduced to six weekly (6 collections) I would probably buy two bins! Some people in these days, very understandable, may not be able to afford the initial payment of £50 but if the 20 week collection is seen as £2.50 weekly and advertised as such, plus with a reliable and excellent service, that may help with decisions. I always speak highly of Monmouthshire's waste collection, as it is so efficient but I understand the cost implications for the Council and service users.

We hear the same thing year in and year out. We need to cover our costs. How do you justify a doubling of the cost year on year. By increasing this cost fewer people will use the service causing a cost spiral. I'm sorry this is a rip off. Prove your costs????

I don't mind paying but my bin wasn't emptied a few times even after complaining
Not exactly inflation based if you nearly double the cost. I hope pensioners will receive a discount on this price.
£2.50 per collection doesn't seem to bad. Six pounds per collection is mental.

I regularly fill mine to the brim at least 6 times a year and a number of half fulls in addition. My garden isn't even that big.

I thought that prices last year were £27 per bin. If so this represents an enormous increase. Current collection ends about two weeks before all the leaves fall which is a shame.

Why do you still have to make an appointment to use the tip? It is unnecessary. All covid restrictions are now gone. It may have led to an increase in fly tipping. Other councils have returned to an open policy.

The proposed additional cost is considerable and in addition to the likely increase in Council tax, means once again, Monmouth residents have to pay for the Council's inefficiency.

Very happy with service provided thank you

Although I'm happy to pay extra to maintain the current service, a 44% increase will encourage a lot of people to just fly tip their garden waste, which will cost you more to clear up. £35 a year for 6 collections is appalling value for money at a time when we are struggling. We are not all wealthy in Monmouthshire!

Keep cost down, as everything is increasing to much.

We need a collection with a large garden but £50 is horrendous!

Happy to pay more for this service

SELECTION BASED ON THE SIZE OF MY GARDEN AND THE GARDEN WASTE IT PRODUCES DURING THE YEAR. MY BIN WOULD COPE WITH 6 WEEKS OF WASTE.

I would probably not use the service at all if frequency was reduced below the current level.

Should this be free and collected when other collections are made to save on resources

Any other option does not offer the same value for money as the full 20 weeks

It is absolutely disgusting to charge £50 for a garden bin. Other councils in the area don't charge anything for garden waste bins. We are all being encouraged to recycle but with all the financial pressures on all households I certainly cant afford £50 for a garden bin. Monmouthshire has the highest council tax. Why cant you use the hessian bags that we used to have. There was nothing wrong with those. This is going to lead to more flytipping.

Too expensive, I would revert to green bags taken to recycling centre

This is a very valuable and efficient service and I would hate to see it reduced

I believe by overpricing and reducing collection frequency all that is likely to happen is that illegal fly tipping will increase in the local area and possibly increase the burning of garden waste which will increase pollution, increase the frequency of airborne particulate illnesses and increase the annoyance of neighbours.

Hi I really rely on this service and would be happy to pay more.

Could compost bins be provided for garden waste to be disposed off? Compost bins as well as the gate den waste collections but reduce the collections frequency

That's basically £2 a week. It would cost me that to go to the tip, never mind the time.

many would find the above to expensive, increase price slightly but stay as it is for collections

I would like to keep this service as it would be difficult to dispose of garden waste because I do not have a car.

Without this service, it would just encourage more fly-tipping.

Completely understand the rationale behind this however will mean more people burning garden waste which is not good for neighbours with any breathing issues, bad for the environment and in the height of summer a fire risk. Sign of the times but disappointing that the cost is going up quite so much.

This is far too expensive. Inflation's gone up 11% not 50%.

What will we do with garden waste if no collection. Put in rubbish bin

Cost seems excessive for less service. Tip is inaccessible due to the current booking system! Can not plan gardening around tip slots especially with British weather! I am concerned this will lead to fly tipping/dumping of waste

Not much of a consultation, very nearly a 100% increase!

This should be part funded from council tax so need for this increase & should remain at current price

I appreciate it is difficult times. I don't have much waste so the option chosen would be plenty for me. As a pensioner I really do value the garden waste collection but cannot cope with the full priced fortnight collection.

Not happy about increase, however as our local refuse collection site in Usk has closed and it is a 20 minute drive to other refuse collection sites there is little alternative other than paying the price as suggested. Collections need to remain fortnightly, any less frequent would not be useful.

I'm now retired so will only pay £50 for 1 bin, currently have 2. I will have to make more journeys to the tip, if that's allowed, not sure if there is a limit to how many times I can visit the tip.

I cannot have a wheelie bin as it is too big to fit down the side of my house and nowhere for it to go in front. Therefore I have one brown garden waste bag (I don't have much garden waste). This is perfectly adequate for me however I had to pay the same amount as having a wheelie bin (£38). Prior to the wheelie bins it was £12 per bag. I can see that there is a significant price increase proposed. I think there should be a different charge for a garden waste bag, and a higher charge for a wheelie bin. Would prefer to pay less and have more collections, we pay enough council tax.

We used to live in Kent and paid more than this 7 years ago

It ain't broke.....don't fix it!

the collection services save on the number of visits to the recycling centre where it is hard to get a slot at short notice when we can go.

helps those that do not drive

I am prepared to continue the service which is currently being paid for

This is a large increase in an area where we pay the highest council. I appreciate your comments on reasons why garden waste isn't covered by this tax. This service in our area is invaluable because of the large gardens we have and would be a great loss

Is a weekly option available

As we are elderly the above is the best option for us but if we were younger we would use the local recycling centre. We fear that those who cannot afford your costings will dump garden waste wherever they can.

I do not have my own transport and although do some of my own composting there are always bigger cuttings and too many autumn leaves.

I find the service money well spent and would probably continue even at increased price.

Happy with the service as it is.

Don't you think we pay enough rates plus we have a limited time to visit the refuse site.

I am sorry but could not afford £50 a year

Absolutely ridiculous cost. What do we pay rates for ?

an excellent service so keep it going

Reluctant response entered.

It is an invaluable service

I keep forgetting when collection is- would love email reminders the day before.

I understand this is difficult financial time for local government and people, however the reduction in service for comparably small price change probably isn't worth it - hence my decision to stick with £50. I suppose you are aware, but a lot of people took to cutting and dumping grass during COVID when collections were reduced, sadly I assume this will happen again (sad because I heard it has a negative environmental impact).

To reduce or cease collections may increase fly tipping and traffic at recycling centre

You have not provided any analysis of the cost you propose which seem extremely expensive. I don't know how many bins per day/lorry can be collected but at £50 per bin it would seem that the money collected is to subsidise other services. Other authorities provide a service fortnightly for all the year, what are MCC doing wrong. You therefore give me no option but to cancel the service. The same garden waste will still be put into the MCC waste collection system but by a less environmentally method. Well done MCC!!

If the waste recycling centre was open more frequently and for longer we would take our garden waste there in the car.

Not happy at all about this increase!

I'd prefer no change, the green bin collection enables garden waste to be collected and I assume safely recycled. I do not have time to go take my small amount to the tip and should this cease I'd it would probably end up in my black bag!

The cost of the collections has only recently doubled and now doubling again! Far too expensive. What a waste of money buying all those wheelie bins...

£50 seems a lot with everything going up in cost but it appears to be the cheapest option as during the spring and summer months a monthly collection would not be frequent enough.

A good service that must be paid for by the user. Not a flat resident with no garden and paying council tax.

That is a huge hike in price for a service that is required with nowhere else to get rid of garden waste at a time when we all have so little money. Perhaps it would be better to reduce the span of months for collection ie from May to October and reduce the cost that way. I have not used the service since October.

Would be nice if our bin could be put back tidy outside the house

Its yet more increases in costs, how can you justify a 28% increase. NOT happy considering Council Tax increase could be up to 5% as well.

As elderly residents we find this a very helpful service. With the size of our garden we regularly fill 2 bins.

Without this service I would not be able to dispose of my garden waste which would lead to problems of what to do with it. It would be difficult to take the waste to a recycling centre on the bus. Bonfires are unsociable when your garden is surrounded by neighbours. There is only so much and certain waste you can compost.

I would much prefer to dispose of my garden waste the correct way and not be forced to be underhanded about it, which is probably what will happen if residents are denied this service. Also I would prefer to keep my garden 🌿🌸 nature friendly 🐝🐜 and not turn it into a concrete jungle! I believe this service is vital to a lot of residents.

Can't afford anymore increases

I am quite willing to pay £50 for a fortnightly collection rather than having to hump sacks to the tip
Too expensive with everything else going up! How are people suppose to live?

I am resigned to using this service as this gives me a means to get rid of my garden waste without having to go through the booking by system for the waste transfer sites. With the booking system in place in its current form, I cannot attend the same day I would create the waste due to the requirement to book in advance or often and after a certain day, cannot book for a weekend. I cannot book slots in the hope of attending due to the limit on number of visits in a month.

As a resident of Monmouthshire I am concerned that the convenience of waste disposal is no longer convenient or generally accessible quickly and easily, and causing an increase in fly tipping, be it garden waste or other wastes - as reported on the gov wales website Newport has increased 87% last year.

There is absolutely no way that you can charge £50 for Green waste collections in the current economic climate. The most I would be prepared to consider is £25 pa.

If it was reduced to anything less frequent than fortnightly, I would have no other way of disposing of my garden waste.

Whilst I have no issue with an increase I feel it should start earlier and end later. We have just had our last collection but trees with preservation orders in the grounds are just starting to shed leaves meaning we have to keep in our bins until it starts again as neither of us drive..

Your proposed policy could have an adverse impact of forcing people to consider paving or astro turf etc. This would be a disaster for wildlife and water surface run off with localised flooding.

£50 does seem to be excessive but without fortnightly collections in the spring and summer I would have excess green waste.

perhaps you should sell spity park and use that money to fund issues in Monmouthshire and not Newport. any reduction in service the fly tipping will increase Caldicot is currently a mess with the amount of garden waste just dumped around public areas!!! also this time a year I pay to dispose of leaves from council controlled trees perhaps you should clear up your own waste correctly almost doubling the fee from £28 to £50 in the current climate will push fly tipping to an unacceptable level costing even more in the long term

We have received excellent service this year from the garden refuse collection team.

Would not be able to justify the top cost options given current usage. Smaller households likely don't need this. Could an every other collection option be made available if bi-weekly is retained.

I think that is a very useful services and i am willing to pay £50 rather having to book and drive to the recycling centre

It's not practical to leave the waste decomposing and smelling in the bins for six weeks

Nothing

To more than double the cost is unreasonable, so I would not use the service. Everyone is feeling the pinch

Alternative would be to open the tip garden waste only without booking.

Cut councillors expenses and wasting rate payers money. Stop wasting money on WOKE idea's.

We are happy to stay with fortnightly collections as at our advanced ages it is a necessity.

But if you do stop than you will have garden waste dumped everywhere

reducing frequency is pointless
reduction for multiple bins would encourage me to sign up again
Provide option of second bin at reduced cost
£50 is a huge rise but this is a needful service. Can I bag it to Five Lanes at no charge?

I am a pensioner and can't drive how would I be able to get rid of garden waste if you stop the service?

Even getting rid of rubbish such as a 'dead' lawn mower is a problem. You won't collect it, and when I got a taxi to the nearest recycling depot you would not take it because I was in a taxi. Wasted trip and taxi fares!! (A friend eventually disposed of it at his recycling centre in a different area.)

Whatever you decide to do please remember some of us are less able.

It is a big price hike. I find it very difficult to book and take waste to the recycling centre so would still use the service. I hope it is not withdrawn I don't think that would be fair when recycling is now made much more difficult as we have no recycling centre in Usk

4 weekly is not often enough :)

Having the service is the only real way to get rid of garden waste so must be kept even if it costs more
Almost a 80% rise in one year, what on earth has happened to cause this. Put the contract out to tender!

Having a large garden, and being elderly this service is most important and beneficial to us. It would be difficult to transport the waste to our local amenity, and for those people with no transport impossible.

If the service is cancelled I think the risk of fly tipping would be greatly increased.

I will have to reduce the number of bins I use despite the amount of garden waste varying very much from week to week.

Personally I have thought that it was exceptional value previously. I would have preferred a more gentle increase but I will cope. I hope local people won't dump their garden waste into the dyke as this will require clearing to avoid flooding.

A less frequent service would result in waste decomposing in the bin therefore likely to smell, fortunately collection seems to work well and I would have no issue in paying more for it.

Disappointed in this as the council tax will increase and we are receiving less service. My husband is already street cleaning the pavement area around our house and it seems he is paying for the privilege.

It seems to me there is an environmental consideration here. And problems with the recycling centres. If it's a good day and I get to my garden then I don't want to have to wait days for a recycling booking to dispose of my fresh and hopefully dry and un-rotten waste. Let garden waste go un-booked to the recycling centres. But that's me running around in a car because I can't take waste on my pushbike. I have just been marvelling at the sheer variety of birds who inhabit my garden including woodpeckers and finches and robins and a wren and two full colonies of sparrows and at the top of this sits the sparrow hawk who hunts through the garden. If I can't deal with my garden waste in a simple reasonably efficient way then I'm going to have to take out the trees, loose the shrubs and deck, gravel and pave my way to a hassle free garden with dramatically reduced habitats and, if you like, let's talk about water run off in these milder wetter winters. Fun isn't it? Not everything can be qualified in cost. Keep the service as is, at the cost it is please.

We have quite a big garden with flowers , grass and shrubs . I am doing my best by making my own garden compost but I really need a fortnightly collection (especially in high season). My car is too small to take the garden waste away.

Although I have not filled my bin for every collection, the bins will be stinking if not collected every 2 weeks during grass cutting season. I would not pay more than £50 though. If you over price this service then residents will cease to use and potentially start dumping within the available green areas around the village.

As a pensioner the service has been a huge benefit and I would be very sorry to see it reduced in frequency. The convenience of not filling my car with garden rubbish, booking a slot at the local recycle centre (which is only open on certain days) along with the fuel and time to visit a centre proves the worth of this service. A monthly or six weekly collection would be useless so I would not renew the service under these conditions.

How are residents meant to dispose of garden waste if they can't afford any of the above options? Especially those who don't have transport to get to the local tip this will lead to increased fly tipping. Disgraceful!!!!

Adrian Aylett

What a massive increase! Stop wasting our money and this wouldn't be necessary!!!

If you cannot provide the same level of service and price as this year, then you should ensure that the recycling centre is available daily and without the need for a booked appointment so that garden waste can be disposed of by residents when they need it without having to book a slot to attend. The centre is staffed so make better use of this commodity.

I will pay the £50 even though I can ill afford it but I have no other way to get rid of my garden waste and I think it is extortionate as we already pay extortionate council tax as it is.

If this service is removed the recycling centre needs to be fully functional, open 7 days a week and now that covid can no longer be used as an excuse, the prebooked appointment system needs to end. As I don't drive or have room for a compost bin I would find it very inconvenient if this service is discontinued.

I'll take it to the council tip

Please keep it going

I don't agree with any of the options above despite ticking the first one! I have a large garden and really value the green waste collection as I still work full time and the appointment service in Llanfoist is very difficult to manage.

I would suggest adapting the green waste service to align to the gardening calendar. For example April, May, June and July involves producing lots of green waste as gardens need regular maintenance and weekly lawn cuts, but March, August, September less so. October is when most gardeners clear for winter which again generates more waste materials. Could the service run that way? I always know when my collection is due and would make better use of my bins if this suggestion was implemented.

This is a very useful service!

Other councils don't charge additional fees for garden collection, why is Monmouthshire different? Furthermore if you are proposing £50 for 20 collections, why is it not £25 for 10 collections? The existing costs of £28 is already high and we are in cost of living crisis and it feels like the council are looking for more ways to squeeze money out of struggling households!

It is pointless having a service that is less than fortnightly - the amount of prunings, grass cuttings, etc from even a small garden means that we more than fill our bin and so also take green waste to the recycling site. If it's less than fortnightly it's not worth running.

Please allow more frequent visits to the dump - more than once a week please

I think 4 weekly and 6 weekly would not work in summer months.

Free in torfaen

Np263lg

N/A

Given Usk tip has closed the alternative is a 16 mile round trip to Llanfoist.

We find this service invaluable and would not like to lose it, nor would we like to reduce the frequency of the collections.

My garden produces so much waste that a fortnightly service must be maintained.

Four weekly over the summer is not enough. Even fortnightly is not really sufficient.

We are not 'cash cows'! Two pensioners pay £270 per month, for what?

MCC provide an efficient refuse collection service and that is all. Street lighting maintenance is laughable, contracted out to a company that seems to think that all streetlights are on streets shown on Google maps.

You should also provide a post Christmas collection like other councils do for Christmas trees and wreaths etc. Also the collections start too late in the year. The more expensive you keep making it the less people will use it and fly tip/burn and then the more expensive you'll make it again. Making it more accessible will mean more people will use the service and get more cost effective
I think the cost of this "service" is rather a lot, especially as we are pensioners and therefore on a fixed income.

But as we have no other option we have no choice but to accept.

Would prefer to keep it as it is.

I am appalled at this increase and the rising cost of fuel for collection vehicles does not justify such an increase. MCC needs to provide this sustainable service at an acceptable cost. Not everyone has the space for a composter. The combined costs of everyone visiting the tip rather than having kerbside collection will be excessive and will contribute to emissions and poor air quality in the area. I expect MCC to collect and recycle my current green waste wheelie bin as this will no longer be needed. What a ridiculous and unnecessary expense to have had to purchase the wheelie bin in the first place! All that plastic!

The garden waste collection is a valuable service which I am happy to pay for.

If there's no green collection it will mean more "rubbish" left around

I compost as much as I can and only use the service for clearing brambles, docks etc that I choose not to compost. I do use the service on most fortnightly collections. If the service is withdrawn, I would like to feel less afraid of going to the tip. Some, but not all, of the attendants are power crazy and tell me things like "that's quite a lot you've brought with you today. You can't come back here for a month now." I didn't know there was a rule like that. If I have to start transporting hedge clippings etc myself, I'd prefer to feel able to do it without judgement. I have to deal with 9 acres so sometimes have a lot of waste. Also my council tax is quite high. I'd love to pay for waste collection to support the local services but if it's not available then I'd at least like to access the centres near to me. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Not much of a choice really! The four weekly collection is half the service of the fortnightly one with a reduction of 15%. Shocking service.

I would pay the above if the service period is extended. With the warmer climate I am still cutting grass and as for leaves, they will not have all fallen by my final collection date so have to dispose of them by other means.

I am elderly and enjoy a small amount of gardening and would miss this service as I have no way of getting to the recycling

Tbh I think the costs are ridiculous. You will see a great number of people opting out and fly tipping instead

While we appreciate the difficult financial situation the council finds itself in, we feel that any of these options will inevitably lead to a huge increase in fly-tipping

Council should allow private individual to either take a trailer or privately used van to take garden waste in if you end up ceasing the service

Leaving period to be longer for collection does not work as grass etc doesn't stop growing because you are no longer collecting.

This service should not be removed to make your savings.

You should look for increased efficiency from within as central government has to do - you already are increasing council tax rates disproportionately compared to wages and this is just an "easy" option for a council that doesn't actually look for real savings.

The service is already very poor and unreliable.

Less than 2 weekly would be useless to me.

The amount of greenery my garden produces is hardly kept under control with present system

£50 is too much to pay with the prospect of community charges increasing. Monthly collections and longer are not suitable as in the summer and autumn our bin is always full for the two weekly collections, having 2 fairly big lawns and a wooded area behind our property.

The service needs to be extended to mid December as the leaves on my Acer trees will not have fallen by Monday 28th November 2022. The present arrangements are not fit for purpose in my case.

This is a great service which I value, and would happily pay a bit more to protect it at this current time. I feel that it still represents good value for money, and saves a lot of unnecessary trips to the tip. This service is essential for those of us who are older and are unable to take large heavy amounts of garden clippings to the Tip, we do not have a vehicle that can accommodate large amounts of green waste and therefore this service is important.

how does increasing the cost by £15 per year equate to saving £7 per year. Another MCC rip off Our garden produces a great deal of waste. The service we receive is excellent & much needed. We can only hope the fortnightly collection can continue. Thank you.

Reduce the collection time eg start end of April (march too early) finish collections end of sept, 2 weekly for same fee or not much more, stop the booking system for the tips so its more user friendly!!

Have large hedges, bushes and trees so need to have clippings and trimmings removed regularly I live on my own, my council tax is enough of a burden without paying An extra £50 for my garden waste. I only have a small garden but I do fill my bin once a fortnight especially in summer.

I think the service currently is a good service. It would not be acceptable to increase the cost and frequency for collections. If this happened we would not pay for the service on top of the extortionate amount we currently pay for council tax which I gather is going up.

I would prefer the service to stay as it is with regard to collections. However, I could not afford £50 a year so I would have to decline and take it to Llanfoist myself.

MCC need to bear in mind the fact that Llanfoist isn't open everyday and people need to book. With this in mind some people will find the process of days and times not being available a nuisance and will decide to fly tip instead. There is enough fly tipping in the area anyway so I think MCC will be far more out of pocket should they decide to increase the fee by an extra £22!

In our opinion if the service was to stop fly-tipping would increase in local parks and woods. There could also be an increase in garden bonfires which could increase the statutory nuisance complaint the council have to deal with.

If you want to charge £50 you need to improve. I had to complain 5 times about missed collections over the last season. I will be much less amenable about missed collections at that price.

We pay enough in council tax and should not be charged extra for this service. Very disappointed with the councils decision. Should look elsewhere to save money

In many areas garden waste collection is a free service; considering the high local council taxes that we have to pay is this not also a consideration? Is this not going to encourage irresponsible residents to either put their garden waste in the waste collection or dispose of it illegally?

Why is there such a difference in the price of collection based on the frequency of the collection - £2.50 for 20 collections and £5.83 for 6 collections

Anything more than 3 weeks is too long to store the waste.

Garden waste collection has already been added as an extra charge to the rates, which are already extremely high in Monmouthshire. We understand that these are difficult times, but these time are difficult for everyone, not just for the Council. Can I suggest that you stop wasting money on 20 Mph speed limits, and surveys where they are not required or needed. We may all benefit then.

We will only be able to afford one bin instead of the 2 we currently have and will need to dispose of any extra elsewhere

If you are going to remove the garden waste bin collection service you need to seriously address the issue of access to the recycling centres. The booking system is frankly ludicrous. If you are trying to stop people from outside of Monmouthshire accessing the centres (as I have been told is the case by people working there) then the simplest, one off cost, is to install barriers and ANPR. All vehicles have to be registered to an address. If you are not local then the barrier does not open. Currently you are encouraging fly tipping and the dumping of garden waste in the forestry areas. A long term, robust, and we'll thought through solution needs to found.

This service is very necessary for gardeners, especially as we get older.

I live on my own and getting to a recycling centre is not easy for me and then to haul up garden bags over the edges of the bins there is virtually impossible for me to lift it that high.

The scheme works well and although I have chosen the second option I would pay £50 for fortnightly collections, tho I suspect others may not. Please do not cease this service ... it is vital.

I begrudge this amount for what has been an unreliable service (missed collections reported) Basically you created a demand for this service (shame the wormery people let you down) I haven't got space for compost bins and bonfires are too antisocial. So I am stuck but the council tax is so high I think you should do better on waste collection, it is about the only council service oldies like me still use!

We compost a good proportion of our soft garden waste material and use the garden waste bin for more woody material. If there is no garden waste service, there are some residents who would locally fly-tip their garden waste material. Perhaps the consultation should have highlighted the fact that with 20 collections @ £50 per year that is £2.50 per collection which is cheaper than driving to the local tip with garden waste material. So seems reasonable...

Including trees and bushes, I could not compost the garden and verge waste I generate without using my entire garden as compost bins, turning as required. If I did not have to make an appointment at the tip, I could combine garden waste trips with other activities and so not use fuel (and time) unnecessarily.

I understand your cost pressures but you seem unaware that price affects take up - as with any service item.

If you keep ramping up the price demand will collapse and you'll have to charge even more.

Be prepared for a very ugly Monmouthshire full of lazy people fly tipping garden waste.

This year's garden waste collection was perfect and at a good price. It was efficient and just what was needed to keep the garden under control. £50 is quite a price but no more. If it is going to keep leaping up in price then I would take my own down to the tip. We have expenses too.

I had a garden bin at my previous address and very much hope to have one again now we have moved. We submitted our answers previously, but there was a power cut immediately afterwards, so we do not know whether our previous answers were received.

This is a significant increase in cost which will impact many households at an already challenging time. If the council were to cease collections entirely, the booking system for the Llanfoist recycling facility would need to be reviewed and streamlined as this would put unprecedented demand on a recycling facility which isn't easy to get booking slots for.

As a small village off the beaten track we get people fly tipping their rubbish here already- the proposals above will just make this worse

I would be very sorry to lose this service.

My bin is never full so 6 collections will suit

This is an important service which I am sure cuts down the traffic to the Llanfoist depot. I am happy to pay for it to continue but wonder whether there needs to be a subsidised element of the service for those for whom £50 is not affordable.

The garden waste I put in the bin naturally breaks down into compost the longer its left in the bin thereby creating space for more garden waste.

This past year I've only put my bin out a couple of times so fewer collections would be fine with me. Although there may be more bonfires with people burning their garden waste.

I understand the funding problems but an increase 75%+ is very extreme to say the least. One might say typical of councils

CONSIDER INITIAL CHARGE TO COVER THE COST OF THE WHEELY BIN FOR ALL NEW CUSTOMERS.

This is absolutely ludicrous, and will only encourage more fly tipping, which will cost even more in the long run.

RCT have a very effective and much simpler system for all recycling, who don't you share and learn from them?? They don't even charge for garden waste collection!

We would happily take our garden waste to the tip if MCC provided suitable bags to do so (like the brown garden waste bags). I'm afraid the increased cost is too much and the frequency of the reduced cost service would not be enough.

Ending the service or substantially reducing its frequency will run the risk of increasing the incidence of fly tipping and increasing pollution of the environment due to garden fires. Encouraging garden composting is a partial answer to the issue, but is not usually suitable for more woody material. I would support an increase in the charge so long as it does not become prohibitively expensive. That's an individual judgement call, of course, at a time of economic hardship for many of us

This service remains free in other areas. It's disappointing that there is to be such an increase when we are paying more council tax than ever. The subsidy is relatively small compared with other costs in the council, but the impact of the increase per household is large.

I can't see that monthly or 6 weekly collections are worth it and I would be unlikely to pay for that.

The garden waste service is good value for money, without it we are likely to see more waste dumped inappropriately - as happens with fly tipping.

It would be useful if the last collection date were a week or two later.

I live near to a busy road so cannot burn waste. We are OAP and cannot take garden waste to the tip place . We rely on the garden waste service. and cannot manage without it

I pay £260 per month for my council tax. nearly 12% of my pension. A ridiculous amount for my property. I feel I have very little for that money and should have weekly garden waste collections at no extra cost. Chase those that never intend getting a job and contributing to society rather than the hard workers.

We are shocked, this is because council tax is so high in this area!

Fortnightly is essentially the minimum

I think you could have a reduced rate for people that want / need a reusable bag of garden waste instead of a wheelie bin. I thought the garden waste bags from 2019 / 2020 were a good size for smaller gardens.

There should also be stickers to put on wheelie bins to indicate the resident has paid for the Garden Waste Service for the current year and only those bins are collected.

Is there not savings to be made by swapping to reusable red & purple bags for other household recycling?

The way it is framed I think there are only two real options. 2 weekly or none.

Or...If the collection is the cost driver, give everyone two bins for their payment. Then the other options become genuine options.

Absolutely ridiculous the amount you set to charge next year!!! £50 on top of what we pay for council tax! Plus you only collect March to December...people still tend to their gardens during this time, and also what about the vegetarian animal waste???

This has been an invaluable service, as trying to get garden waste to the recycling centre is difficult. I would pay more to have collections in December and January. Due to leaf fall, this is when I need them most. Observation of the overflowing garden waste skips at the tip during these months, suggests other households are in a similar position.

Stop the service but provide provision to take garden waste to the recycling centre

It would be better if collections were extended from 8 Months to at least 10 Months!! For the cost you are asking is a big jump from £28.

I would like extra collections into the winter months.

Please take into account the wider environmental impacts that stopping this service will have ~ fly tipping always increases when service is reduced, which often impacts on footpaths, parks and watercourses.

I would rather pay extra and keep the collection to once every 2 weeks.

Could you reduce costs by charging a one off fee for the bins? Then a bit less per year...?

This service is invaluable

At £50 it will still be good value. I hope the costs will be met at that price.

Why is it that the surrounding authorities can provide this service either free or for a nominal charge and MCC want to raise the cost by 40%?

I don't see the point of a 50% reduced service for only a slight reduction in cost and the cost per year still seems reasonable to me. I would much rather have the collection than have to arrange taking my own green waste to the tip.

I hope we will still be able to use 5 Lanes recycling as well.

I would be happy to pay the higher price for continued collection. I think the collection will encourage recycling of garden waste; and not having to travel to the tip reduces private mileage with consequential reduction in carbon emissions.

I am not happy with any of the options. Your costs are going up, but so clearly are mine, no doubt we will have a big increase in council tax. My fuel costs are going up. So by increasing your prices you are helping to push up inflation. My salary is not going up and I wouldn't get very far if I asked for the percentage increase that you want for the same service. In addition why have you sent the email today about the last collection being on 2nd December, my last collection was therefore today. As a reminder it should have been sent last week, so all users are aware that they have one collection left. I would also comment that this is a massive increase in the 2022 costs and if you compare this to Gloucestershire cost more expensive for less time. I do feel not collecting for 3 months of the year is too long, people do need garden waste

Collection during the months of December January and February

If the service stopped residents must be able to book more trips to the local recycling centres which are currently limited

Could you have a price for one bin, then a much lower price for 2 bins and again another even lower price for the 3rd bin? The prices are too great and we have fully used three bins all this year. So, we do not understand why the monthly price is not half the fortnightly price. We need fortnightly bin collections but £50 for each bin which is £150 for us is far too much.

Garden waste collection is essential.. even in rural locations.It prevents people dumping their garden waste in inappropriate places...making a better environment for everyone

Very useful service, please maintain it

I find it incredible that along with council tax increases and cost of living crisis the council is opting to reduce the service or increase the cost AGAIN. I need two waste bins fortnightly whereas previously I could use 2 bags weekly. If the service was 4 weekly I'd need 4 bins!!!! Is this going to be a yearly change??? Will you do the same again in 12 months?? Forget it, I'm not using your lack of service next year and will not be voting for you at the next council election. What an absolute joke.

This is a very useful service that means we do not have to go to the tip

I appreciate that no one wishes to pay extra for council services and unfortunately some individuals will find the extra charge a burden. But particularly in the middle summer months, a fortnightly service is required even for a relatively small garden like mine. So I feel that the increased charge is the only viable option. Thanks for the chance to contribute and to the recycling staff who have consistently provided an excellent service.

I would be very dissatisfied and curious as to why you could justify upping my council tax but reducing my services

If the price is too much, the county will get more fly tipping. Please can the process to book the recycling centre be made easier. Currently it's difficult to book, and there are few sessions but it's great to see there is increasing of reuse happening.

It's a useful service and worth £2.50 per collection for 20 collections.

I would keep the service as is as it is good value for money. I think increasing the cost to £50 is more than reasonable and would even be prepared to pay more

12 years ago the service was for 12 months, every time it is reduced. We could go to Usk tip, that is now closed.

A good service that is value for money

I am a pensioner with quite a big garden. no transport to take to recycling centre. I think the way it is good

Please provide a dependable service to all areas (urban and rural) every 14 days that is not used to cross subsidise other services.

Stop the pre booking at the tip, so you can turn up adhoc

Allow you to put rubbish in the bins at the tip, without having to rummage through our waste.

It disgusting we should have to pay anything, other councils do not charge and we have some of the Highest council tax charges in wales. Why do we still not have reusable recycling bags in Raglan. If you want to save money stop allowing your employees, taking council (tax payers) vehicles home.

I have rabbits so rely on this service to take away their hutch waste. It's a real shame that it has to increase so much.

I rather not leave any comments about MCC because it would only be rude.

That is just too expensive considering the higher increases to Council Tax - I will take the garden waste to the local tip instead

If the frequency gets cut I think fly tipping of green waste will increase. We already had this last year in our hedge, no legal route to stop it either

Please keep the garden waste to fortnightly collections as keen gardeners we find this a great service I compost most of my garden waste except for twigs. I would restart taking garden waste to the tip if the appointment system was suspended.

£50/20 collections is still reasonable at £2.50 per collection. (I currently only have 1 bin). I find the garden waste collection is really useful and would struggle to keep up without it.

I am happy to pay £50 for the continued service as I am unable to keep the grass cuttings etc in my garden and will be unable to take it to the skip due to my age

I rely on this service every year .and it would make it a lot more difficult for me with out the service I understand that Newport council don't charge for garden collection if so how do they provide for the collection of garden waste?

We pay for the service and the price seems to go up with less service. This temps people to fly tip!
(Also very hard to get recycling center slot)

too many collection failures this year - not convinced service is vfm

Price increases are to high and people will not be able to afford these prices.

To halve the collections from 20 to 10 but then only reduce the cost by £8.50 is unacceptable. This is a massive increase in what after all, is a council tax. I accept we are in austere times and is the only reason I would consider paying £50 but would hope that this could be reduced in better times when perhaps all your vehicles are able to run more economically and revenue is in a better place.

This to high a increase

Obviously not pleased with cost increase

I use compost bin for grass etc but need bin for tree and plant cuttings

This ye

Service poor for price

If left longer than fortnight, the contents start composting and smelling, particularly in the spring/summer months. I would not be prepared t pay £50 for a fortnightly service.

This is daylight robbery, how do you expect people to live with this massive increase of nearly 100% increase

This year I have used fortnightly collection, I use compost bin for grass and lighter cuttings, obviously not happy with cost increase

I will compost more and take residue to recycling site

I cannot see why monthly collections are only £7.50 less than fortnightly!!! Surely the monthly payment should be £25??? If it was £25 then I would opt for this service

Thank you for giving us the above options. The one I have chosen is expensive but being an 80 year old widow with a medium sized garden, I need the convenience of the most frequent service and in these difficult times I understand that does mean paying more for it. So I shall have to economise elsewhere.

If you reduce the frequency I would have to double the number of bins to a total of six. Maybe more. That's environmentally wrong, also having six, seven or eight bins will make my garden look a mess. Furthermore, if you stop collections totally what happens to the old bins?

I have chosen the option to keep the frequency as it is for £50 as I live on my own with a large garden and as an OAP cannot manage large bags to take to the tip, but I think to almost double the price is too much to pay.

It's an extortionate proposed increase, but I depend on the service, there is no other viable option We very much value this service and appreciate the challenging financial circumstances that all authorities are facing.

You could save money by collecting the pink and purple bags fortnightly instead of weekly £50 seems very expensive, maybe a combination of high season fortnightly and from Nov to March six weekly.

Could the service operate with fortnightly for March to November and monthly for December to February? Winter is when a lot of garden tidying up happens so would be good to keep collections all year even if reduced frequency.

We generate more garden waste than fits in our one bin fortnightly already and so we make extra trips to the Five Lanes waste site. We understand the need to increase the prices but it would be more cost effective for us to take our garden waste ourselves.

I still want to use the service even though the cost is going up. None of us want to pay increased charges but this service is better for me than the alternative of taking my own waste to the recycling centre.

If it continues, at whatever new higher cost and frequency, so many will give up that you will not be able to cover the costs of the service and will encourage even more fly-tipping

It is important to me that this service continues fortnightly. There has only been one week when my bin was empty and that was down to weather preventing gardening. I would find it difficult to take the rubbish to the tip. You have given a good service and the difference in cost between two weeks and four weeks is so little, that I prefer the two week option.

For a service which used to be free this is a rip off

£50 is still great value for fortnightly collections. I was surprised it was as cheap last year. You offer a valuable service - charge for it!

I am prepared to accept an increase and reduced collections. Otherwise I would not use the service; times are financially hard for all of us particularly for us O.A.P.s

£50 per year would be a significant increase in cost, that would make it an unviable option for most householders on the current financial situation. This in turn will lead to more households burning their garden waste creating neighbourhood problems with smoke and inconsiderate timings of the fire. This is not an environmentally friendly solution. It will also create more fly-tipping in areas too. This would seem to be best option

How can MCC justify a 78% increase in the collection charge?.. Why are people in larger properties charged higher council tax & then expected to pay an additional charge for garden waste collection?. How about a reduction in the salaries / staff of MCC?.

None of the above seem realistic in price per bin.

Just more encouragement for fly tipping with decent people having to pay extortionate prices.

There must be significant profit in these prices where a profit should not be allowed.

Add it to everyone's council tax. No excuses no fly tipping and a cheaper low rate for all

Too costly.

I have pressed for the same service for £50 per bin, but would also be very happy with monthly collection. The service is second to none and I am very pleased that it exists

Because the bins are much bigger than the bags used previously, I can easily manage with a four weekly collection

The above costs are a significant increase and anything less than fortnightly collections would be useless at pick season. Would it not be better to offer fortnightly collections over a reduced period.

The service does not need to run until December. Maybe monthly or 6 weekly during low season and fortnightly during high season

Far too expensive when we already pay so much in council tax!

With the reduced availability of the recycling centre and having to pay extra for garden waste collection any reduction in service should reduce council tax not the constant increases that we keep getting. The council does less and less for more and more money

I hardly use this service (have probably used it once this year) so I wouldn't miss it to be honest.
It looks like you are trying to end this service
A 50% increase is a lot to deal with.

Any less than fortnightly would make the service useless. The five lanes recycling centre used to offer fantastic opening hours meaning that a working person could utilise the facility, now with vastly reduced opening times and a booking system which is not fit for purpose
Would be happy to take garden waste to recycling centre if booking system was stopped. Other counties no longer use booking.

1. Why don't you have a chat with your counterparts in torfaen, who seem to provide a better value service to council tax payers.

2. In what world do you pay to dispose of garden waste? It's an essential raw material for businesses who turn it into compost and flog it. They're business models will be built around you paying them to take it and consumers buying the composted product. A double income. They must be laughing all the way to the bank. I suggest you pin your mismanagement and inefficiencies of running the service on them. Offer it to them for free or at a charge. If they say no, then it's their business that will ultimately suffer. , rather than the enduring residents of monmouthshire.

3. With the options above you are staring down the barrel of huge uplifts in fly tipping, use of the HWRCs (and associated carbon footprint) and residents faced with having to undermaintain trees and hedges (leading to encroachment into highways and pathways).

Rubbish. Literally.
100% need to keep the service

Garden waste collection should be seen as an environmentally friendly concept, ie it stops people burning garden waste and releasing more CO2 into the atmosphere. If green bins were cheaper then more people would use them and our CO2 output would reduce. Further more the green waste could be used to generate energy via a biomass generator, thus creating real financial value.
So please think about the bigger picture, not just short term cost savings. Many thanks, Lee Burrowes.
I am not happy about the huge increase proposed for next year but anything less than fortnightly is not an option.

There could be an option to share bins within a neighbourhood; a communal green waste bin system.
Or, you could have communal compost bins situated in shared spaces.

Is it cheaper to bag to the brown bags with a permit

I rely on the collection as I have no other means to dispose of garden waste.

It would be better if collections continued further into the winter please. We need some collections in December too. Note we already have our own composters but you can't compost everything in a garden composter.

Been a useful service which we have used every fortnight

Taking this service away would feel like a step backwards. We consider Monmouthshire as a county who has been a leader in green initiatives (such as food waste, wild flowers for pollination in public spaces and the green waste collection from your home).

Nil

I feel this is still very high, if tip goes back to open access (not appointments) I think I would prefer to take adhoc

A vital service as far as we're concerned. Long may it continue.

A increase of £22 is discussing also my collection this week was not collected so I would have to think about the increase so you expect me to pay a huge increase

Pointless providing less frequent options - the waste will collect far too quickly during summer and residents will end up bringing to 5 lanes centre inbetween. That erodes the value

We really value this service, and once a fortnight the bin is pretty much full (even though I also have three composters!). Happy to pay £50 a year. I would hate the hassle and cost of taking stuff to Mitchel Troy.

A reduced frequency of collection will be of little use to me so, with reluctance and acknowledging your financial predicament, I would be prepared to pay £50 to maintain current arrangements.

However, I suspect this price increase may be too much for many and as a result you may decide to close the service because it will become uneconomic to operate. If so, can you consider reinvesting the money in restoring opening at Five Lanes on Wednesdays and Thursdays at least during the gardening season as the site is likely to become much busier.

4 or 6 weeks are too long as we would have excess waste and no collections

It really wouldn't work having more than fortnightly collections . It has been a very good service , particularly for older residents who are not able to go to the tip .

Without a collection we would need to go to the tip weekly with bags...more roads, pollution and busier tip.

78% does seem a rather large increase.

Important for me to have regular collections. Rabbit hutch waste and grass/garden waste. Although feel £50 is very expensive!

Please please don't get rid of this service. Having to book a trip to the tip is too rigid and people don't have the time to take their grass cuttings elsewhere. We all have these expensive new bins - please don't let all that go to waste.

We pay the highest price re community charge living in Monmouthshire. We are limited to when we are able to visit the local tip due to working hours and the effort to prebook is nonsense following the lifting of COVID restrictions.

We tried our own composting and due to rural fields behind our garden ended up with rats nesting. Surely the county council should encourage residents to keep their outside space respectable and encourage the use of waste collection.

I would rather no public Christmas lights on the Mardy than no garden waste collection

I wouldn't mind it being decreased to a collection once every 3 weeks instead. If that was an option I'd probably choose that. I chose 2 weeks over anything else because I think 4-6 weeks would be too long to wait particularly during the spring/summer months when people do more gardening and cutting grass.

As there are still problems using the waste transfer station booking service, rather than a drop in arrangement as previously then the fortnightly collection is by far the best option.

I do understand the situation, but I am a single woman in my 50's with one wage coming in. I work up to 60 hours a week to hold down a job I actually don't like to pay my bills... I am lucky I have children, all grown up and doing their own things. My garden is my release from work and my health, it helps with my anxiety and mental health. I'm a 'suck it and see' girl regards gardening, have no idea, never have a clue what I'm supposed to do, all trial and error. so end up with a lot of waste, dead plants... I need this service but not sure how I will fund it yet. But there's worse than me out there. Maybe a few others will give you an insight to their lives it would help you decide what's the right way to manage this.

Kind regards

Paula 🧑🏻🗨️

I use two bins. If the service is reduced to 6-weekly I will need six bins. I don't think it is viable to reduce the service to a lesser frequency.

A fortnightly collection would be great, however the cost of £50 seems too expensive

I think the reduced collection schedule would not be feasible especially during the spring/ summer when grass / plants are actively growing and needing cutting / trimming

We have 2 bins and fill 1 bin per week, option 2 and 3 are totally unrealistic and not cost effective.

There needs to be some form of collection as would struggle to get to the recycling centre.

Anything less frequently than fortnightly would mean that the bin isn't big enough. The cost of two bins at either of the other options makes this more expensive. Also having rotting vegetation around for six weeks particularly during the heat like this summer would not be pleasant or healthy!

I would be very concerned if less collections were to occur especially in spring and summer. At most I would suggest collections in all seasons apart from winter.

We are both pensioners and as such are not as able to recycle our garden waste via the recycling centre especially as we have to book. We do not have enough space to compost all grass cuttings and garden waste. To us the collection is a life saver and while it is expensive we really have no option. Perhaps a discount for senior citizens after all we do get discounts elsewhere?

As a non driver I'm happy to keep this useful service.

Fortnightly collections are important to us especially in the summer months due to having a big garden and so lots of grass and hedge cuttings

Excellent service. Have too much waste to go down to more than every two weeks.

I believe that if this service is terminated fly tipping will greatly increase

I would struggle without this service as I have a garden as well as 4 house rabbits. It's bad enough trying to fit it all in to 2 black bags every fortnight during the Winter months.

I think the price rising to £50 is a significant price rise to keep the service as it is especially given that visiting the tip is not really a viable alternative option with the booking process and limited trips per month.

However I think of the suggested options the £50 for fortnightly collections is the best as the reduced collections are not reduced in price equal to the reduction in collection. Also I feel that less than fortnightly collections is not viable option for the area of Monmouth I live in given the size of peoples gardens and the amount of green waste generated as a result, there are already people on my street with 2 bins. I think this would result in decomposing green waste being left in public areas which would shortly become an issue.

Furthermore I think if the service was reduced or removed it would result in higher carbon emissions for the area due to the increase in households driving back and forth the tip. Additionally it will result in people using their general waste collection to dispose of green waste which would go against the current recycling efforts.

Already paying a fortune in council rates

£28 per bin for 9 months was outrageous, even more is a total rip off

It is very difficult to choose an option as the pattern of use of my green waste bin varies in the current system - sometimes I have very little to put in it while other times I have a full bin and have more that needs to wait for the next collection. In that situation it might be more effective to take it directly to the tip. It might also be worth collaborating with my neighbours to share a bin for a more frequent collection. I hope the decision making goes well and thank you for consulting.

The above is either too expensive or too infrequent

This service is a super way of recycling organic material. Not all gardeners want to compost so the price increase is worth it imho

Good service so long as all of the collection's are made!

We have been missed and despite informing the office, no collection was made.

Needs to be fortnightly every 4 or 6 weeks is too long a gap

It would be easier to take green waste to the tip if the booking slot system was removed.

If we didn't have the collections, there would be more congestion at the Mitchel Troy Recycling Site and it would encourage fly tipping.

As an old age pensioner this seems to be a large hike in the price of collections which I am not able to pay and I suspect many feel this way therefore I foresee lots of dumping of garden waste throughout the year.

Reducing the number of collections as outlined would make it impossible to manage our garden waste. This would undoubtedly mean a risk of rodents as there would simply be nowhere to put this between collections so we would end up with piles of garden waste until the bin is collected. You can only have so many bins otherwise there is nowhere to store them so reducing collection frequency is a big issue. Likewise if collections are stopped it begs the obvious question, how do we possibly maintain our garden?

Have been really happy with the garden waste collection date it starts and finishes too

I have marked above because I disagree with all of the options but had to mark something to submit the following comments. The council's suggestion to increase price or decrease frequency is disgraceful. Our council tax is already very high and at a time of so many increases in the cost of living you now suggest this. It smacks of financial mismanagement at council level and we have to pick up the pieces. This will simply result in more fly tipping and the cost of removing that will be paid by who? This is very disappointing. As a retired person for whom gardening is an important part of my life and mental health where am I supposed to find more money.

It is really difficult to use the tip. You can't book on the day or just turn up. I've been trying to book a tip run at 5 lanes or Mitchell troy, neither seem busy when we get there, but over the last month I've found it hard to get spaces within 3 days if needing them. If you are to reduce the green recycle, then you will need to make tips more accessible. We live in the woods and fly tipping is getting worse, I understand why. I'd be interested in having a community green skip that is emptied when it gets filled as opposed to the bins. We trim the hedges along a 30m stretch of road. This saves the council money but we have to dispose of the waste. We usually take 2 bins a year and fill them everytime they are collected. If prices go up, we shall only take 1 bin, but it will mean we can trim the road hedges less frequently.

4 & 6 weekly pickup becomes ridiculous when a pickup could be missed due to holiday or illness etc. At £50 fee for a fortnight you will get many dropping out of the service and more fly tipping. As rate payers in Monmouthshire we are not getting our money's worth considering we are probably the most expensive area for rates.

We already pay a lot of council tax, we shouldn't have to pay nearly double for a service that has been unreliable recently. Missed collections were a regular thing this year.

I now have 88 years on the milometer of life, love my garden, & drive only locally in Chepstow. Please give me a break!
Thank you!
Peter Jordan

An increase of £22 per bin seems very high and although I appreciate that costs will rise especially in the current economic market, this seems excessive. We have a large number of trees etc that need to be maintained so we need our three bins to remove the waste so would struggle with a reduction in service frequency.

We find this a very useful service as it gets more difficult to get to the recycling centre. It does seem extortionate to increase the price by nearly 80%. This is quite disappointing and I fear will encourage more fly tipping.

An unbelievable increase in price. I didn't want to select any option. You have closed the local recycling centre so we would have to travel to get rid of garden waste. I don't have use for a compost heap in my garden — I am not a keen gardener and I don't have use for composted material in my garden. I have a young family and a job. I don't have time to garden as well. I also don't want to pave over my lawn to get rid of potential garden waste. This would be awful for the environment. You are looking for easy cost cutting options. You've already reduced the frequency of this service and increased the cost recently. Don't make us feel lucky to have had such a service when you've removed other options like the recycling centre. You've reduced our options and now have us over a barrel.

You'll increase flytipping if you decrease the frequency or make people use HWRCs. It must always have a fortnightly option. However you could run a campaign to encourage neighbours to share a bin and therefore the cost

All of these are ridiculous - you should subsidise it more from council tax.

What are we supposed to do with the green waste if it is not picked up?

I already compost suitable materials

To keep the service we pay for at present is more than doubling in price which I think is unfair and extortionate

Shame that the price is going up so much and becoming almost unaffordable for most during a cost of living crisis

During the summer months anything but a fortnightly collection would result in taking garden waste to the waste disposal site which would defeat the object of having a collection at all.

Things seemed to work well when access to a bin in the recycling site was freely available. Now it is just a hassle to go there. Too much administration !

We must keep the service going as otherwise people will burn their waste all through the summer reducing air quality and contributing towards climate change

If bin collections were less frequent I would not be able to dispose of my grass cuttings alone, never mind additional garden waste. I live in a "standard" 3 bed with a "normal" garden and work full time. Carrying out a tip run would take me a 30-40 minute round trip never-mind time taken to queue and unload.

I think the rate charged is reasonable so no issues there however I think the reduction of collections would lead to further "dumping" by some people so would prefer to keep collections at current frequency.

Thanks for considering my comments ☺

I would have thought the provision of this service was a basic requirement. What on earth are you doing with our Council Tax and that generated from new homes.

I would like to know the justification and reasoning behind the increase in costs

We are pleased with the service and want it to continue regularly fortnightly

Thank you

A 78% increase.... seems out of proportion, even given the difficult climate.

Failing to offer bin collections will only mean the environment suffers as a result of everyone taking their waste to the recycling center individually.

Still waiting for a replacement bin that the guys damaged

Happy to pay more for this service to continue. I think it's been cheap considering the frequency of collections

I need the service as being of the older population unable to get to the recycling centre to get my garden waste removed I do feel it's a huge price increase and have valued this service ,,,,

It should not change at all. We pay enough council Tax as it is without having to pay more for these services.

It's pathetic that the council cannot provide this service at a reasonable rate when other councils manage to do this. Surely you need to encourage more people to use the service at a lower rate to make it more viable. Not price more people out of the service.

Too much money in a cost of living crisis

The amount you charge for council tax is already hitting residents very hard. This is another tax on your communities pockets. Shameful options offered above!

Absolutely ridiculous keep it the same as it is

During summer months we can fill the bin weekly but spring and autumn we would be happy to have been collected less frequently.

Continual price increases penalising residents is not satisfactory. Suggest minimal increase in price
There is already a large amount of fly tipping of garden waste on the footpaths here. I would not want to encourage that any further

I would not pay £50 for this service as the cost of living going up but to increase it to £50 from £28 is a bit steep

Would have been able to use the local civic amenity site but unfortunately you muppets closed it a few years ago so it is no longer local! Would now have to drive a considerable distance to dump the garden waste legally. Great for the planet I don't think.

I think all is running pretty smoothly and beats taking the garden waste to the recycle centre any day ... thank you

Far too expensive and cutting the number of collections doesn't help. Open the tip more so people can go back to using it - I don't like having to book a slot - what do we actually get for our council tax!!!

Keep this service to two weekly I paid £28 for my bin and don't expect to pay £50 for this service we already pay for this service in our taxes and you won't more money out of us not happy with your proposals

You decided to close the recycling plant in Usk which is why I opted to use this service. I'll be taking my garden waste to one of our recycling centres in future. Closing the Usk centre was a poor decision and basing it on Covid safety was a terrible excuse as it's an outside based service. Everything else has coped with Covid issues.

Provide households with compost bins

Fortnightly collections work well and if these stopped you would see more fly tipping of garden waste. The service is I think value for money at £50 per year.

Too expensive - I will burn garden waste instead

Pointless collection being less than every 2 weeks as will have to pay for collection and also go to tip. Price increase is close to cancelling service particularly with council tax going up, cost of living etc
Very disappointed in the steep increase in prices. You will encourage fly tipping for those who just cannot afford the increase.

How will you operate the system? ensuring the correct frequency of the collections depending on what option each household has chosen?

Anything more than every two weeks is not worth doing. It is a useful service... reduces vehicle use to the tip.

The increase to £50 is too much. Surely it is better to charge £30 and have more people use the service.

Not happy about the large increase in price!

Crazy suggestions - price is way over what we currently pay - there is inflation but that is something else. Council tax rises as well - people just can't afford it. You will see a rise in people cutting the lawn and then dumping the cuttings. Or worse not cutting the lawns and having a huge rise in rodents. Although I have selected a six weekly service this is due to the proposed cost of a more frequent service. If the recycling centre in Usk was reinstated, residents could manage their own garden recycling. The current option of travelling to other sites within Monmouthshire is not convenient or environmentally friendly.

I am disabled and on benefits. £50 is too expensive. Less frequent collections seem a bit pointless to me. If you could have as many bags out as you like every four weeks that wouldn't be quite so bad. I realise the cost of living crisis is having a big impact but this is a massive hike in price, which seems totally unreasonable. I fear this will just lead to lots more people having bonfires. It is a real shame that the services the council provide seem to be getting less and less. Also, having to book appointments for the skip is also very irritating, especially as it is better to take garden waste when it's not raining, yet it is not always possible to predict the weather. Will you do concessions for people on benefits?

Prices should not be going up we all need to dispose of the green waste from our homes not drive in cars to the local recycling centres using fuel .

Not happy with any of the options. I had expected a price increase but not of this order! Our recycling point in Usk was closed so taking the garden waste to our nearest centre entails cost and time, so also not an attractive option.

it seems a huge increase to £50 a bin but would still want fortnightly collections. depending on circumstances at the renewal time may need to reconsider.

All of the above options require an unreasonable and increase in the cost of the service, which in my view is unacceptable, especially at a time when we are all facing such a cost of living increase. As usual with this council it is offering a lot less of a service for a lot more money! Disgraceful

£50 for fortnightly collections seems rather expensive but £1 per week in effect.

4-weekly collections or less would not be practical for us as we fill our bin every time in just 2 weeks

£42:50 is not much less to pay but for only 10 collections- not practical or cost effective

I would like the service to be extended to fortnightly for the whole year, 26 collections.

None of the above options is my preferred way forward. £50 per bin per year represents a very significant increase in the cost for this service. At a time when your customers are suffering many financial pressures, to seek to impose such a cost increase is grossly unfair. I urge you to reconsider.

Less frequent services are not practical for me, and I suspect for the majority of other people. The cost per collection increases from £2.50 to £4.25 and up to £5.83 as proposed collections decrease in frequency. There is no explanation of why the efficiency of the service reduces so significantly as the frequency of collections decreases. There is no obvious reason why this should be the case.

Happy to pay for the fortnightly service.

It's a very good scheme for the upkeep of properties and so adds to the general well-being of neighbourhoods and people's community spirit.

Happy to pay a small increase for fortnightly collections, eg £30.

Far too expensive. Will fill the car and take to Llanfoist instead. This is definitely not an eco friendly decision. We do not want to use the car!!! Expect MCC will see garden waste fly tipping increase which will increase MCC costs to resolve....short sighted!

I think that even with the increase it represents a good value service . Taking it to the dump myself would be very difficult and expensive .

I use this service as I have no car to get rid of the rubbish

The bin collection is a great service, having to book a slot at the tip for garden waste is not a good option if you can only visit the tip at weekends

I currently pay for 2 waste bins per year, which I think is too expensive!

Home owners paying high rates should not be charged!

By increasing costs, this will encourage fly tipping!

I am going to spend my money and use my car and drive to my local waste recycling centre and also screw up the environment by taking all of my green waste which by the way you turn into saleable compost to avoid paying a stupid increase from £28 per year to a daft £50 per year. Come on, I am not that stupid to believe that the current crisis in Ukraine had driven up the basic cost of collecting garden waste in here is Wales. I can well bet that your stupid proposed increase of over 40% is going to increase fly dumping and burning of waste. I bet the rats and associated vermin are going to love this new proposal. I grow loads of veg to try and be sustainable, and this now means that i have to stop and buy my overpriced veg from Tesco's.

Can you not just increase the yearly cost of the garden waste fortnightly cost to £35.00? Perhaps you would get a more favourable response. 😊

Extortionate price . How come Newport & Barry councils have (up until now) had a free bin collection service . Already people are fly flipping & fingers crossed we don't see an increase which will then cost more to clean up . I am not in favour of any of the questions in no 2 . Will select one only because I have too before I submit this .

This service should be free!

It

Collections need to be at least fortnightly (ideally weekly in the summer) because things grow so fast in the summer.

It's a lot of money to find with the cost of gas and electricity rising as much as it is. People are struggling now and all MCC is charge higher council tax than other councils and give us less for our money.

If more people are unable to afford the collection it could lead to a possible increase in fly tipping. We pay enough now, garden waste used to be collected for free. To increase it to these levels is just a scam

We need fortnightly but £50 a year on top of council tax is taking the piss

In Usk we have no recycling centre. I have an extremely large, protected tree in my garden as well as my fortnightly service I am required to make at least 6-8 trips per Autumn to Monmouth with garden waste from one tree. The impact of my car use age and the environment should be considered. I think you should provide a large container for garden waste for Usk residents. Beside my personal issues this feels like a further financial burden particularly upon the elderly who will find disposing of their garden waste so much harder. I am genuinely beginning to have some understanding as to why people fly tip.

It's a personal preference as I have a small garden and 4 weekly would be considered ample enough.

For environmental reasons (running the lorry etc) I would be happy with a reduced service. However based on the prices above I don't see that reduced service reflected in the pricing and it's a huge increase on last year! I would also need assurance that this reduction in service didn't result in jobs being cut for the collectors and drivers. So on that basis I would keep fortnightly collections but I'm not happy with the price hike, I would need a cost breakdown to justify that. In a cost of living crisis people should be supported by the council.

Please consider allowing residents to visit the recycling and waste centre without the need to book a slot. I understand this was introduced during the covid 19 pandemic but see no reason why this should continue. It discouraged people from doing the right thing with their recycling/waste. Service is fine; cost is OK.

I find that the bins are most useful in late summer through to October.

The current level of service ie fortnightly collections meets our needs. We accept the financial pressure caused by covid/war/recession and recognise regrettably that to continue this service the cost to residents was likely to increase. £50 from £28 does seem a higher percentage increase than anticipated however if the subsidy has to be removed and this figure is what is necessary we would pay this to keep the service. Thank you.

We could not afford to pay any more than the basic. We struggle as pensioners already, and we are not able enough to do the gardening ourselves. We hope for help at the lowest cost possible.

Not sure how you work out a cost if you do know how many customers you have ?
Hope the Increase in cost does not increase fly tipping!!

£50 per year is a big jump, but it's cheaper than the other options, while the alternative is having to book a visit every time I want to visit the tip. That really ties me down - also the Mitchell Troy tip is unfit for purpose and needs relocating for more space and easier access.
This service is good but I think the almost doubling of cost is too much . Perhaps stagger the increase over 2 years
Service should be longer as in the countryside there is more green waste

As much as I would prefer fortnightly collections i appreciate that financially it may not be viable.
Sadly the cost increase may be out of reach for many due to the cost of living crisis.
At our previous address we paid £70 per year for 20 collections

This service is really important as I don't have another way of getting rid of waste. Also I do things like clear leaves in front of house. That could be a cost to the council if services continue to be minimised
Please stop the need to pre-book to use the waste centres (a remnant of COVID measures) as if many of the above measures go through people will want to dispose of garden waste and if it is made Very Difficult I fear fly tipping will increase.

Having to make the best of a bad lot. Hedge cuttings are hardwood and cannot be composted and if you have no transport to go to the tip (which has limited opening hours) we have no choice but to pay this extortionate fee on top of the council tax. Disgraceful.

If this service is to be cancelled due to insufficient take up by MCC residents, what is the councils suggestion for garden waste disposal? Given the very high cost of council tax in the MCC area, in my opinion we as residents seem to get hair brained schemes forced upon us without reasonable consultation or the council's acceptance of better recommendations for investment. As examples, the atrocious waste of money on The Cross redevelopment scheme and the church Rd (unfinished) project, and the ridiculous 20 mph roads. Funny how none of these kinds of useless projects are not destined for Monmouth!

Caldicot village is now a ghost town, even the market days are almost unattended by traders. No greengrocer no general grocers plenty of fast food establishments and little else.

On top of that the anti social behaviour of the younger residents(if they are caldicot residents) make it very close to a no go area after dark.

I and many other residents would strongly suggest you focus more on proving the services we already pay for and not reduce them.

I find the service very useful and I don't feel the drop in frequency in collections is sufficiently compensated for by the lower price,

To reduce the number of collections from fortnightly would be a disincentive to use the service.

I will reduce the number of bins from 3 to 2

Being a pensioner I feel I have paid more than my fair share of taxes & charges for these essential services and think the way forward is reduce the charges which will reduce the fly tipping. I take a bit of pride in my environment and get annoyed when some folks wont pay for collections and dump their waste in layby's or farmers property

The service is good value and saves numerous trips to the tip

I am a widowed pensioner and I feel 50 pounds for a garden waste bin is going to be out of my reach.

I have understand that you are trying to reduce payments by lengthening intervals of collection.

During summer periods two week intervals is about right for collections as I keep my garden looking neat.

Is there any way you could reduce the price for pensioners who are on their own (widowed) ?
Buy increasing the cost as much as illustrated, the council risks residents cancelling their subscription and restoring to fly tipping, with the extra associated costs to the council of clearing it. Does the council want to pay extra for clearing illegal fly tipping, or do you want to spend the money wisely and avoid this?

It is a real shame that this service needs to change or be discontinued. I was planning on increasing from one bin to two next year but will now have to reconsider depending on the final decision.

I need a fortnightly collection service, however charging £42.50 is one hell of an increase, especially as collection doesn't incur any extra routes or manpower, being carried out at the same time, in the same vehicle, by the same personnel as recycling waste, not a day specific to garden waste.

I consider this an essential service. Neither is it cost effective nor particularly environmentally friendly for me to transport garden waste to a local refuse centre myself.

As a disabled customer, I find the garden waste collection invaluable, both my husband and I are disabled but we love our garden, and to know that there will be a collection every other Wednesday is great. I fully appreciate that the price must go up, and whatever is decided as long as we keep the collection I would be prepared to pay.

£35 would be what I could pay .

Any reduction in the frequency of collection is not going to be able to cope with the quantity of garden waste produced. With the amenities at Usk now closed many people are not going to be able to dispose of their waste.

I'd like to know how Blaenau Gwent manages to provide a free garden collection service.

Why are we not using bins for household waste together plastic bags

Its a great service and happy to pay for it thanks

Other parts of the UK include garden waste collection in their normal recycling. It is ridiculous that MCC has to charge.

The choices you've provided don't make much sense. Hard to understand how 20 collections can cost £50 while 10 are only £7.50 cheaper. Feels like we're being pushed into either paying almost twice what we are this year or not having collections at all, as the less frequent options all represent really poor value. I appreciate the difficulties the council has with its budget, but it feels like there could be some better and more equitable options than what the above survey is offering.

If the cost for garden waste goes over £35 I would not use the service.

As a household we really value this service, although that does seem a big jump in price.

Should have been properly priced by previous incompetent administration.

Cease having to book a slot and allow people to use the refuse facilities as and when convenient to them. If collection is too expensive then being able to use the refuse Centre would ease that cost. Stopping these services will increase local traffic and an increase in pollution levels with people taking it to the recycling centres themselves. It goes against all wales cutting emissions policies. There is a recession on, manage your accounts properly,. ae a retired couple I think £2700 council tax is enough to pay

It's disappointing that this service is getting prohibitively expensive. It will encourage residents to fly tip or burn their waste adding to council problems and increasing pollution.

It's not worth running if not a fortnightly service. Would not keep green waste smelling in bin for longer.

How much will fly tipping cost the Council? Losing this service, even at increased rates, will likely tempt some to dump waste; this has to be prevented!

With this level of price increase we will reduce the number of bins and may cease to use the service and use the recycle centre but that's assuming you don't start charging for this. What will happen to all the bins no longer used as I am sure they will be significant in number and would have been a pricey original investment?

I think £35 would be acceptable —20 collections per year.

This service is invaluable for me as, at 76, I am not able to easily use the tip facility to dispose of waste.

For residents who cannot get to the tip for whatever reason, this is a "must have" service

I would be lost without this service. There would be no way I could struggle to take green bags to the recycling centre. £50 for 20 collections is a far better deal then £42.50 for 10.

I've hardly used the service this year so would happy accept a reduced service (once a month) but not for the amount of money you are proposing.

I will go back to taking green waste to the tip. Please can the booking system for the tip be reviewed? It is a hangover from the pandemic. I don't understand why we are restricting recycling facilities.

There has been a reduction in the number of cars spaces, allowed to drop off at any one time. Why is there a member of staff checking cars number plates, what a waste of resource.

What a ridiculous price .Talk about a complete rip off .How can anyone justify this price .You should be ashamed of yourselves.

I think these costs are disgusting on top of what we pay already. This also takes advantage of people who have no option to remove it themselves such as the elderly or disabled.

There is already green waste tipping by owners that refuse to pay for this service - you only have to walk through Undy to see that and personally I think the problem will increase especially with the above proposals. With climate change and warmer summers I think this will cause a greater risk of fires.

The service should continue all year round, stopping at this stage of the year is not helpful for gardeners. The weather continues to be mild and grass is still growing hence garden waste is still being generated.

Costs far too expensive.

If the price per bin increases, then residents will buy less bins. The collection van still needs to travel around, but the revenue from bins purchased, per house, has reduced. It is a false economy to make them too expensive to buy. I currently have 4 bins, but will stop if they are increasing to £50 each.

You have made it too expensive.

Unbelievably expensive..will have to just take to the tip..

I would possibly stop using the service.

Should the frequency be reduced from fortnightly then I will cease to use the service - anything less than every two weeks is pointless

The garden waste collection is very helpful and very important. I would be willing to pay a significant amount more in order to continue receiving this service.

This is a really beneficial service which prevents people disposing of garden waste inappropriately. Now that slots are allocated to visit the recycling centre and with reduced days of opening, it can be difficult to attend the centre in a timely manner, particularly in Summer months when it is busier. Not really much choice as leaving collections any longer than every 2 weeks will stink and the waste won't fit in the bin

Ridiculous suggested increases in cost for a garden waste service that is already considerably more expensive than nearby local authorities charge. This reeks of another way of local councils trying to squeeze money out of the population instead of securing proper funding from national governments. I FIND DURING THE SPRING AND AUTUMN I HAVE MORE GARDEN RUBBISH - DURING THE DRY SUMMER MONTHS NOT SO MUCH.

HOW ABOUT FORTNIGHTLY MARCH APRIL MAY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MONTHLY IN JUNE JULY AND AUGUST

Disgusting increases suggested . Many gardens are owned by the elderly. This will only increase the amount of polluting fires being lit and fly tipping.

Cheaper just to fly-tip it!!

It's a brilliant service every two weeks but cost is prohibitive at levels you are going to put it up to I find the suggested increases too much. I am a pensioner and have to keep to my budget due to the continuing cost of living and fuel increases. I use my garden bin each fortnight so would find it really difficult, as I have arthritis, to take the garden waste to the collection points. I am sure there are many pensioners in my situation.

Still good value

Essential service for those unable to get to recycling centre. Perhaps allow incinerators to be used at set times.

I will not use the service on the grounds that i have 2 council trees at the bottom of the garden. and i fill 3 bins full of leaves off these trees in autumn. WHY should i pay extra for bins when I'm filling them with what i call council leaves, the trees needs topping and blocking light, asked for them to be topped and got a message back no, so if we got to pay more then the leaves will be going back over the fence. i rest my case

I'm responding on behalf of my 86yr old mother. She can garden and take the wheelie bin to the road, but she wouldn't be able to take it to the recycling centre.

Sometimes we exceed the bin capacity available - how about more publicity for the garden waste collection at the recycling centres?

That's a big price jump! I might have to cease if I had to pay in one go though.
Keep the collections the same frequency for the same cost
Only if I can share with a neighbour will keep

Fortnightly is ok in spring and autumn but is already too infrequent during the summer months
On fixed income (pension). No room for composting.

I feel that this Service should be weekly with no break of service between December-March.
Other area's have a year round service.

Do not need every 2 weeks but maybe some do. I don't want to pay £50 every 2 weeks when I don't need it

I cannot afford such a high price hike, I'm aware council tax is predicted to rise by 3.95% and this alone is a concern to me. I do not wish to burn my garden waste and until now haven't done so due to safety reasons, and smoke to the neighborhood but unfortunately see this as the better option rather than dumping my garden waste locally, as others will undoubtedly start to do. I hope that this decision is given more thought, as it is very disappointing.
Please keep this service running.

For us it is an essential service. The alternative would be frequent visits to the tip which would become very congested. This sort of reduction in service that is seemingly contemplated would also massively increase Monmouths carbon footprint with all those extra visits in cars to the tip. It is time for the Council to put it's money where it's mouth is, and reconsider its decision.
How about some difficult decisions about cutting executive pay to match the wider public sector.
Difficult decisions always means cuts for taxpayers never for the fat cats
This is far to expensive... I like fortnight collection but would not pay £50
This is an extremely useful service. I would not like to see it be cancelled.

5th option -

£50 -weekly service better value for this cost

As survey mentions, trucks, labour, staff costs don't halve if frequency halves.. weekly would equally not double the cost either and would keep waste down.

Have entered that I would cease collections as- this essential service is already minimal at fortnightly and 50£ is a large amount. Would be forced to consider it in reality or find other ways to get rid of my grass/ leaves/ tree SC

Concerns over rats/pests returning if many stop having green rubbish taken away (due to inc cost)

Community concern with this proposal that we will get more garden waste fly tipping as occurred quickly in the area during Covid lockdowns, when collecting initially stopped.

Alternatives needed however- above just composting.

I am not happy about paying more, ultimately though there are limited options, and every two weeks is pushing it, for the increase I would expect to be able to put more out, the bins don't hold that much considering how big they are.

This will increase fly tipping & why do we still have to make appointments to visit the tip now Covid restrictions are over

This is a massive increase for this service but what option is there, where and how are residents going to get rid of garden waste with out this service, especially the elderly and vulnerable. It is a big ask for people as above, young families, single parents, those on low wage who are already struggling with the cost of living crisis. Is the above the only options that are going to be considered?

Why is the service not paying for itself as advertised when the Green bags began? Less than fortnightly would be quite pointless. The potential total environment cost of each household taking waste to distant collection points is absurd. Your job is to take our waste and dispose of it properly. I will continue to use the garden waste collection and would prefer it to remain fortnightly. The cost is worth it for me

6-10 collections is pointless.

if many people cease collections will there be sufficient capacity at the recycling centre - i very much doubt it

guess we just have to pay...

I'm sure you're aware the impact a price increase will have on illegal dumping of garden waste in the countryside

Fuel prices have increased by about 40% but other costs such as vehicle maintenance and wages haven't increased by 40%. Is the council really suggesting that their costs have almost doubled? This will lead to more residents travelling to the tip, increase in CO2 levels and far more fly tipping. My council tax now take up almost 25% of my take home pay.

Any reduction or cancellation of green waste collections will I fear lead to an increase in fly tipping. Reducing the frequency of collections is not viable for people with a reasonable sized garden. The increase in price proposed, seems exorbitant when we already pay a very high rate of Council Tax. Households are already struggling to pay increased fuel and food bills and there is a worry that such a high price may lead to many households burning their garden waste or illegally dumping waste. This would lead to increased air pollution or an increased cost to the council of clearing up fly tipped waste.

Surely the cost of your landfill bill will increase if this service ceases. For those of us with small gardens this is a great service.

This is atrocious. A couple of years ago it was £18. Now you are looking to charge £50! We can't do without it, so will have to pay it! Many people won't though and it will just increase the amount of waste sent to the tip or will increase fly tipping. Putting this price up will NOT save you money in the long run.

Can local authority provide a community composting site in local places - need facility to prevent fly tipping as people won't pay for bin collection if costs keep rising ☹

Newport don't pay for garden waste collections. We pay high Council tax that should cover garden waste

It's only through from Easter when to November I cut grass so for me first collection would be end March end April end May end June end July end August end September and last one end November and to me that would be ample of collections

Service needs to extend to end of December due to excessive leaves which we clean up from roads
If I'm paying £50 a year for this service I want no quibbles whatsoever about what I put in my Garden Recycling Bin!

It's a great service but I believe if you stop it altogether there would be a lot of fly tipping if the garden waste

It is a brilliant service and well worth the cost. At the highest rate that would only be £2.50 per collection !

As a pensioner without a car I would be lost without it. Thank you for providing it.

I have a large garden and have pet ducks my 2 bins go out every collection full I need this service as it's not practical to go to the tip every fortnight

At the prices set above, which have doubled for fortnightly collections and are more expensive for less collections than previous fortnightly (and less than half the collection dates), have chosen cease to use as in an economic crisis with the cost of everything rising, its just not affordable. I would have no other choice but to source another way to rid of the garden recycling. The elderly who use this service a lot would struggle to afford these prices. In all honesty its a ridiculous price increase!

It's a very convenient service, particularly for those who can't make it to the tip.

We value this service and are prepared to support it as proposed. The alternative seems likely to imply significant additional traffic at the recycling centre for composting access, which doesn't seem desirable, especially given the booking system. However, I fear such a hike is a rubicon some won't wish to cross at a time of competing pressures. We appreciate the difficult decisions MCC has to make, but thank you for consulting.

£50 on top of already high council tax bills seems expensive, however the cost to the environment of every household driving to the local refuse centre would also be high. More information on local allotments where we could take our garden waste would be useful as small town gardens do not have the space to compost all our garden waste.

We don't have a large garden but fortnightly is required for the grass really. £50 is a lot I'm not sure everyone would pay and this may increase fly tipping. Maybe have village skip areas where people could drop off their greens? Spain do this for all waste and it works well. In village hall car park?

We have a large garden and could not sustain less frequent collections

It would be good to have it through out the year. We have garden waste all the time! Not just march to November. Offer a discount on people having more than one bin?

We regularly fill the bin over the spring and summer period so a collection frequency less than fortnightly would not be suitable!

This is a valuable service for us as we have a big garden

This is an essential service, savings should be made elsewhere.

Ridiculous going up to this price, won't be using this service at those prices. That's nearly doubled in price for the same service.

This is an excellent service as there would be no way I could get the rubbish to the council tip in Llanfoist .

If the service does cease I suggest that the existing bins should be re-purposed as refuse bins for normal bi-weekly collection.

With the cost of living increasing for everyone this is a real shame but I understand the budget pressures on the authorities

I still think 20 collections for £50 or 10 for

£42.50 is still very good value,

Do not have the extra money to cover. The council tax is exorbitant now & with more rises due don't know where the money is coming from. The recycling centre should be open without need to book appointment, it appears the services are getting less but we are charged more & more for the privilege. Why can't the compost produced be sold to offset costs? Also why do 2 people need to follow the wagon in a van? As usual this will fall on deaf ears with Monmouth Council who will do as they please any way.

A location for green waste to be taken in Chepstow would mean easier collection for mcc and would avoid residents having to drive to 5 Lanes to dispose of garden waste

Many thanks to all our bin people who work so hard.

I am grateful for this service as our local tip at Usk closed and as I work full time, find trying to fit in the time to travel to either Monmouth or Abergavenny very difficult. I rent my property and the landlord has stipulated garden must be kept tidy otherwise I'd be happy to let it become like a jungle :-)

The additional cost isn't helpful considering the cost of living and current inflation

You closed our Household waste recycling centre in Usk against the wishes of the residents and town council. Usk is famed for its gardens and therefore produces a lot of garden waste. That decision necessitates me having to travel 12 miles to my nearest recycling centre at Llanfoist. I have to do that as the volume of my Garden waste is in excess of the capacity of the Garden waste bin and I couldn't afford extra bins at the current cost, let alone the new proposed charges. As a result of these proposals I will have to cancel my garden waste contract, necessitating more frequent visits to Llanfoist. So much for declaring the county a climate emergency area, and reducing the carbon footprint. Yet when we arrive there you ask us to switch off our engines because of the climate emergency! It's a joke.

As always I'm astounded by how we are paying more for council services and actually getting less of a service. Unfortunately our hands are tied.

I fill my bin every two weeks. I would not be able to manage anything less than two weekly and I can't afford or have the space to have more than one bin.

Am prepared to pay extra for the service ,as it has been most useful and we have always made full use of the fortnightly collection.

I think 10 collections should be £25 and 6 £12.50 and then people would have a fair choice based on what they can afford

Great service, please retain at currently frequency.

Excellent service love the ease of the wheelie bins too - thank you - keep up all the hard work.

Maybe you could consider monthly/quarterly payments for households who can't do a lump sum? Why does the cost barely reduce for 10 collections? I would have happily opted to pay less for four weekly collections, if it was £25-£30 but the difference in price is so small it seems like a really bad deal.

Excellent service would be keen to keep fortnightly to facilitate recycling of garden waste

I always have enough to fill my bin. I need the present level of collection.

The service is excellent and convenient as we now have to make appointments for the tip and restricted visits. Thank you.

How much is a home composter from MCC

I couldn't store my grass cuttings for more than two weeks.

If people have need of a green bin they are going to need the service to stay as it is, otherwise there would be no point to the service.

Please consider at least 2 more collections as growing season extends well into December thank you

As a disabled pensioner I am happy with my current service.

I don't think the options above spell out enough detail to that option to enable me to make a choice I have happy to go along with whichever choice , and realise that the service has to be paid for

☐

Would it be possible to have fortnightly collections in May to August and four weekly collections during spring and autumn?

We would be very unhappy to lose this service. In fact, considering Global Warming and the subsequent longer growing season, extending the collection period would seem appropriate. This would also reduce congestion at the council recycling centre.

£50 wouldnt cover the cost of a meal for two people. Its a no brainer!

Remove the booking system at the Llanfoist recycling centre so residents can fit visits around work/family commitments. Any time we go now it's usually empty, even though the booking system seemed "full". Thank you!

Is there any thought of providing wheelie bins for household waste as other local authorities do?

Thank you

I am not happy with the suspected rise in charges for the current collections, I am a pensioner who loves to keep my garden as best as I can.

You need to start managing the finances and services better you are permitting more development of dormitory style accommodation such as ours for Bristol commuter's we have no space to compost and rely on this type of service with no way of getting it to the recycle centre. For £50 I would also like a full make over of my bin gold paint and bejewelled

Paul

Attempting to compost on site.

Can you please provide the service year round as other local authorities do...of course this will come at a cost but worth it to us.

Still good value and saves the inside of the car and if the bin isn't half full I don't put it out

I'd go with any option that's economically viable. I'd rather people who really need the council's help are prioritised. I will have to find a way to deal with compost I can't process in my garden (hedging)

I believe that there will be more bonfires if the service is too expensive or if it ceases completely. Although I don't really want to pay the £50 per bin (I have 2), as I have a large garden I fill the bins particularly during the spring and summer and cannot do without them. Collecting them less frequently would not work for me.

Fully understand that you need to increase prices due to the inflationary times we live in.

It would be good for the service to continue for one more collection into December as there are still lots of leaves etc to be collected after the end of November.

We haven't a car so a collection service is important to us. Please retain the service

We understand budgets are tight in the council. Happy to pay more to get bins collected, its a service not everyone needs or wants, so we should pay more for it if we want to keep it.

We understand budgets are tight in the council. Happy to pay more to get bins collected, its a service not everyone needs or wants, so we should pay more for it if we want to keep it.

I rely on a 2 weekly green collection as I do not own a car and have no means of getting to recycle centre. My neighbours are all elderly and in a similar situation as myself.

I am a pensioner and cannot afford the prices forecast for next year, will just have to stop cutting my grass

If you'd cut the price of the reduced collections eg 25.00 for 10 collections, I could see the point but the way the reduced collections have been priced makes it very bad value for customers.

I would happily vote to abolish the entire Monmouthshire council, the only service I use is garden waste collection so I pay a fortune in rates for nowt. the facility at Usk which I used was removed, you really are a collective shower of self serving incompetents

This will undoubtedly lead to a significant increase in fly tipping which will affect me personally as Secretary of a local fishing club. When people fly tip green waste it will also include other non degradable waste as there will be no checks. The other option people will take is to burn their waste causing smoke pollution and fire hazard.

It would be great to have a one off collection in January for people to get rid of their Christmas trees. Would prefer collections to take place throughout the year
I still feel this would be value for the money
If this service wasn't available, I would have to burn garden waste - which I don't want to do because of environmental impact.
Way too expensive. Cheaper to take it to the tip. And you will get more fly tipping.

We go to Monmouth quite regularly, so would use Mitchel Troy instead of the paying double. I would be interested in what your plans are for collecting the bins that are no longer being used.

Why have we been paying in the first instance when Newport provide a free service to avoid fly tipping burning and increased carbon emissions on a drive to the tip. Not many can afford this increase. If only a few accept the charges it will not be cost effective to run the trucks and employ the staff. I suggest you look at wastage in administration rather than increasing pressure on residents whom already pay the highest rates in area.

The current rates are high enough. Council Tax is too high and based on an outdated system so you need to find efficiencies elsewhere because God knows how much money you waste on bureaucracy! I fully understand the problem.

Its an essential service and if reduced would only have to use petrol to drive to Five Lanes to dispose so would far rather pay another £20 to be able to have a 2 weekly service 20 collections far better value than 10 at £42 so definitely wish this to continue even though another hit on finances . we are sinking with rising prices...

I am elderly and disabled. I have a large garden which I love and employ a gardener. I need this service as I cannot manage with any of the other options.

I think during the summer you need this service. I cannot always get to the Waste Depot in Langstone and I would think a lot of elderly people need this service.

I certainly do not agree with the increase to £50. However, you are being subsidised by 240,000 for the service so not sure why it is acceptable to cut. This one was already a payable service when you were 23 million in deficit? Maybe you shouldn't be buying other areas like Spytty retail Park? I would want my bin service immaculate with respect on time, I'm not very happy but you've already decided so I'm not sure why your consultant as you've already said your price increases? Your roads are in terrible conditions as soon as you hit Monmouthshire. Everything is poorly maintained. Think the senior management team need to sort out the budgeting and re-prioritise their priorities.

Garden waste needs to be collected frequently as otherwise not sure what the alternative would be. Would you then provide garden waste bags as previously for us to take to the tip?

I understand the financial pressures that the council is facing. However I would like to stress the usefulness of this service for someone like me, living in a relatively remote rural area, who regularly has to dispose of clippings from blackthorn hedges. Bundling these up and taking them down to the tip is very difficult. The wheely bins are a godsend.

Spring and Autumn my bins are full every 2 weeks but during the summer months I struggle to fill one yet I have paid for both annually. Would it be possible to reduce summer collections and perhaps increase costs to £45 per bin. The increase from £28 to £50 is a massive leap. If you reduced to 4 weeks collections at £42.50 the saving is not worth the hassle of having full bins for 4 weeks with nowhere to keep stuff for 3 of the weeks, I would stop the service if frequency dropped lower than every 2 weeks.

The additional charges you propose to increase is disgraceful. Paying £28 currently is bad enough! Newport manage this service fine with NO charges! Yet our council tax charges are higher than Newport!

That is my preferred option but I am willing to accept the decision of the council. This is a service which I rely on as I am elderly and find it difficult to go to the recycling centre.

It saves the cost of using own fuel to go to the tip and time. Time is priceless. Also think about the carbon footprint .

10 would be fine but none garden waste , ie vegetable peelings would be a bit ripe in the summer months. If you stopped collecting would garden waste go to landfill??

The service is good value. You could charge more!

This is a key service, without it I have not doubt the council would see a large increase in fly-tipping as a result. How much would this cleanup cost?

The increase is inevitable but I fear it will price many out of the option, pensioners should be permitted to keep it at 2021/22 prices.

I regard the service as extremely useful as it avoids the need to visit the Five Lanes site on a regular basis during the "growing season" with the attendant fuel costs and avoidable carbon emissions.

I completed this survey yesterday but used an old works postcode - NP16 5XT.

My comments on the previous completed form was that it is a very important service to our family, we pay alot of council tax and do not use all the facilities on offer but the gardening waste is important to us.

My question to the Council is if you do not provide a service to collect garden waste what are we supposed to do with it.

It would not be an option for us to take it down to the refuse site in Five Lanes,.

I will cut down from two bins to one only

It would be easier to take it to the dump but having to book a slot makes it inconvenient why do we still need to book ??

Living in a rural area quite a distance from my nearest recycling centre, paying a slightly higher rate for a fortnightly collection is still a viable option. I compost a lot, but still always have garden waste I cannot manage.

Collections needed every 2 weeks during the spring and summer due to amount of garden waste produced.

Expected a price rise but disappointed that it is nearly doubling.

I will only have two bins as opposed to the current three

Fear it will increase fly-tipping due to the increased cost

The four weekly and six weekly collections would seem to be impractical, especially as some of the green waste would start to rot, especially grass cuttings. My wife and I are both pensioners, and the increase on last year's amount seems excessive.

As long as Five Lanes facility continues to accept garden waste I will take mine there as and when required.

I would probably end up burning garden waste unless a transfer station for it was made available in or near Usk. It is too far to drive to Abergavenny Llanfoist to dispose of garden waste.

Make the recycling centre at Llanfoist more accessible by ending unneeded booking system and open more more days

Fly tipping could now become more of a problem

would take green waste to the tip

this saves petrol and environment also with limits to Recycling centre will not be able to dispose of other items e.g. glass etc.

Surely the existing fortnightly service can continue with just a modest increase in cost to say £35 per year

Composting for the amount of green waste I have in the year is not an option.

If the service was withdrawn are there plans to re supply the garden waste sacks so that individuals would be able to convey waste to refuse sites?

I think we should become more sustainable and my choice should prompt me to increase my composting but allow disposal of small bush/tree branches through the reduced system

Any less frequent than 2 weeks is impractical. We have had missed collections in the past and if occurred would lead to a 8 or 16 week period before you could fill again.

At present I pay for TWO bins, but that would be reduced to one based on the new proposed rates.

Like many pensioners in these difficult times we have to cut our cloth accordingly.

Very good service reduces my need to go the skips

I presume we can take to recycling centre ourselves.

Please don't reduce this service. It is essential for us living in a semi rural location without easy access to a local recycling centre. It's a total pain trying to get a slot booked in Llanfoist now that usk recycling centre is shut. We, in Castle oak, are surrounded by trees and rely on the garden waste collection for all our leaves to be taken.

Collection of garden waste is a valued service and needs to continue. However the poor reduction in price for any other frequency other than the fortnightly does not make sense! I will stick with the current arrangement.

Absolute joke only place to pay for recycling won't be using this service if any of the options implemented

There would be no alternative to dispose of the garden rubbish.

It's a good service and works well

£2.50 per collection is not expensive and is value for money

I would not want gardens waste collection monies to subsidise other services

A very good service and is really useful for those who are not able to use the tip for one reason or another.

It is absurd that the last collection this year is 21 November when half the leaves are still on the trees in this area. Around here we will be sweeping up leaves up until Christmas. You should continue collections for another month and re-start collections on 1 April.

Would pay £35 for fortnightly collection as proposed last year. Will take rubbish to tip myself otherwise.

Extortionate pricing when we're starting a National crisis!

Is there some way of having a variable frequency ie fortnightly in the Spring Monthly during the summer and then back to fortnightly in the Autumn? Do you have volumes figures that suggest what the best frequency is?

Needs to be fortnightly in the summer (grass is cut every week) but then can be less frequent during the spring and autumn/winter months. Cannot justify the increased costs

As we live so far from a council tip in Usk I find this service expensive and unfair as we have no other easy option but to use it. When we had the tip in Usk we used to take our garden waste there regularly and it was so convenient. I can never get a weekend slot at the Abergavenny tip and taking waste in my car that has been sat in the garden for a while is deeply unpleasant on a 20+ minute journey. Plus fuel costs are rising. Also the grass is growing all year now due to climate change (we are still cutting weekly) and garden waste does not stop in Dec. Maybe a reduced frequency collection should continue through the winter? As ever Usk pays more and gets less. The waste bin costs should reflect those that have easy access to a tip! Not one price fits all.

It's a lot of extra money from £29 to £50 to find & with the annual council tax rise where do u expect people to find the money from every year

We value this service highly

This is a very useful service, good value for the money. It avoids the problems with bonfires. Also the recycled waste via Green2Earth produces excellent soil conditioner.

PLEASE continue the service !

I currently use 3 garden waste bins and these are the minimum I can get away with due to the size of the garden. It is not possible to compost the amount of grass we take off the lawns each week.

Please continue the service as i fear reducing it or removing all together will see a large increase in illegal dumping and flies and insect infestations

The Council Tax charge is already too high and we don't think it is fair to charge more for this service. possibly offer 3 different bin sizes, small medium, large for fortnightly collections

If MCC withdraw this service there MUST be more flexible options to dispose of Green waste at Council run local refuse sites. The unnecessary booking system and opening times need to change to allow residents more flexibility to dispose of Green waste

This is an extortionate increase. Everyone's costs are going up but almost doubling it is ridiculous. Composting everything is not viable for many due to space and vermin constraints. Neither is taking it to refuse sites, which requires a suitable vehicle and time and booking a slot in advance.

At the price proposed I would seriously consider whether I renewed it. I am very disappointed by this as I use no other services of the council save for refuse but pay a princely sum each month already.

I'd use more than £50 in fuel if I had to get to the recycling centre all the time (if I can get a slot) and my car wouldn't carry as much as one green bin

This is a massive increase, how can this be justified? Would you consider pay per collection

Some weeks my bin has been missed and it is not collected until the next fortnightly collection day. I would not pay £50 for this level of service

The charge for the bin collection has got very expensive. A lot of people will not be able to afford the bin. This will mean more dumping of waste

As a Pensioner I, like everyone else, has to cut back on spending and in light of increasing costs for this service would have to accept a less frequent, but cheaper, option. However, as there is more garden waste at some times of the year than others, would it be possible to start the service earlier in the year.

I wouldn't mind it monthly but that cost still seems not a mile away from £50 so we might as well have more collection for an extra £7.50.

WHY DO WE GET CHARGED FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION WHEN YOU MAKE MONEY SELLING THE WASTE.

OTHER COUNCILS IN SOUTH WALES DO NOT CHARGE .WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE PROFIT YOU MAKE

Are these real options? It seems the fees are basically to maintain the vehicles first and make collections second. The choice is either provide a full service or not. With the latter that means making a lot of people redundant, fly tipping of garden waste increasing or massive demands on the recycling centres' slots for access. Lose - lose everyone.

The garden waste collection is an excellent service, perhaps especially for older residents, and has been well worth the money. I can totally accept that the price needs to increase.

We do understand the necessity to increase the payment for this service, but surely the same consideration could have been made regarding the financial difficulties when the council decided to continue with Christmas lights when some people are having to choose between eating or heating. Surely the money needed for Christmas lights would have been much better use of council money directed towards those people than lighting up the town for 6 weeks.

If it moved to 4 or 6 weekly collections, people would need more bins and the space to store them, so it would cost more in the end. I could not take it to the dump myself and would need to burn the garden waste.

We live in an AONB. This will increase fly tipping which will increase costs to the council for clearing. It will encourage burning which is very bad for the environment and dangerous to wildlife and property. Especially if we have another extremely dry summer. The increase is nearly 100%. Why can the council say accept the increase or we will stop the service. If you were a business you would not be able to do that. This substantial increase does not reference what our council tax increase is expected to be so how can we manage our budget without this information. It's not a decision we can make fairly as we don't have all the facts

It would be a terrible loss to lose this service and would cause greater fly tipping issues
Helpful and worthwhile service. Stopping the service may result in garden waste being dumped and as a consequence potentially extra costs for cleanup.

Kindly advise when these collections will take place.

It has been drummed into us that we must all re-cycle. So why on earth did MCC get rid of the Recycling Centre in the car park at Usk. This was an asinine decision to remove such a useful service. It should have been expanded not removed.

The service stops too early before all the trees have shed their leaves. It should be a year round service.

I would use the system, having paid for the bin, suggest every 3 weeks for pick up. In the summer time, as a 4 week period is too long...

as an observance, I hope we don't see an increase in fly tipping because of your decision

I value this service highly and believe it should be paid for by households that use it.

How does this save you money if as in our street we have 5 houses with bins and if 2 were to pay £50 per 2 week collection and the rest did not yet you are in the same street. I think a fair amount would be £40 per 2 week collection. Also a increase of over 75% really.

Make using the existing recycling depots more user friendly for Garden waste deposits. Many older residents either do not have computers or are not computer literate and find booking slots difficult. Now that the covid problem has been contained why can't we revert to just turning up as before. On my last two visits half the delivery bays were empty.

We currently pay £300/£3000 per year in Council Tax!

We cannot leave the bin out if we are not home all day as the bin is left blocking the pavement and not put onto the drive. We also cannot put the bin out if we have an holiday so the cost of missed collections is unviable.

I already have a problem with people dumping in my allotment, this will make the situation worse. Appointments to visit the recycling centres also add to this problem. I prefer to be able to visit when I have the opportunity and not have to prebook as then I have to take time off from work. Fly tipping is increasing. I can see this increase 10 fold with the service being unaffordable to many. This also brings cost to clear up, more in fact than providing an affordable service from the home. This will also lead to an increase in garden fires as people turn to burning their waste. I put a small quantity of household waste out monthly / 6 weekly and only food waste is e.g. bones. Whereas neighbours put out large amounts. Can this be addressed? Why should I not pay less than neighbours who put out 2 large black bags and a full food bin overflowing with wasted food.

This is a good service at a good cost please keep it the same for the future Many Thanks

20 collections for £50 is £2.50 per collection. 10 collections for £42.50 is £4.25 per collection. This shows clearly that you are loading up the charge with fixed costs. How about reducing your fixed costs? That's what the public are having to do in these inflationary times!

The risk you are taking is that of more fly tipping which of course costs you money to clear up.

Please open the recycling centre to how it used to be

I think you should cease the booking system at the recycling centres as COVID-19 has passed, this may well reduce the level of 'fly tipping' we see.

Will you be collecting unwanted bins if the service is discontinued?

A Valuable service which I would want to continue

Regular collections are important

As a household of senior citizens we have no alternative in getting rid of garden waste and will be forced to accept one of your proposals.

This is an important service....if stopped and/or reduced the potential environment impact could be significant....ie more and more private cars making the trip to the Council Waste Stations. So pricing and frequency of the service should be reasonable and fair and be recorded as the Council's contribution to the green agenda.

I really appreciate the service but also understand the very difficult situation the council is in, I would therefore like the service to continue but appreciate this may not be possible, good luck!

You are providing a good service thank you.

These's options are extortionate & as a pensioner are just not sustainable.

Price rises such as this will only see an increase in fly-tipping that's for sure!

What happens to the garden waste? how much money does it earn?

The cost of £50 is too high

I think the present price and frequency is about right,

Anything less than a fortnightly collection will make the service inadequate and pointless, and there is only a small garden at this address. I cannot see many people agreeing to £50, as, according to the papers, people are finding the cost of living difficult without this increase. The difference in price between 20 and 10 collections per year, seems hardly an incentive to go for the 10 collections p.a. as for just £7.50 another ten collections are on offer. However, for me, the thought of having to regularly book a slot at Mitchell Troy is not attractive, to say the least, hence my reluctant "agreement" to £50!!

How do we get the bin collected and taken away?

A very useful service.

Too expensive

Always had a good service from the waste recycling

Happy to have fortnightly or monthly it's a good service

Good service!

I think it is important to retain the collections as people will dump their garden waste anywhere

Please keep this service

I live in the shadows of 4 x 80-100ft plus tall deciduous lime trees. I am therefore inundated with 10's of 1,000's of leaves and have to use both my 2 registered wheelie bins to clear these and the fallen twigs etc! A reduced service will NOT be adequate!

The 10 collection not very good value

I found I only used service about once monthly, my second choice would be to remain fortnightly.

the price will be dramatically increased from last year based on the above. reducing the service while increasing the price will undoubtedly lead to more garden waste being flytipped around the county. i would prefer fortnightly collection.

I am 82 years old and find the service invaluable as I would find it difficult to dispose of my garden waste in any other way.

With inflation running at around 11% an increase of 80% seems incredulous !!!!

Too costly at £50

Having no bin would create problems down at the tip. Also if the collection was cancelled, this could cause problems for elderly persons who would struggle to take the garden waste to the tip and lift from the car boot.

Fuel hasn't increased that much and I'm fed up with "Covid" being used as an excuse to increase the cost of anything! The cost of living on the other hand is real and many people won't be able to afford this increase and an increase like this will only lead to more "fly tipping". I know It's nice to have a garden and I'd like to maintain it as one, not an overgrown mess and am happy to continue to pay the current fee as I think it's fair.

I think £50 is too high as our council tax is going to increase as well. People are struggling as it is I am sure there are ways to cut costs.

Would prefer the collections to be weekly. Also to continue into December, when you work and the weekend weather is wet you are unable to clear the garden as you wish. Disappointingly I still have garden waste to deal with.

Two drivers for two vehicles (one truck and one van) doing the same round at the same time on the same day ? That simply does not make sense.

The collection service is well managed and is an ESSENTIAL facility since the Usk recycling centre was closed down.

The Green Waste cost should be included as part of the general rates

£5.50 a month for 2 collections seems good value. We do have reoccur ant problems with our bin being missed but if that is rectified I think it's good.

Unfortunately we do not have any choice as do others that use the service. £22 is a massive increase for this service and will lead to more fly tipping. Your choices above are not acceptable as charges have increased from last year even for 6 collections a year. It would appear that the deficit you face is being past on to your customers.

This a zero sum survey, with no real alternatives - six collections a year! All surrounding authorities manage to provide a service that has no additional charge. While I would accept a small additional charge, £50 is basically stating to residents 'we do not wish to provide this service', which you should be. I would also add that cost differences overall are very small in relation to MCC total budget, but will incur wrath that displays an inverse relationship to the perceived 'savings'. Residents are already paying the highest council taxes in Wales.

In view of the increasing number of special visits which will need to be made to the recycling centre if the service frequency is curtailed (or we can only afford fewer bins), please consider supplying customers with a windscreen pass so that we do not have to book in advance for the limited days that the centres are open.

Perhaps consider changing frequency of collections throughout the year, rather than for the year as a whole? For example, I often have too much waste for the fortnightly bin collections in the summer months, but could probably reduce to one collection every 4 weeks in spring and autumn. I assume it will still be possible to take garden waste to the recycling centre, as well as using the collection service

In this age of not being able to burn waste at home, despited home composting as much as possible, the lack of the Garden Waste Bin collection will probably mark an increase in countryside fly-tipping of garden waste, with the grave threat of unsuitable species of plant and insect being introduced to the environment. Not everyone can or wishes to take garden waste to the local amenity site, particularly as it is now by appointment, and probably not convenient when garden maintainance takes place. please keep service as it is fortnightly thank you -

It would be a false economy to increase the price so much. More people (including me) will take waste to local sites, thus increasing traffic and congestion at sites. Some people will also dump garden waste at inappropriate places, e.g. roadside.

None

Brilliant service, good value for money. Your workers are fantastic, really helpful lads - they are Worth every penny.

Even at £50 I feel this is good value for 20 collections throughout the year. It also saves an extra trip to the amenity site, less cars on the road.

There are trees near my property and most of the leaves from these tree blow into my garden thus an amout of my waste is not actually my waste but the councils that I'm actually paying for to dispose of! This should also be taken into consideration in your increase in costs.

I'd be happy to keep the collection as it is at the increased cost, although I want to point out such a huge increase from £28 to £50 isn't easy for a pensioner. If I was going to pay a lot more I'd expect a good service, i.e. not to have missed bin collections, which happen sometimes (e.g. this week, the last one of the year).

Why is there only a £7.50 saving for half the collections!?

Valuable service which should be continued as I pay my council tax! Other issues need to be addressed eg the payment of councillors!! Also, when you are considering redundancy's across MCC have you considered the amount of counsellors needed including their expertise in the areas they are responsible for??

An increase to £50 is unacceptable. It will fuel the rise in the cost of living we are all experiencing. Be more realistic. A smaller increase will be expected. The cabinet needs to understand that confidence in their ability to govern is very fragile. We have struggled for years as WG has inadequately funded Monmouthshire through the funding settlement. Go back to your bosses in Cardiff and fight our corner.

I fear the result will be increased fly tipping. Some residents think it's fine to destroy our woodland and verges by fly tipping grass cuttings already.

Most swallowed the move to fortnightly collections. Any less frequent is also unrealistic in the growing season.

That is a huge increase from £18 per bin. Will the Five Lanes site be open 7 days a week to cope with the extra traffic generated by possible garden waste collections ceasing?

Remember the good old days (2012) when it was free?

I need my bin collection every 2 weeks as I have a very big garden, however, £50 is an unacceptable increase an average of 35% from last year. I can accept a 10-20% increase, however, 35% is really unacceptable

As a rural resident we already do not benefit from many council services. Increasing the cost of garden waste collections at this current time is not feasible for many residents who live significant distances from council recycling centres

I will be cancelling my collection and revert to attending the tip on a weekly basis. This is an outrageous increase given the incoming increase in Council tax for service reductions??? Especially when MCC can afford to buy buildings i.e., in Spytty Newport and the Mitel building to name but 2.

With the current situation at the moment we are struggling to pay our bills as it is and then you nearly double the bin collection is a joke I can't justify paying that amount for a bin collection. If you reduce the frequency of the garden waste collections it wouldn't be of any use to me as I'd have to make frequent trips to the recycling centre or have bonfires as I'd have more waste than you could take. Might as well do that all the time.

We rely on the Green Waste collection to dispose of the leaves that come from the overhanging Oak tree that Monmouthshire Council refuse to maintain. We have been told that to return the leaves to the Council side of my fence would be considered to be 'fly tipping'. As we are unable to compost the quantity of leaves that fall, we have no choice but to pay whatever the Council, fairly or otherwise, decide to charge.

In this economic climate by putting the prices up you will find more people fly tipping their garden waste.

£50 is extortionate and 6 weekly is far far too long!

Should be free service helping the environment

Although I have opted for the monthly collection and have read everything that you have written regarding the difference in cost between the fortnightly and monthly, I still feel there should be a larger difference in cost without the £50 rising any higher.

I can't say I like any of the options but garden waste needs to be removed otherwise our streets would look pretty appalling. What is the council doing to reduce other costs? How about cut some people out not doing their job? The police another example bullying residents rather than doing what they are paid for, ensuring people and themselves abide by the law. I equally wasn't happy when my council tax shot up recently again because someone failed to do some maths. The public sector in areas is a joke. It wouldn't be accepted in private business and people would be sacked

I am unable to store garden waste without it being collected.

The reduced service at your recycling centres mean it's impossible to spontaneously get rid of any waste as you have to book days in advance.

Large increase in cost same as everything else in the UK right now. However a valuable service that should be continued.

We do use this service and would struggle to not have it. Also we recognise that the Local Authority are under enormous pressures, however, we do think it is regrettable that this is the choice we are faced with as two old age pensioners. It will, undoubtedly lead to yet more fly tipping which will cost the council a lot to remove.

My view is that this is a deliberate attempt to make the service unviable by pricing most customers out of the market. £50 per year is outrageous. I think you will find that fly tipping will increase and your recycling centres will be overwhelmed by people taking their garden waste to them. It's a bad decision- the council should reconsider this, as surely it's part of the service to council tax payers (albeit partly paid for by users). I will NOT be using this service in the future at these prices!

Can you evidence that the decision to invest in bins and specialist fleet has saved money? Or has it simply removed the ability to introduce competition?

If you stop it I think we will have more fly tipping

I would prefer the collection as it is, but would be happy with a four week collection if this is the preferred option as I know that many of my friends only put their bin out every four weeks.

We previously lived in Suffolk and paid £52 per year for the garden waste collection service so I would be happy to pay £50 here.

I am unable to burn (have bonfires) at my property to dispose of garden waste. Plus if I did this would impact on my neighbours & the environment. I believe a central compost from residents garden waste could be a benefit to the community. We are so lucky to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty we have a duty of care to look after it.

Happy with present service,

Is there a reason the food waste is not allowed in the garden waste bin. In other authorities it is. Would far rather pay more for the current service than find alternative means of disposal such as recycling centres, these services would likely also suffer higher demand, longer queues and increased costs as a result of more people taking garden waste there, mitigating any potential savings from reducing the waste collection service

Other councils in Wales offer this service for free and also pay less in council tax! The wasted 20mph limit money would have covered the full subsidy!

I appreciate that you have difficult decisions to make.

I live in Llanover and have a large garden. I currently have 2 green waste bins which I fill with garden waste every fortnight. Thus, I am in totally in favour of keeping the frequency of collections as it is, fortnightly.

I would not use the green waste service if the frequency of collections was changed to 4 or 6 weeks. Instead I would dispose of my garden waste by taking it to the Llanfoist recycling centre which is 4 miles away, (8 miles round trip). Such an arrangement is not environmentally friendly.

In my opinion reducing the frequency of the green waste collection service is likely to lead to an increase in fly tipping.

We greatly appreciate this service and would be sorry if it were to go. It does need to be a two-weekly collection to make this viable for the user, even at the higher price. However, we understand that these are difficult times for councils trying their best to manage the appropriate allocation of resources. Of course, depending on the result of the consultation, there may be additional demand for the garden waste services at the recycling centres. Thank you.

Yes a lot of money however least of my worries with gas electric and petrol etc, happy to pay £50 An extortionate amount to pay as council tax costs enough as it is. We have hardly any streetlights in Llanvair discoed, no police, no main sewerage, no gas yet we pay a huge amount because of the postcode. The grass collection shouldn't be chargeable at all. I would rather dump it at the recycling centre.

Has been very useful service

My bin is rarely full and I don't put it out every fortnight if there is only a small amount in there. I would be happy with any decision except to cease collection as I have no idea how I would dispose of the waste. I am 70 next year and rely on this service, it really helps me.

I appreciate we are all in a cost of living crisis, the Council included.

If the cost described above is purely to cover the cost of the collection. Why is the cost of 10 collections not half the cost of 20 collections? That looks like it's been costed, so people will see not much cost difference between the two, and choose the "better value" option. For anyone who loves to garden, anything less than a fortnightly collection is not sufficient.

A three weekly option may be acceptable.

We live in a rural area, so need this service to continue as it has been, we unfortunately wouldn't be able to store our garden waste for month. It would also cost us more in fuel to drive the 8 miles to the tip, and back which also is not very eco friendly, if the service was to scaled down, we would have to find an alternative and stop using the service you provide now.

The service frequency has to stay as it is. However, I would point out that in an ever increasingly difficult financial situation for many people, a more than double rise in costs is not acceptable. If this was known about prior to this "consultation" then a smaller increase implemented incrementally over a number of years would have been less of a hit to many pockets. Unfortunately residents have no other option than to use the service as the only other option is to take the green waste to the refuse centre.

Given the limited availability of tip access and the need to book a slot - please, please don't stop all garden collections. I would be happy with the other above stated frequencies - if you could organise a better reminder system. Currently I have moved house within Monmouthshire - and have been totally unable to reprogramme your email reminder system.

For me, having the garden waste come every 2 weeks is optimal, if you miss a collection and they are only 4 or 6 weekly, it's too long a time to wait for the next one. It would mean going to the recycling centre for disposal of excess. The reduced cost isn't much compared the benefit of a regular service. A few times I've put it out and it's not been emptied.

I think once a month is enough for me personally as I have a mostly stoned garden with a small lawn We appreciate the opportunity to have our garden waste removed two weekly and accept that in the current economic climate, this requires an increase.

This absurd increase in cost is going to result in far more fly tipping, £28 was alot compared to the bags. At least the bags were cheaper and weekly (I believe).

You don't even collect Christmas trees as a one off for those who pay for the service and people still need garden waste collected in the winter (especially leaves etc). I wouldn't be surprised if the services gets scrapped as a result of this survey, people are struggling to live with the absolute craziness of the cost of living. Our lovely towns will look appalling as people won't look after their garden, leaves blown everywhere as people won't pick them up, this also becomes very slippery when wet. Will even result in more garden waste fires!

Great timing with this survey!!

I for one will not be using the service if the costs are set out as per the survey....

The £50 chrg is too much. Doing away with the Service is a retrograde step.. Any other colection does not meet my requirements. A reduction on the £50 cost wecomed

Its a great service - please keep it going

No possibility to use the online missed collection form to request a collection and charge accordingly or limit to one / two collections per month?

Please consider choosing a cheaper option. Those with bigger gardens can always choose to purchase two bins, but increasing the price to one of the two higher options removes all choice and many people will have to forfeit the bin collection all together.

I would say that a varied timetable might work better. Monthly March - April but then 2 weekly during summer and then monthly for October and November?

Once every 6 weeks would be no good I definitely wouldn't sign up for that and I'm doubtful if I would sign up for once a month.

It's a bit ridiculous price change

Its a valuable service as my mother is disabled. Mums garden in the spring and summer is a lifeline to her, giving her peace and a purpose with the small jobs she can do. Multiple trips to the tip for getting rid of garden waste is too much for us.

Where would the green waste go if we don't have this service.

The service is getting worse and you're always asking more. What exactly am I paying over £2000 a year for

Reinstate the ability to visit the refuse collection point at will. Nobody ever answers the phone and making an appointment just does not work. Covid has been used as an excuse to further erode services. No-one will catch Covid at a refuse site when men stand 30 feet away in the fresh air - wearing masks!

really pleased with the service and the wheely bin now provided, it saves me trips to the tip and avoid putting waste in my car, in an ideal world i would not want to pay more but the service is useful enough for me to pay

Agree that collection should be monthly, only in the autumn is when it gets completely full. All other times it's only a half full or quarter. By being monthly means it would be full more often

Of course all the options are expensive, but most people find it a necessity. Could there be a reduction for pensioners

The current service frequency is ideal for my needs. Thank you.

We have no bin this year as just moved in a few months back. Will be getting one next year - please don't cease the service

Pleased with the service currently provided. With the politics in our country everything has become more expensive.

This is an important service

What other options to curbside collection are available ?

People will be dumping grass trimmings in lanes which will cost the council more to clean up

I don't know how you can justify the increase of 78% for the same service.....

Or keep it as it currently is, we pay enough for council tax ect. No more increases people can't afford to live as it is. NO MORE PRICE RISES NO MORE COSTS

2 ORCHARD GARDENS, PORTSKEWETT

You need to keep the waste tips open every day otherwise people with chuck rubbish in verges and fly tip.

I'd prefer to drive to a tip every day if needed. The problem is the tip isn't always open ...that encourages people to dump

New collection price seems excessive

Extremely expensive but we have little choice, I suspect that garden waste will now go into black bags for a lot of people!

I felt the service was expensive for this year, let alone a new increase on top of an already expensive council tax on top of the rising cost of living. I don't have a front garden as my driveway has chippings so I only mow my back garden. I'll simply use 5 lanes recycling centre or maybe consider burning it. As my husband is over 80 and had dementia and I am 78 taking our garden to the waste to the recycling centre on a regular basis is not a viable option for us.

I rely on this service

I have a lot of green waste most probably need two bins if you reduce the service seems like another money spin

With the living crises at the moment to increase the charge for this collection would be terrible, no one will be able to afford that, we pay 26/28.00 now, as for charging 50.00 and keep it fortnightly is wrong, it's cheaper to take it yourself to the tip, you really need to think about the whole fee and keep it fortnightly

I am happy with the collection every 2 weeks and appreciate that there will be an increase in cost for the service.

Fortnightly is the minimum that is viable for us over the summer, but currently are not sure we will be able to use a service that has nearly doubled when the cost of essentials such as food and energy are also increasing. These options are very disappointing to see.

I am a pensioner but a keen gardener, I use the service fortnightly.

I do have a question - Any reductions for pensioners?

Yes, this is a valuable service to houses in Monmouthshire. I would be willing to pay a figure that covers the cost, in order to retain it.

I would not use the bin enough to warrant paying £50 and would rather take the cuttings to the dump when required

During the spring/summer we frequently fill our garden waste bins, without this service we would be severely affected, with no other option to dispose of our garden waste. I don't mind paying a bit extra to keep the level of service we currently have.

I fully understand the financial problems you are facing and do sympathise. I had been expecting a price increase. I do hope this is acceptable to many of your customers.
80% increase is not acceptable in this current market when inflation is only 11%.
If you add a 15% increase it would bring the cost to £32.20 per year for a normal collection period! A reasonable increase.
I will not be using this service, if you propose to charge such extortionate prices, that are totally unnecessary at this time.

I'm not paying more for less. This is ridiculous.
The proposed price increases and suggested reduced frequency are an absolute disgrace
NA
10 collections should be half the price of 20 to make it worth while. The saving isn't enough to want to reduce the amount of collections.
Start later in the spring and finish later in December when all the leaves have fallen
Maybe introduce community composting sites as an alternative
worth the increase to £50 if only to keep fortnightly collections
I am happy with the current service, and I understand that all prices will increase, and we will all be paying more for everything. The garden waste collection is a valuable service, and on a personal level I am happy pay an increased cost for my green waste bin
Very pleased with the service.
This is so expensive I will continue to take my waste to the five lanes skip. I feel this will increase the fly tipping issue we see around which is such a shame to see this.
I think we should not be charged for this, how are other councils able to not charge
In the two years I have been using the service it has been important in the management of a large garden. Less frequent collections would not be as useful and would be more expensive as I would need more bins.
My one complaint has been that there was a week when the collection was missed despite my informing MCC repeatedly of the problem. This is a service I am paying extra for and I expect the contract to be honoured by both sides.
I am 75 and can't get my garden worked on. I'm not fit enough so I don't use other bin much so monthly would suit me better
Thanks to those who did the job this year :)

I feel £50 is a huge amount
But this hick in price will greatly impact of people tipping garden waste in the countryside
I am blind and need a safe way to dispose of garden rubbish
It will increase the amount the amount of rodents in thee area as people will tip around the area

We are paying so much for council tax atm and the cost of living Siri g I can't work due to my disability but all my saving are vanishing
I honestly think the above options are not allowing people to express just how they feel
Personal ally think £50 20 collections is reasonable given economic climate would cos much more to remove it myself

This service allows me to dispose of prunings and hedge clippings and other bulky material that I cannot dispose of at home - I already have two composts bins at home that are fully used and also compost most food waste at home, I just don't have room to compost everything at home.

I find the prices a bit extreme I would not pay 50 pounds a year for garden collection and 35 pounds for 6 collections a year is extortionate. I paid 28 pounds for every fortnight collection!

This seems like a very sharp rise in costs. Nearly £20 extra for the same service?

The options don't really reflect value for money if they are reduced. If the service frequency is cut by 50% it seems unfair that the price is only reduced by £7.50. I don't understand why this service cannot be subsidised and offered at a more reasonable price - it's merely going to encourage people to fly tip! Very disappointing

Happy with the service as a fortnightly collection. Saves having to book slots at the tip just for garden waste and the kerbside collection is ideal.

I have a large garden with hedges that I like to keep tidy and without the collections I will have to burn the waste. I do not have transport to go to the local tip which at best is pathetic. When the system was introduced it transformed gardening in Monmouth.

Remove the need to book into the dump, the APP doesn't work for me either it constantly says my password is incorrect, so have to phone for appointment, which is very annoying and now we are not restricted by covid why has it not gone back to easy access?

It would be better to have all year round collections

£2.50 per collection seems very reasonable.

I appreciate costs have gone up for the council. But so have everybody else's. Bills, council tax, fuel, food, etc. £50 for 20 collections is ridiculous. I think it will promote fly tipping around the area and people burning a lot more waste to get rid.

Why is it that all other Boroughs in Gwent provide this service free of charge

Wrote once but wanted to add. If you use my info please do not display my email address or my name if possible.

I had said monthly better as I'm 75 and unable to do garden. Thanks to the men who worked the job this year :)

If you don't collect green waste we will be drying and burning instead as we have no option to take to the tip in our tiny car. We ordered 2 skips when it piled up this year but it is a lot of cost and hassle so burning remains as the only viable solution

This feels like you are getting evidence to support a price increase or reduction in service and not actually asking what customers want.

If you already have the bin then the price should reduce or keep the cost down and charge separately for the bin.

Also why not get people to book if they want a bin collected so you don't turn up where people have not got a bin out? Give a cut off time so you can print the driver schedule out that would save time and cost and improve efficiency of the service.

50 pounds is steep on top of the 2200 I already pay on one not so large salary for council tax. The only reason I need the service is the green bins are so high down the tip I don't have the strength to lift the grass bags up to empty in the containers.

I am grateful for the service provided thank you.

We really rely on the service you provide and really hope you don't reduce the amount of collections. Thank you.

A 79% increase in the current financial climate is unacceptable. I'll bag up my grass and take it to the tip thanks.

We pay enough money through council tax we should not have to pay for garden waste, other areas do not.

I would be happy with a less frequent collection but for less money. 10 collections per year would be fine but only if it's nearer to half the price of 20 collections. Why haven't you arranged the pricing more fairly? £2.50 per collection if we have 20 collections per year, or £4.25 per collection if we have 10 per year. That's not even close!

WITH THE INCREASES IN CHARGES IT WILL ONLY CAUSE MORE DUMPING OF GREEN WASTE . i WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INCREASE MY PAYMENTS FOR THIS SERVICE.

I feel fortnightly is the best option but £50 is a lot to pay for a bin per year on top of council tax. Great service - please keep it!

Would also be happy with 4 weekly collections. Thank you.

The suggested increase is ridiculously nearly 100% and can not be justified even in the current economic situation. A 10% increase would be acceptable.

One of the best services provided by Monmouthshire CC

I feel that fortnightly collections are absolutely necessary to be of effective use to the average householder and gardener, although priced at £50, is unlikely to be taken up by the majority of existing users.

It is obvious to myself, that if the local authority does not accept some responsibility for partly reducing the proposed costs, the result will be, more garden bonfires, fly tipping of waste, and other antisocial activities, which could result in the MCC incurring other additional expenses, (clearing of dumped material, possible court cases etc).

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions, and would like to point out that as a pensioner in mid 70s, that I and a lot of people in similar circumstances will simply not be able to afford the extra

proposed expenses likely to be incurred, albeit having to pay the same council tax, as a typical household with 4 or 5 people resident, with a corresponding larger burden on council services, than for myself and my wife.

If possible I would appreciate a reply.

John Langley, 52 Caldicot Road, Portskewett, Caldicot NP26 5SH

Tel:- 07434770493

Email:- langleyjohn4@aol.com

Looking at the per collection cost, I'd be fascinated to know the feedback.

$50/20 = £2.50$ a collection

$42.50/10 = £4.25$

$35/6 = £5.83$

Garden bins will become status symbols!

I have opted for the first option although I still believe an increase of nearly 100% in the current climate is excessive

If you stop collections of garden waste what are people going to do with their waste, do you have an answer? I do they will dispose of their waste anywhere and everywhere which will mean that the council will have to clean it up at a cost. Please do not stop collections. If you have less collections I think you will still have problems.

This is a ridiculous amount of money, fortnightly collections that we pay for are not enough as it is and to pay for garden waste on top of our rising and ridiculously costing £300 per month Council tax is robbery. Absolute robbery. In the options above, you give slim chance for anyone to choose anything other than £50 for 20 collections a year for one bin. How does 6 weekly collections at a raised price of £35, nearest to our current £28, suffice a full garden bin? I don't understand the logic other than pushing people into a survey funnel, forcing a result that has already been decided. We have this every year. Every other council neighbouring does not charge for garden waste as it is compostable and re-sold or used within the council. Yet again, raise the price, force people elsewhere, encourage fly tipping. I pay for my garden bin solely to collect the leaves of the council trees that burden my home and garden, it's a nuisance. I have to pay to remove its damage and debris and it's the council's tree. I won't have another garden bin.

Because of our age and deteriorating fitness we will reluctantly opt to pay for the convenience of this service. However, I think it will only drive some people to return to burning it on bonfires or dumping it in a lay by !!

The service has been excellent & for those who are less able to load their cars & go to the tip it's the only way to recycle garden waste. Despite having large compost bins I still need the collection. Many thanks.

Having the green bin has saved me from going to the tip this year. If the service stops I hope you will reconsider the requirement to book to go to the tip which is an unnecessary hassle, now that pandemic regulations are over.

Also - will you collect the green bin?

I live on my own and am elderly and have mild osteoporosis - which means I have to be very careful of lifting any thing heavy.

These restrictions make it difficult to lift and carry any bags to the recycle site in Monmouthshire.

Also the number of cars/vans etc that would be used would increase pollution around Monmouthshire which has an impact on the health of residents

Would not continue to use this service as it would be unaffordable to me at this time.

It is now far too expensive. People on benefits cannot afford the increase

Could not manage with a lesser collection as we are a very elderly couple

The frequency at which garden waste is collected should vary throughout the year. More in warmer months, less in colder for example.

Really disappointed that the cost has doubled.

Fed up with rising costs

I do not believe the cost should go up at all. I'm sure you could find savings elsewhere. I expect you will also be increasing our council tax as well.

One collection every four weeks is ample as my bin is never full to brim.

Environment better to keep service, otherwise more driving to recycling centre

Fortnightly collections work best for me.

This is an essential service for anyone with a garden. We have no recycling centre in Usk so a trip to Abergavenny to dispose of green waste is both environmentally wasteful and expensive.

Monthly collections in summer would not be frequent enough for my garden, however I have not used my garden waste bin for almost two months now, perhaps the collection season could be shortened by keeping the frequency of collection during the summer growing period at 2 weeks and reverting to monthly at the start and end of the current collection season ?

I really don't understand why you charge for garden waste collections. £30 per year was enough. I've only put my bin out two or 3 times this year as I've not been able to do the gardening. When it has been done I've had to leave the cut grass on the garden. This has made my choice easy. It'll stay on the garden next year

It is a necessity for collection regularly when you are a pensioner and need support there should be reduced rates if you are a pensioner going forward

PLEASE KEEP THIS SERVICE.

With raising costs for utilities, this is a service that also increases in price every year

Whilst you did not increase the price during one period, you did cut the service from yearly to the 9-months that it is now.

I don't really see why it ends when it does. Later on would be better given that we still have a volume of garden waste going further into December.

Reducing the service to monthly or worse, would just mean that we'd need more bins or would cancel it and make a lot of separate trips to the Llanfoist Recycling Center.

I'm very keen to keep the service going in whatever format is most popular

Don't increase the payment, it's expensive enough already! Change the tip back to how it used to be, scrap the appointment system for the tip!!!

Find the system of booking into the dump v. difficult. Too much garden waste to allow it to build up over more than 2 weeks-wish it was weekly.

The prices proposed are not proportionate for the service delivered, plus after 4 or 6 weeks garden waste ie grass cuttings will start smelling in the bins in high summer

None

It's a good service

none

It's a huge jump from the current cost fortnightly. A little increase would be more acceptable.

2 weeks is long enough especially when regularly cutting grass also if left longer the weight will be much more and you probably have a weight limit £28 is expensive enough a couple of pounds may be ok but £50 way too much, if it goes up that much won't be using it dispose elsewhere

It is difficult to imagine properties in this location needing collections more than once per 4-6 weeks as most gardens are quite small and fenced, rather than surrounded by hedges or trees.

The amount required is of course higher over spring / summer, but for me it is mainly for grass cuttings, and over a week, the grass will reduce in size, so I could manage a reduced collection. But I can see the need for more, if it could be an option to select a 2 weekly or 4 weekly collection, but appreciate how that is managed your end and those who collect the waste, may be difficult to manage.

I would like the service to continue as going to four or six weekly would seem to be too long at some times of the year. Also the reduction in price to go to four weekly from fortnightly is not sufficient considering the number of collections is halved.

Please consider providing free or discounted compost bins

It is not possible for me to dispose of my waste myself

Very grateful for service

I don't know how to answer this as none of the options are acceptable. As an OAP, I would find options too expensive or too infrequent, and would have difficulty taking waste to dump. It means I'll be unable to maintain my garden.

I think the charges for 20 collections are extortionate considering the rates we already pay in Rural areas and have no lighting, pothole repairs and general maintenance done unless you make numerous phone calls and grovel. The charges we paid for the last twelve months should have been enough to cover the extra costs.

The current frequency is already too infrequent. Even with composting, in Autumn I have to keep hedge cuttings and leaves in the old 80 litre bags in my garage and eke them out over subsequent weeks by topping up the 240L wheelie bin as last week's grass dries and shrinks. The reduced frequency proposals are, I'm sorry, ridiculous - would only suit someone with a microscopic garden and no hedges and shrubs. Must be 20 collections if not 22.

That is far too much money to pay when we already pay taxes. Going from £28 this year to £50 next year for the same service is not on. And £42.50 for half the service is laughable. Everyone is already struggling in these times. Authorities and government should be doing more.

That's quite a substantial increase, especially for a much reduced service. Has the cost of clearing the additional fly tipping that will likely result been taken into consideration? With the increase in the cost of living this is going to be a challenge to pay.

I would prefer to keep it as it is with a small increase, but do not have that option.

It all works good for me no problems

Happy to pay for the service - please do not cut it! For us, monthly collections for every month of the year would be optimum - ie. 12 collections per year with no break over the Winter

Whilst we appreciate everything is on the increase we were very pleased with the service provided this year

This service was initially covered by the council tax but then became a separate service. Each year the cost of this service and the council tax have risen greatly. With council tax now likely to increase considerably in 2023 shouldn't the service once again be absorbed back into this tax but limited to once a month collections. Every household would then have their garden waste collected.

I am surprised that the council could justify such a drastic price hike for this public service. We were already considering stopping the service due to the difficulty of getting our bin up and down steps when bags were so much easier, so I would definitely not renew at this price.

I am happy with the current level of service, but could manage if the number of collections were reduced.

Put a skip locally for everyone to use, our options will just increase flytipping £50 as opposed to £35 is a 46% rise. Inflation is 11.1%, how can you justify the extra 35% rise. No doubt council tax will be rising by above inflation too. Perhaps the money wasted on banners and road signs promoting the unwanted speed restrictions in this area could have been put to a better use in these depressing times.

We have a large front and back garden, in the summer as the grass grows, the bins get full very quickly. Keeping the fortnightly collection (at £50 a year) is the option that is best suited for our household.

We value this service and would be happy to pay a bit more for it we would only need to go down to the tip at five roads

How can the council justify such a huge increase in price? what do we actually get for our council tax now a days as everything is becoming an extra cost.

I cannot afford to pay £50 when I only fully fill my bin once a year when I trim my trees, every other time my bin is not even quarter full or it can be empty some months, I would happily reduce collections to every 6 weeks if the price was affordable, £3 is still extortionate as it actually makes each collection more expensive, you would think less collections the cheaper it would be, but no you only get 6 collections for more than you paid this year for 20 collections!!

This price increase will only encourage more people to fly tip and subsequently cost the council more clearing the mess up.

Unfortunately the maximum waste is in October and November when the flowering season comes to an end and fortnightly collections are required. For the rest of the time 4 weekly pick up is acceptable

The reduction from £50 to £42.50 seems a bit ridiculous and pointless given the reduction in collections is literally half. Should there have been a bigger reduction in cost, this would have been the option I'd have gone for. Because 6 collections all year seems as good as none.

Maybe it would better to reduce the frequency during the non Summer period which would help reduce the costs?

If you keep collections as they are you should charge more.

It would be very difficult for many pensioners and those with disabilities or ones who lack transport if this service is withdrawn all together.

Why don't you consider keeping to the following frequency to reduce costs for the consumer and council:

- May -> Sep 2 weekly collection
- Sep -> Dec 4-6 weekly collection

Garden waste production reduces significantly from September onwards. Reduce the frequency of collections towards the end of the season. Maybe even cease the collections at the end of September?

You simply cannot reduce or stop this service. For rural areas and elderly people in the village it would be impossible to take the garden waste to llanfoist. The main reason being that it is impossible to get an appointment there at short notice or any notice! and if you don't have a vehicle or one big enough then it's not going to be possible. It is a much needed service and we are prepared to pay for it, even with the increase (which is a lot!). The situation at llanfoist is utterly ridiculous and to reduce the garden waste service further is just inconceivable!!!!

Typical one of the most expensive counties to live in and always reducing services yet spending a stupid amount of money building a car park no one wants or needs at Severn tunnel no wonder there's a deficit

Awful service this year, you have missed half of our collections and didn't deliver bins until late. Will not be renewing next year

I think the service works well as it is. Please don't change it because we'll have to go to the tip more often, and booking the tip is a pain.

I have a huge garden and no other way of disposing of garden waste. Through spring and summer I can easily fill 2 bins weekly so fortnightly collections are already no frequent enough. I believe if it is stopped all together you will see a vast increase in fly tipping as people won't want a compost heap collecting vermin and flies in the corner of their gardens.

Don't mind paying the £50 if you collected all year as per the Gloucestershire collections.

I can't understand why it is going up so much!

With my disability I use garden waste bin to support my limited garden fun.

Will this mean more people concrete their gardens because it's a becomes a another luxury they can not afford

This is a little disappointing as a few years ago it was free of charge, then went to a chargeable service which has now almost doubled in price.

I personally value the service however 75% increase seems a bit high, everyone has suffered additional costs this year and I think £48 pounds P/A would be a fairer increase and looks a better figure than £50 pounds, If 25% of householders give up the service MCC would still have to provide the service with 25% less income. A fine balance for the accountants to think about.

I think this is a very useful service, however, I understand the financial constraints currently and would suggest if the service were to end, that the current appointment system at Llanfoist Recycling Centre be ended so that people can just turn up.

I appreciate the difficulty MCC have here. I wonder if the council recoups anything from the sale of the compost.

Firstly, my answer at Q2 is not what I would really like but it is the best of the other answers. I would need to understand the breakdown in the cost structure to see why the price has risen that high. IF the council decided to make attendance at the tips easier and NOT that we have to book all visits - that would mean that I would also look to use the tips more often and my waste collection. The necessity to have to book a slot - means that the ability to get to and drop garden waste in an ad hoc manner isn't available anymore. THis needs to change to allow people to use the tips easier and to stop fly-tipping. Fly-tipping around Devauden is becoming more of a problem! In these current financial climates just putting charges up from £38 (I think) to £50 / bin is unacceptable without fuller explanations. I have read the earlier information bulletin on this web-page, that is not enough justification.

Less frequent collections no good, would need more bins to store waste between collections; extra storage space not feasible for most households.

If price increases too much some current users might resort to fly tipping garden waste ... which would still then need to be cleaned up by someone.

I think the service is too expensive for me as I'm not sure what garden waste I will be having for the amount that I have been having lately doesn't amount to enough to warrant the payments

Since moving to Monmouthshire in November 2021, we have found the garden waste service to be invaluable and would hate to see the fortnightly service reduced

Why not have a reduction for more than one bin. Hope you have factored into the price the cost of illegal fly tipping as a result of the increased charges.

£50 is a huge cost increase and as high as I would consider paying for. Any intervals longer than fortnightly would make the service of no use at all and I would not use it.

Decaying grass smells really badly and is likely to cause a health risk to residents and attract pests. I'm strongly against reducing the frequency of collection but you could perhaps consider a shorter "season"?

Too expensive with cost of living crisis, we pay enough council tax

The fortnight collection works well. However cost if £50 will be expensive

If you are looking to reduce or cease collections of garden waste then you need to abolish the booking system to visit the recycling centres. Other councils have done it. Putting up the cost of each bin for fortnightly collections is not acceptable either. This price is way out of reach for a lot of residents especially if they are unable to use the centres..the bags were much better seeing as people use recycling bags to go to the centres a lot of the time for the garden waste anyway and would be less costly to provide to residents I would have thought.

People will flytip more frequently which will not be cost effective if you are looking to save money if you are required to clear or they will burn it in their gardens regardless of regulations. We use this service but will not take part in this service at all now which will probably be the general consensus for Monmouthshire residents as a whole which would be a win win situation for MCC.

I am happy to pay for this service to save me having to make regular trips to the recycling facility at Llanfoist as long as our bin gets emptied. For the last two years, the first four collections of the year were missed, despite me reporting it each time.

COST OF LIVING + GAS & ELEC SO COST TO HIGH

WILL END UP WITH MORE FLY TIPPING

I appreciate the cost need to increase my concern is there will be increased dumping of garden waste and I already have a problem with it to side of my garden

How can you warrant such a hike in prices for what we currently have and this will end with people fly tipping their garden waste which will cost the council more money or it will be being put in black bags. Council are very willing to waste money purchasing offices (Mitel) and Shopping centres (Spytty) but not giving people who pay council tax a useful service

The current alternative to collection requires travel to the local refuse / recycling centre, and from an environmental standpoint this is more damaging albeit probably a similar cost to the curbside option. A big increase. Expensive in current climate. Concerned many will find 'alternative' ways to dispose of garden waste.

Not sure why there is such a price rise. Seems a deliberate ploy to stop the service.

People can buy more bins if they want more collected. Keep it as cheap as possible with the 6 week collection so people can use it and decide how many bins they pay for. It allows it to be accessible to those on lower pay, reducing likelihood of fly tipping/dumping or putting garden waste in black bags (Which I have heard of residents doing).

If you could do a collective email to let everyone in each area know when their collection would be due each four weeks or whatever, it would ease the confusion as it is easy to forget exactly which days you collect.

Please keep to fortnightly collections

This is a handy service as having to book and visit the skips is a pain and can only do 1 visit to the skip per booking

Why should we be having to pay for garden waste in the first place, our council tax is one of the highest in Wales, if not the highest. The council can afford to buy buildings such as castlegate business park, we have an office there, which is losing money had over first, since Mitel moved out!

I feel that people living in Usk were forced to pay for a recycling service after you closed down the recycling unit here in Usk. There has been an increase in fly tipping. Residents already pay some of the highest Council Tax in the County with limited public facilities and it seemed unfair to ask the to pay an additional £28 to have their garden waste collected 20 times a year. However, to hear now that you wish to nearly double this seems a bit unfair. There seems little cost benefit to reduce the number of collections per annum if halving the number sees only a 15% reduction in the cost.

We would be unable to afford the increased price of this service in the current financial climate so would have to reduce to the minimum option available as we have a garden and therefore waste from it. Many people will stop paying I suspect and then dump their garden waste illegally enforcing the council to pay for it to be cleared. Will this really save money in the long run???

The service is very valuable and I fully expected an increase, therefore £50 is not unreasonable to maintain the regularity of the collections!

This is both an invaluable and necessary service and even at an increased annual cost will still represent an essential service.

I think that even for fifty pounds a year it is good value for money and for me an indispensable service.

I still think £50 a year for this service is vfm

Good service and happy to pay the cost but reduce frequency.

Service would still be good value and save trips to dump

a service that collect waste less than ever 2 weeks will not allow me to dispose of my garden waste effectively.

I cannot store waste longer than 2 weeks without it starting to decompose.

Customer explained it is expensive but for them it is necessary

Wouldn't use the service if it became less than fortnightly, would have to revert to more frequent recycling centre visits.

This is preposterous and while not happy with the increase we have to retain this service at the current frequency. Council tax is far too high and we get little to nothing from the extortionate costs.

I expect to see a minimal increase this year and a reduction in council costs to support the need to deliver an efficient service.

This has proven an essential, well-used service, reflecting a) less usage of private vehicles b) a solution for those who cannot/ no longer drive c) employment for the team (who assured me they are not involved other waste collection d) recycling of green waste.

We are being encouraged to be more self-reliant, grow our own veg, reduce Co2 emissions, be more community aware- hasn't the Garden Waste been an example of the afore-mentioned?

The proposed costing would appear excessive - discouraging, even- is this deliberate?

Those, like us, who pay the full Community Charge, already feel we don't get a fair return. And, doubtless, there'll be a successful attempt to raise the CC in the Spring. So we'll be facing, as pensioners, yet more increases.

Before the decision is made, I trust the Councillors involved will look carefully at the way our money is already spent & be honourable & courageous enough to admit wastage where found & channel funds into schemes already proven to benefit a considerable proportion of the Community.

Four or Six weekly bin collections wouldn't work for myself unless I had two bins.

Luckily, I can store two bins. I sincerely doubt others would have the room or willingness to adopt more than one bin to reduce the frequency of collections.

I live alone and am not able to take my garden waste to the tip myself.

I have a small garden in the town centre. The challenge with composting all my garden waste is space and rats - I have had rats every time I have tried a compost bin. Driving to the recycling site is more difficult now that visits have to be booked in advance which is why I decided to go back to garden waste collection

You obviously want to cost this service out of existence. Perhaps if you got rid of the highly paid management tier that comes up with these scatterbrained ideas you would be able to make some significant savings. Newport currently manage to provide a free green bin service. I will now have to add to pollution by driving to the tip more frequently.

It's a big increase, but I guess £2.50 per bin emptied isn't a bad price

There should not be a cost to have garden waste collected. We pay enough in council tax!!

Save money by using the council tax notification to ask households which language they wish to use.

Rather pointless waste supplying paperwork in both.

I think this is a valuable service. If I had the opportunity I would do own composting, but unfortunately I don't and I would have to put the garden waste in with the black bags which will go to landfill. Maybe the landfill option is a hold one as at least the green waste would go back to the earth anyway.

Any less than 10 collections would result in rubbish by the bin. Preferably we would like 20 collections. Thank you

2 bins per pick up instead of just 1 as some of us have bigger gardens etc

Could cope with monthly collections in the 'off seasons' - early Spring and late Autumn - but not in the middle of the year

Although very expensive, the £50 option is the best deal

Garden waste bins will be full of decomposing garden waste in summer if the bins are not emptied more regularly

Absolutely disgraceful!!

Option chosen (fortnightly) at the price shown is £2.50 per collection, which we consider to be very reasonable. We have no car and not all garden waste is readily compostable, so this service is important to us.

With great reluctance I have selected the £50 option. I find it appalling that MCC has joined the easy option brigade of introduce a charge for a service that should be part of the council tax and then increase costs. To almost double the cost when incomes never reach that level of increase is daylight robbery. Give most ordinary residents a chance to find savings in the Council budget and they would do so easily. No doubt Council tax will also increase with nothing more to show for it. Stop charging more and find economies by working smarter for the same cost.

Why not charge per collection?

Basically, you're doubling the price for fortnightly-collections. If you could cost the collection as it was for two years, is this price rise justified? We do also pay a hefty (Band F) Council Tax - and that will be going up, no doubt!

Too expensive. Will take my waste up to the tip as will a lot of people, causing more congestion there, presumably with a lot of people fly-tipping like they used to.

As I have a large garden with grass cuttings and hedge cuttings, I am happy with the increase in price. These costs are extortionate. To increase the cost from £28.00 to £50.00 per bin for the same service is unbelievable. Since this service started costs have risen year on year from £8.00 per bag to this current year of £28.00 per bin. Other councils manage to provide one bin free within the community tax..why is Monmouthshire so different.

If the outcome is to reduce or remove the service please provide a sensible alternative option
In Cardiff you don't pay extra for garden waste, why do you have to in Monmouthshire.
I would suggest you shorten the time period and have more collections in those peak months. Lawns do need mowing more regularly in the summer and a 6 or even 4 week wait appears unrealistic.
Where I have 2 bins, if you put the price up I'll reduce to 1.

As an aside. We do already pay a large amount in council tax and we should actually get a decent service for the tax we pay. I think you should be clearer about what we do get for our money locally when you are asking for more money on top....as I'm honestly not sure what we do get locally, I'm not convinced we get much of this spending here in Magor.
Please don't cut back on frequency!

We we two disabled pensioners, would there be a discount for us. We need this service but with the cost of living at the moment it is very difficult to decide which option to choose.

Firstly, I am wondering how an 80% increase can be justified even taking into increase in costs and removal of a subsidy. Is this an example of a Council taking a stealth Tax? I am sure the Business Case for the increase would be an interesting read if made available to the Public. Secondly, have cost cutting measures such as consolidation of routes or reduction in Managerial roles been considered? Thirdly, doubtless, if service is stopped we will see an increase in rural car parks etc festooned in grass cuttings, dead weeds and leaves. Nuisance garden fires would also doubtless proliferate with an adverse effect on the climate! How does this fit in with the Councils accession to the moral high ground on Climate matters! I am sure you will be increasing the availability of slots at Waste Recycling Sites!

There should be an incentivised price for once a month (£7.50 less than a £50 charge for fortnightly collection doesn't seem right. It should be 50% of £50 (£25 pa) for a monthly collection.
Thanks for consulting.

Second option would be to retain the status quo

You'll just create more illegal dumping. That the service isn't covered by legislation doesn't mean you shouldn't provide it if it's necessary to create a pleasant environment for residents. Try reducing your councillor's allowances/tourism subsidies/senior managers instead.

If it was easy to pop to Llanfoist recycling depot I'd take my own garden waste there, but, you still have to book a slot in order to use the facility. This is the only reason that I use the bin collection. We began having garden waste service this year. Although there have been several occasions when the bin had been missed and we have had to contact the council and ask for the bin to be collected, these issues seem now to have been resolved.

We value the service and are very glad to have it. We consider £50 for 20 guaranteed collections to be fair and would willingly pay it in order to retain the fortnightly service.

We recognise that fuel and pay costs have risen.

Many thanks for canvassing service users opinions.

If the recycling centre was open without booking an appointment i would use it more often as it is difficult to get the time slots and not really straight forward to book. That being said i dont think £2.50 per collection is a big ask given that it would cost me that to drive to the tip. P.s a big thankyou to all the bin men they do a fantastic job that is little appreciated.

I personally would not want any of the above, but I have to buy bins, because I have a big garden, and £50 a bin is really expensive when you have to buy more than one, it's ok for people that have small gardens.....

I have to even try and use the recycling centre as well to get rid of my garden waste, as you don't even do the collection service for 12mths of the year and yet I still have to clear all the leaves and prune apple trees and you can't burn wet wood etc

To make matters worse you've also made it even harder for us to recycle it, as you now have to book a slot at the recycling centre which is not convenient most of the time, or it's fully booked, I'm very disappointed.....

It needs to stay the same as we are restricted to the amount of waste that fits into the waste bin and it's too expensive to have more than one bin at a time and not everyone has the space or money to have more than one.

Any cut to this service is likely to result in more fly tipping than at present.

Increased fly tipping will result in additional costs to be covered, as not all responsible for doing it are caught or prosecuted.

I have 2 bins but would reduce this to one

I appreciate the great service provided.

So much easier than filling green bags and having to make an appointment at the recycling depot and then having to transport it there

Want to keep the service but shocked at the price rise to £50.

We're pensioners and this is too expensive for people that are not wage earners

I pay council tax and have reluctantly paid for garden waste collection. I consider the increase way above inflationary cost and financially could not justify this increase.

Reduced price for pensioners as it is much more difficult to man handle garden waste at that age.

I value the service more since the Usk Recycling site closed. I have enough green waste to keep the every two collection rota going and accept that I will have to pay more. It is still a more economical option for me than driving into the recycling centre at Llanfoist and I would guess less emitting of CO2. Don't change the service. 2 weeks is sometimes too long.

The collection is a valuable service for me, especially in the Spring and Summer months.

£50 for 20 collections is a no-brainer
only £2.50 per collection.

Since Five Lanes went to appointments only it leaves me with no choice.

I do not think that increasing the price by almost 50% is going to help, this will only increase fly tipping! We are in a cost of living crisis for god sake!! People can't afford to heat their homes or put food on the tables & you want to double the charge!!

For the service to be halved at £42.50 a year, that's only saving me £7.50 which seems crazy.

However, we generally don't need it collected every fortnight.

In an ideal world it would be six-weekly in the bookends of the year and then much more frequent when we are all out gardening in May-July time, but that would be impossible to organise I guess so I'd want frequent collections to prevent the waste piling high
Any you will do what you want anyway

I can no longer use the wheely bins because they hurt my back. Can the one I have please be collected.

It has been a very good service

Could just about manage to pay for current cost, would not be able to pay for increased cost and leaving it for 6 weeks is not an option...

With the cost of everything going up I seriously don't think we should pay for the service, we pay enough for council tax as it is. Not all the bin is emptied on some collections.

Please don't discontinued the service altogether. Thank you.

I think this is a disgusting amount to pay for a limited service especially the way the economy is at present. It is well documented that Monmouthshire is one of the boroughs with the highest council tax and yet we are made to pay for the collection/disposal of green waste. You/the government are already looking to increase council tax yet the overall service is poor!! By raising the cost of this service/ending it you will end up with the green waste bagged within black bags at the 2 weekly collections. Instead of looking at what is more council friendly ask yourselves what is more friendly to your service users because the options you have given are NOT service user friendly!!!!

If the local recycling didn't have a booking system, I would take any waste there myself!

It's an excellent service & surely its better for one vehicle to drive round and collect the bins than have lots of residents driving to & fro to waste collection sites.

Whilst I appreciate that not everybody has a garden waste bin and you say it is subsidised, I do not think an increase is necessary in these times of crisis. The council tax will be going up so an increase in the garden waste cost should not be necessary. You will start charging to collect household waste next!

Finally, I think fortnightly is sufficient during the summer.

Such a huge increase in the cost. Why.

I would no longer use this service if the price increases

Why don't you reduce frequency to 4 weekly before eg Easter and after September which may help to reduce costs a little. Personally I havent needed fortnightly during October and November. But Summer needs to stay fortnightly

I don't use my bin very often so I would be happy with less collections. As I am disabled I find it difficult to get to the recycling centre so any collection is better than none for me.

I think reducing collections would force me to take my own refuse to the tip. If I have to do it sometimes, I may as well do it all the time.

It's a cheaper option than trying to find somewhere to put my garden waste

If you didn't have to book at the tip I would take some stuff there and compost the rest.

This will lead to increased fly tipping

If collections are ceased we would like more open access to the recycle centre so that we can get rid of rubbish promptly.

Leaving grass cuttings for more than 2 weeks becomes very unpleasant.

Green bins for life

I've worked out that option 1 would cost £2.50 per collection

Option 2 would cost £4.50 per collection

Option 3 would cost £5.84 per collection

Why would anyone want to pay more for less service???

Increasing the cost from £28 fortnightly to £50 is absolutely absurd!!!! We're in the toughest financial times and you think people will be able to find almost DOUBLE the amount?! Absolutely disgusting. We are on our knees financially and this is just a joke. Sadly I rely on the service so was forced to choose the lowest option (still an increase in price for less than a third of the collections) otherwise I would happily cease collections. Take a good look at yourselves.

Most of my bins are filled from tree leaves in front of our property, an ongoing problem. Why should I pay for a communal problem. I guess I am not alone with this complaint.

The increase from £28 to £50 is not acceptable to our household I am afraid. Less frequent does not provide the service we require either.

If the collections were less frequent I would forget to put them out (I sometimes already forget fortnightly). I also would need to see if it is worth the collection cost for me as we garden when we can around work and also it's weather dependant so some weeks I have enough for a couple of bins and then some of the year I don't use the service, but it is convenient to not go to the tip. I may need to review this perhaps to see which is more viable (both time and money wise) and weigh it up. Please consider increased fly tying risk if you continue to make recycling more expensive. The countryside is already blighted with rubbish.

Taking garden waste to the recycling centre is not an accessible or convenient option for many. Especially considering the funding cuts have closed the Llanfoist recycling centre 2 days a week. And that the new online booking system requires booking at least 24 hours beforehand in the week and 48 hours on a weekend which is painfully inconvenient. How would you expect people without cars or older people with limited mobility to dispose of garden waste if bins were not collected. Very open to hear alternative options such as community composting schemes. But cutting garden waste collection would be a terrible idea.

I'll take my garden waste to the recycling centre at Llanfoist

In view of all the information given I am happy to pay £50 a year, £2.50 per collection is reasonable I very much appreciate the garden waste collection scheme but I would only continue if it continues to be two weekly and costs approx £35 a year.

Anything less than 20 collections will not work

I will probably end up having only used the service once this year due to various factors - my health and finding a good reliable gardener and even when I have a gardener, my garden is small and doesn't justify a weekly or even fortnightly service. Every six weeks is probably enough but then there is too much waste for one bin and I'm left with waste left in the old green bags for me to put into the bin when it's empty. Of course that presents it's own difficulty as the bag is too heavy for me to lift!! I don't know. Other councils seem to be able to collect garden waste at the same time as the rest of the waste. In fact, Herefordshire County Council provides a bin where everything is deposited and it doesn't have this never-ending, never-settled system of coloured plastic bags and coloured canvas bags. And whilst here, those canvas bags are a nightmare for people in small houses - where are we supposed to put them? And isn't it fun when the tops don't stay closed and it's windy day and stuff blows all over the place. Chepstow still has it's plastic bags and so I don't why we in Monmouth are stuck with this lousy system. There! Got that off my chest!! Have a good day :)

We would definitely want the collections to continue we have a large garden with no other way of disposing of the garden waste.

The service is beneficial to me as I am near 80 and live on my own so without this service I would have to travel back and fore to the council refuse so I find the service very helpful.

A £7.50 reduction for half the amount of collections is not a fair disparity.

20 collections = £2.50 per collection.

10 collections = £4.25 per collection.

6 collections = £5.83 per collection.

There is no real choice here, despite the fact that I only use the service about 10 times per year, I would choose the maximum just in case. The costs need to correlate better with the reduction in services provided. ☹

2.50 per bin collection, wow, I think I might set up a rival business, it seems you're being ripped off and need a proper unrestricted call for tender

WORDS FAIL ME

In the growing season I can easily fill my two existing bins and often need to also go to Mitchel Troy with extra bags of green waste, as I will probably need to do regularly between the December 2nd last collection and March 2023 - this year's weather has stretched the growing season well into the early winter. Journeys from Llangybi to Monmouth are a fuel cost I need to take into account, when calculating the cost benefits of MCC 's collection service.

Collections should in no circumstances cease completely. If they do, people will put their garden waste on waste land adjacent to our estate, as some already do

What about having a system where you can click to say your bin needs emptying ? Because there are quite a few weeks where my bin was not even half full and I have a fairly large garden so surely that must be the case for many people .

the service is required as the older people (especially those who no longer drive) have no other option than to let garden waste rot in their garden enticing rats.

Could I suggest that if it is more cost effective to provide garden wast BAGS for those who are able to take there wast to a collection point (ie Five Lanes) and provide a Special Area set side from the rest. With a voucher system for fortnightly drop off. Cost of BAGS and DROP OFF to be advised.

Would like the two weekly collection to remain with the increased charge of £50

Living in an urban setting this is an essential service as I would be unable to dispose of garden waste by any other means. Discontinuing the service could result in more unkempt gardens and encourage fly tipping, so generally bad for the environment.

If it were to be every 4/6 weeks we woyle all need an extra bin hence costing more in the long run.

I would prefer fortnightly collections in the summer and 6-weekly in the winter

opting for 6 weekly pickup means a drop to 1 in 3 compared to last year for £7 extra, please bear in mind that not only are council costs rising family incomes are being extremely squeezed. Council should make better use for tax payers money.

I'm sure this will have part of your thinking, but if the collection is stopped or the frequency is significantly reduced there will be greater demand at the recycling centres as the waste has to go somewhere. We are probably waiting for the lorry to come so we can get more stuff in about half the time, not enough for a second bin, but significantly frequently. If collections became less frequent, we'd probably have to look at a 2nd bin as home composting doesn't make sense, we use too little compost. Final point - has anyone checked what the bins would be like if they're left for 6 weeks? End of November is way too early to cease existing collections the trees are still full of leaves and people will just start dumping them

The price was upped when you changed for bags to bins which is justified but then you've upped the price again which is the same for those then purchasing a bin which others already have there should be two prices. One if you don't have a bin and another if you have a bin. This service has been going for years and was cheaper to have multiple bags than it is to have one bin. There was never an issue with the collection and prices before. £50 a year is ridiculous considering the sheer amount of individuals that have garden waste. It's going to force people to use the recycling centres more causing them to be busier

IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE MORE COLLECTIONS WHEN GRASS CUTTING IS AT IT'S HEIGHT AND LESS CUTTINGS BEFORE AND AFTER THIS SEASONAL TIME.

For this price you would need to guarantee to collect. Several times we are missed

If the fortnightly option is maintained.....I think, for that charge, customers should be allowed to put as much garden waste out for collection as they need to. One bin per fortnight isn't sufficient for many people. If we are expected to pay £50 per year...it seems only right to have all our garden waste collected..not just one bin otherwise several trips to the recycling centre are required on top of the collections. This also is not a simple process because of the need to book a slot.

As this collection is not covered by the council tax, can I claim, since I have no children of school age, a rebate for that part of the council tax apportioned to education?

I prefer a weekly collection, 52 weeks of the year, as I have to visit the Five Lanes waste disposal site on a regular basis throughout the year and this costs me time and money.

Inflation is around 10 per cent NOT 100 per cent

Dont mind paying for fortnightly collection

This service is invaluable to those who have no other way of disposing of garden waste. Waste is too heavy for us to take to the tip.

WOW....just wow....from £28 a bin to £50 a bin..... I had 2 bins last year for £56 now it would cost me £100.....I would drop a bin from my collectioncould you not maybe do a price for one and a lesser price for a 2nd? its not like the truck has to drive any further ?

It seems to be working well for us.

That is a big jump in price when no doubt our council tax will have a huge rise. You will end up with fly tipping of garden waste in my opinion.

I would not use the service if the frequency was reduced to monthly or 6 weekly as (a) the waste would get smelly and (b) I would run out of space in the bin after 2 weeks.

I intend to sign up to this service and think £50 for fortnightly collections represents fair value Consider having more intensive collections over the summer ie fortnightly, then just monthly in Spring and Autumn. Or reduce the period over which collections take place eg so they stop in October rather than December.

Times are difficult, we are paying extra for everything so I guess we have to bite the bullet and pay. Green waste needs to be collected regularly therefore a 4 weekly option will not work, 3 weeks is too long too.

Customers like me will either have to keep the same number of bins and cough up the £50 per bin or reduce their bins (difficult)

A 3 or 4 weekly service would not be fit for purpose and I would object to it.

Therefore keep it as it is please and I will pay the extra

We definitely need the fortnightly collection!

The bins are too big and take up way too much space. I only use it for grass cuttings. It would not be cost effective for me to carry on with the service with the price increase. I'd prefer the old bags as 1 of those would be all I need. It's a shame you couldn't offer the bins or 1 bag (at a cheaper price and only collected once a month)

I would like fortnightly collection but the almost 50% increase is way too expensive so not sure at the moment what to do. I have ticked one but may decide at a later date to cease service.

The present service is excellent and worth £50

Thank you.

We are pensioners but could manage hopefully - with only six collections per year.

I fill my bin within a fortnight

I think it is an important service as not everyone has access to the local tip but with cost of living everything rising in price people will find it difficult to fund the collection service. I would have no choice but to choose a less frequent service if the cost was in excess of 50 maybe a option of payment plan or a means tested reduction would help please who are struggling but rely on the service you provide.

Not really happy with any increase with the amount of council tax I am paying already. The grass used to be collected for free and my council tax was a lot less

I feel in the current climate the charges have gone up hugely and because I'm partially disabled I find it hard to transport my garden rubbish to the tip. I have no option but to use the service but find the charges very costly.

Have you considered a compromise between option 1 and option 2 with a three weekly collection at £45.00 per bin (14 collections)? Monthly and six weekly collections are too infrequent.

I'm not happy with current fortnight big garden waste bin collection anyway, old weekly bag service was much better, now I have either a very heavy bin to move outside property fortnightly or not enough space for the garden waste especially because I have a huge amount of fallen leaves in autumn season, grass from lawn mowing and cuttings from bushes. Not to mention, the bin stinks in the summer from the decaying wet grass inside from the heat. The collection ending too soon with climate change, I still have leaves falling into my garden, and the last collection already happened. It should be until New Year to get rid of Xmas trees etc. Now you want 50 quid for this lacking service, not very fair price to be honest. Reducing frequency of collections is not a good solution either as some of residents have large back gardens.

I am an OAP who still manages to enjoy gardening.

I don't have any other way to get rid of my garden waste and really value this service....Thank you.

This service is important to the elderly (of whom I am one). Although the difference in cost is not substantial, I appreciate that some of us may struggle to find the money. I should, therefore, be prepared to accept reduced frequency of collections rather than lose the service altogether. Very short sighted decision, a reasonable increase would be easier to absorb but I'm struggling with bills as it is. A rise of nearly 80% is very hard to swallow, along with the increase in our council tax next year.

Please reconsider, as this means I will have to start having bonfires to get rid of my garden waste. I'm sure other people will be in the same situation and fly tipping biodegradable material is an easy solution that won't bother a lot of people's conscience.

I think that a fortnightly collection would be the minimum for me.

But £50 does feel quite steep and I am not sure if I would continue with the service at that price.

Find the service very good and £2.50 per bin per collection is a reasonable amount to pay. We would not want to reduce the frequency of collections.

it would be a shame if it ceased especially for older people who don't want to go to the tip

When collections are missed for no good reason, almost doubling the cost makes each missed collection even more inconvenient. That aspect of the service would have to improve.

The price increase is considerably more than I think it should be. Reducing the number of collections is not an option for me though with the size of our garden and the amount of waste it generates You are going from £28 per year to £50 per year is a phenomenal increase given the present economic situation .

Why do we have to pay in Abergavenny for collections when Pontypool is free?

The alternative is having to take all garden waste to Llanfoist, which is time consuming and costly in petrol. Continuing the services at an increased cost is preferable.

Extra hike in price is still viable for the convenience. Would not want less collections per year though.

A full 12 months collection would be even better, since there is lots to recycle between the months of November - December!!

Fortnightly collection is by far the best option.

This is a service we need therefore would have no choice but to pay the increased charge

We do not appear to have any choice but to accept option 1 although I am surprised that Monmouthshire who prides itself on being a number 1 council for recycling is going to stop the service. It would seem a waste of money to buy all the green bins and then discard them after a couple of years, also I wish to remind you that the cost of green collection has gone up every year and the service has been reduced from 12 months to 10 months and the council tax we pay to MCC is one of the highest in Wales. What do you do with our money? I would like a response please.

The fortnightly system is the only one that would work. The increase from £35 to £50 almost 50 per cent is obscene. A £40 fee would be more appropriate. As a Magor resident for many years who has seen steep rises in Council Tax I find it incredible that the grass collection does not form part of what we pay in community charge. We as residents are short changed given the poor state of roads (I have lived in Blenheim Avenue 26 years) and lack of infrastructure. It makes me wonder where our money goes. It would help if Monmouthshire County Council became more efficient and reduce what they pay top employees.

I have a great deal of hedging and bushes that need regular trimming, so have to make frequent trips to Five Lanes to dispose of the cuttings which won't fit in the wheeled bin. The extra cost of the wheeled bin compared with a few extra trips to Five Lanes cannot be justified.

The bin fits a lot in so happy with once a month. Price is still fairly high I'm worried people will start putting out black bags full of grass clippings

We would find it difficult to manage without this service

I feel £2.50 per collection still offers me reasonable value.

This feels like a total rip off, be prepared for waste dumping and garden waste going into black bags



I think for the amount of garden waste I provide I can just place it in my general waste

The service is excellent and would be a shame to lose it .

If it was to be reduced perhaps the fortnightly collection could be retained in peak summer season and monthly in spring and winter

none

People may prefer an option to buy just one bin permit , if they have two. You will have people dropping out and dropping to less bins with a pay increase.

Or each village , has its own green waste area for grass and weeds, a more environmental friendly way, that generates free composte? A waste disposal expert could check and maintain it, in costings rather than a collections service. Also people pay a small charge to dump there. Composite is free.

£50 for 20 collections seems excessive. Any less collections will lead to fly-tipping in my estimation. Why would it cost £2.50 per collection every fortnight, around £4 every 4 weeks and around £6 every 6 weeks? The job is essentially identical (bar a slight increase in weight of wheelie bin) so should cost you (and me) a very similar amount. I may be missing something here, so if you can justify the disparity to me please do. I would prefer to pay £25 for 10 collections if that is how much it costs you to collect. Thank you.

I've very happy with the current service and am happy to pay more to keep it as it is - or as close to the current service as possible.

I fear than any reduction in the service along with any increase in cost will lead to some people choosing more ad hoc methods of getting rid of garden waste which will be pushing the problem elsewhere - but clearing up fly-tipping will still be an issue for the council to deal with.

What about returning to the bags? Seems the cost went up significantly when current wheelie bins introduced which would include the need of specialised vehicles to manage them. Has anyone costed returning to bags? If pink/purple collections now going to bags must be a benefit.....so what about garden waste?

Open up the recycling centres to drive through without the nightmare of online booking PLEASE!!!!

Way too expensive. Cost of living has increased and now this too. Joke!

The £50 for fortnightly collections is the most cost effective.

The collection service is important to me as I have TWO wheelie-ins and I regularly fill them both within the two-week period.

Even with fortnightly collections we cannot always have room for our garden waste as our gardener only comes every two weeks

I cannot use a wheelie bin, how much per bag is proposed, this isn't included in your options ?

Without the service we would have to resort to frequent bonfires.

I don't know what to do. £50 is too expensive but less collections would not be enough.

I guess it will mean trips to the tip again with heavy bags that for pensioners is very difficult.

I would be very upset to cease collections and am disappointed with potential price rises.

Minimum requirement would be every 2 weeks, for customers who have large gardens this is essential.

you cannot keep reducing services while you put up your prices. country is a joke

We only need 1 bin for fortnightly collection, which seems to be just about right for us. Very worthwhile!

My choice above, is purely my own based upon what I hope I can afford for 2023 Garden Waste Collections.

But, I am very aware that there will be people with various 'difficulties, illnesses/disabilities/age/etc' who would

(need) such a service.....John.....

this is so unfair to charge those prices we have the highest tax in wales all the houses being built in undy use the money from that as we have no transport, facilities or even doctors 5 days a week monmouthshire needs to budget like the rest of us this will result in fly tipping

I moved to Monmouthshire from a different local authority area earlier this year. In my old area a 2 weekly collection was free. I was surprised to have to pay for the service in Monmouthshire but as it was under £30 for fortnightly collections I paid it. The price might have remained the same for a few years but when the same service is free to residents of neighbouring LA areas the increases suggested seem very unfair especially when all households are facing financial stretches in all aspects of expenditure. Ceasing this service will surely result in either people not looking after their gardens or fly tipping. I understand the waste can be taken to the tip but many people will not make this effort and ultimately the areas will become littered, overgrown, and dirty

£50 is not unreasonable,£2.50 per collection is fine with me.

A collection just after Christmas would avoid people fly tipping their trees.

Existing provision of service is good.

We are pensioners with a country garden, and gardener to help us. Before Covid 19 we took our garden waste to the re-cycling center but cannot do this now. If we did not have your garden waste collection's we would then be forced to have bonfires, not good for the planet. We do have a composter and use this as much as possible.

As users of this optional service, we think that we should pay the full cost.

I'm VERY disappointed that the increase in possible charge is so considerable, but would have no option as less frequent emptying is not viable for even a small to medium size garden. However, we, your loyal customers, are given no choice because the next alternative of 4 weekly emptying carries the outrageous price of £42.50. You have your own customers over a barrel here and I was sorely tempted to not use the service at all due to our increased cost of living. Surely iro £40 to £45 absolute max for every 2 weeks is a more reasonable uplift in the top price and fewer collections should likewise be priced accordingly.

I would like the frequency of collections to remain the same however, £50 per bin is a significant increase. We currently have 2 bins which would mean a payment of £100

Since Usk recycling centre closed We now have to make a journey to llanfoist for other waste and recycling , we pay the highest rates in Monmouthshire for the least services,we don't want to lose another even though we have to pay extra for it.

An increase of nearly 300% in charges would mean we would reduce the number of bins we would order.

A near 100% increase for the same service is unbelievable. You've already put up our council tax enough

Happy with things as they are. Bin collection crew are a cheerful bunch!

My bin is almost always full. If you reduce the frequency can I have a second one to compensate for the lost collection?

Good service and works well!

Monmouth recycling is too small for the town and makes recycling difficult. We do compost as much as possible but we have a big garden with lots of hedges.

I am concerned that any reduction in the frequency of collections would result in an increase in fly tipping. Has the potential cost of this been factored in?

I have never lived anywhere else where we are charged for garden waste! You are shameless! Your council tax is high but you offer less!

£50 would still be reasonable and would save the pollution that would otherwise be created by countless vehicle trips to recycling centres. Extending the intervals between collections as per options 2 and 3 would be counter-productive whilst ceasing the service altogether would be unthinkable. This is essential to my home and safety of my garden.

I manage to fill my bin within the current 2week collection and would have to just pay the price or otherwise resort to burning my garden waste.

It is more reasonable to keep the current frequency (i.e. fortnightly) whilst adjusted from GBP28 to GBP42.50

Would prefer weekly collections, ideally.

Fortnightly collections are the longest wait time I would consider to be a usable service worth having. We struggle timing the grass cutting to coincide with the bin being empty. 4 week or 6 week collections would both make the service unusable as the bin would be full but still required before it is emptied. If the council opts to lessen the frequency of collections then I shall not be renewing I find the current bin much too big for the amount of garden waste I produce and inconvenient to my property which has steep steps at both back and front which I find hard to negotiate with such a large bin.

I am elderly and really need garden waste collected. It will cause great problems if not collected.

considering I used the collection service less than ten times this year I think the proposed prices are a bit exorbitant for how many times ive had collections so I wont be using the service next year I am somewhat taken about the increase in cost to £50 for the two weekly option and can see not justification for an increase of this magnitude.

This is good value for money what ever the moaners say

Great service and fair at price above. I have 2 bins.

The collection of green waste is a very necessary service. I hope that whatever decision is made as a result of the questionnaire whether it is to increase the cost, reduce the number of green waste collections, or remove them altogether doesn't increase the amount of fly tipping.

Ridiculous Amounts!

To leave grass cuttings for any longer than two weeks in a closed bin would make the operator's workload more difficult-both smell and texture.

Even though the price increase is disappointing against the cost of living increases the financial constraints are understood. Without a service there would be additional personal costs and emissions associated with travel to recycling hubs as gardens are too small to accommodate composting, plus there is a concern that gains made in Wales on recycling could be reversed and fly tipping would increase. I would support a lower frequency and lower cost option if that made things more affordable for others.

Why are you not using garden and food waste and paper shredding in an anaerobic digester? Pure composting releases methane etc which adds to global warming!!

As the occupier of a property in the highest tax band paying further stealth tax is barely acceptable for the provision of essential public service in any circumstance.

None

It helps me all the time.

I'm not happy about such a hefty increase to keep the service but so many weeds, leaves, hedges encroach on my boundary, I need it. Are there any plans to cut council hedges near houses more than once a year?

Would be happy for either fortnightly or four weekly!

I think four weekly collections would be alright for me but some with bigger gardens my need more it would be helpful if we could have the bins emptied right through December

All Recycling Collections could be reduced. I think Pink/Purple Collections could be every 2 weeks. Quite understand the need for a cost rise - not the Council's fault!

This is hardly a consultation. One would normally expect a lot more background information. One other option might be - keep the number of collections but reduce the charge per bin (in anticipation of increased take-up).

Will not the options above more likely reduce the number of people taking up the service, possibly leading to a higher subsidy; the whole thing spiralling down such that the service becomes impossible for the Council to continue.

Really happy with the current service of fortnightly collections and would like it to remain as it is . At £2.50 per collection, a total of 20 collections for £50 seems a small price to pay to have our garden waste collected rather than having to load it into a vehicle, book a suitable time slot at the dump then drive there.

Expensive but worth it.

Keep the fortnightly collections, cannot believe the increase, practically 100%.

It works very well at present. There are times during the year when a reduced frequency would not meet requirements.

This service is important and useful - I think more illegal 'dumping' of waste could take place without it. How is the waste processed, does it go to make compost?

It also reduces visits to local tips which is better for the environment.

this is a very valuable service particularly for older people and would be badly missed .we would like it to continue as it is

Just keep the service going

If the frequency of collections drop 10 or 6 per year , will the bins be replaced with larger ones ?

Very pleased with the service provided and reducing to four weekly would not be a problem for us

Far too expensive especially with the current situation for the cost of living. Everyone is struggling financially and don't understand how MCC think its OK to put the cost up that much

I am not in a position at the moment to continue with the service even at existing rates and it is therefore unlikely that I shall go on with it. I shall therefore have to take my garden waste to the Refuse/ Recycling Centre here in Monmouth which I assume I shall still be able to do free of charge. Thank you

WE LIVE IN USK, AND MCC CLOSED OUR RECYCLING FACILITY, SO WE HAVE HAD NO OPTION BUT TO USE THE BIN. WITH SUCH HIGH COUNCIL TAX WE FEEL THE NEW COLLECTION CHARGES ARE EXORBITANT SO WE WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO BURNING THE GARDEN WASTE.

very good service

On reflection would prefer to stay with every two weeks, one bin .

Even though I am not a keen gardener and my garden is not big I still fill the garden waste bins almost every time. Useful service. Would be prepared to pay more.

I understand extra costs but that's a big increase and I think people won't pay it and they will dump it anywhere they can. Do people check that people actually pay again each year? Does it need to run for so long?

Austerity doesn't work!

The reason that I have chosen six weekly (6collections) is because that happens to be the number of times that I use the service although the £35 fee is the most expensive per collection, but £35 is what I would be willing to pay for this service.

I have a small garden and would not need more than this, give people the choice on how many collections they would need as not one size fits all. Some people have much larger gardens than others

Based upon the cost involved of regular trips to Council recycling centre I think a unit cost of £2.50 per bin collection (£50 for 20 collections) still represents value.

A fortnightly collection is more appropriate and convenient at certain times of year, even then there may be times when I will bag up additional garden waste for the next collection if I have filled the wheeled bin.

The bin has been far better value than the bags

Considering what we pay the council and what we get in return, the options you suggest are insulting!

Reducing collections is nonsense, the grass will grow whether you are collecting or not, and the price increase you suggest is again insulting, are counsellors going to reduce their salary to help???

Much too expensive for us to consider

Flytipping will increase

I found this service very useful, but an increase of £32 a year to keep the service as it is is too extreme for me to continue using it.

Could you make it easier to go to the recycle centre with garden waste,

My elderly parents would take it to the recycle centre but booking a slot is too much of a deal for them

Concerned for the increased dumping of garden waste in public recreational areas

This is an essential service for many people and should continue as at present.

Fortunately we have a very small garden so lawn cuttings and a few dead plant compost is not a problem to have only 6 collections a year. I wouldn't pay more than £35 a year. It is a very expensive pay out. Not really happy

I would prefer to keep the fortnightly

Service. The others offered isn't convenient nor value for money

I think the service is good value.

With a smaller garden, fewer collections would suit me.

Please do not end this service, it will increase fly tipping as already the people in our road who do not pay for the service just throw their garden waste over the fence alongside the A466 trunk road. I would prefer this service being charged to our rates and then Everybody would Have to pay, if they have a garden. Thank you. Richard Price, 13 Fairview, High Beech.

No comment

I take my rubbish to five lanes so will add my garden waste at same time. I dont believe i had value for money this year as didnt use the facility as much because i kept missing the fortnightly collection and then had to wait another two weeks. Kind regards

Consider reducing the collection of plastic and paper recycling to a fortnightly basis to reflect the use of the service.

There is no other good alternative. I have a large garden and therefore a lot of garden waste. I am a pensioner and do not want to struggle carrying heavy garden rubbish to the tip all through the year.

Could this be pay on use ie choose a certain number of collections per year at a price per collection ?

I definitely need the service fortnightly

Currently collections cease end November,

BUT so much is still growing in the garden beyond this date.

Is it possible to lay on one last collection end December -

perhaps, by only having one collection in March.

Otherwise, garden waste sits rotting for several months -

it'll be very smelly and slimy by the time of the first collection in March !

I could not drive to Llanfoist and back for £5 obviously garden waste is not hazardous so I think it is just a personal choice I would not like to see a reduction in our other waste services in our difficult times.

As the autumn is getting later, and leaves are falling later, a service into mid December would be more preferable

The price is ridiculous. Make it cheaper. I pay so much council tax already.

Quite an increase in price. I could not afford to pay £50.00 for fortnightly collection.

I would prefer a later start to the service and a later finish. I still have huge quantities of leaves on trees and no further collection. If you need to reduce costs start later in the year since less green waste until late spring or early summer

What we are paying now for fortnightly collections is sufficient the cost revision is just ridiculous
Bins are very awkward to manoeuvre for me on a steep drive, hence I have bags, I only use one bag never the three bags provided.

Thank you for the service you provide.

I worry that this terrible increase in price, or any proposed diminished service, will cause other problems for many people during the cost of living crisis.

Stop subsidy. It's not affordable

For those people who are unable to transport waste to the tip this is a vital service

This is a very useful service and reducing the frequency would not really be sensible.

Newport council included garden collection for nothing extra. I get very little for my exorbitant council tax and this is just another example of charging more and getting less, you don't even provide proper bins for general rates.

My age does not allow me to deliver refuse to the waste collection area and it is difficult enough to handle the wheeled bins and it would be more convenient to return to waste bags which would enable me to take to the designated waste refuge.

I would go to the waste site at Llanfoist

£50 for fortnightly collections is better value than £42.50 for four weekly collections.

Appalled at nearly 50% increase, particularly after all the waste of money you have spent on the bins, frequent change of recycling containers over a short period of time. Stop wasting money and get a grip!! Perhaps you have too many overpaid managers??

This is really expensive. Our bin is full every fortnight and its cheaper to spend more every 2 weeks than have 2 bins four weekly in the long run as we would have to use the refuse centre and this is a distance away.

I'm not sure how we would dispose of our garden waste as we live in Usk and it will be over 19 miles round trip to dispose on it. Are there any allotments in Usk that take the garden waste?
The current system works well. Unless the booking system is removed from the recycling centres I would struggle with less frequently

While I appreciate costs are rising, when I moved here 10 years ago garden waste collection was included in council tax. It has been going up and up now I will have to pay £100 as I have 2 bins or have to make several more trips to recycling centre which isn't exactly 'green' or cheap.
Find cuts elsewhere. Are all employees working in the offices full time and earning their wages to the best of their ability?

A fortnightly collection may not be necessary in the summer, when I imagine less waste is produced, but pruning and clearance in autumn produce a lot of waste, when fortnightly collections would be beneficial - perhaps a hybrid system of the first two options above.
I live in Usk we had a very good recycling site where we were able to take garden waste, unfortunately this was closed so therefore people of the town had no choice but to have garden waste bins and have a fortnightly collection which has obviously become very costly to provide having to run a lorry along with driver and men to empty the bins.
Maybe a rethink on providing a large skip for people to just take their garden waste possibly housed in the MCC carpark at Usk would be worth thinking about.
We need to keep the collection at 2 weeks as a keen gardener it would negatively impact my ability to garden throughout the seasons. PLEASE do not cut the service.

We already pay for this service when neighbouring councils don't charge. I would revert to visiting the recycling station - however, the other problem is the current booking system is too restrictive. It is a valuable services and reduces car journeys to the HWRC. I feel that £50 is a reasonable cost when compared to the national average of garden waste collections as well as locally comparable collections. Yes - I do work in the waste industry!!

Per Ardua Carrow Hill

Please cease collections

I'm sure that council tax will go up next year as always. Hard to understand why we have to pay so much to have our garden waste removed.

Maybe there should be an entry charge when one starts using the service to cover the cost of the bin. If the service ceases who owns the existing bins? If it is Momouthshire CC - will you collect them up for recycling?

We need fortnightly collections.

It's abecedary service. I don't mind paying a little more for it, so long as it doesn't become unachievable to afford.

Why is it other authorities (eg Cardiff) can provide this service without an additional charge on top of the Council Tax being paid?

Making collections at 4 or 6 week intervals would be absolutely ridiculous. That would be pointless for anyone who mows a lawn during the spring/summer months. This is just going to force people to start fly tipping.

The increase in price is ridiculous the fortnights service should increased to a weekly service to justify the the increase

The proposals represent a significant increase far above the level of inflation.

How will you keep track of all these different options if people choose differently

MCC is the most expensive council in the area. Other council's offer better facilities for less

Why has the price increased AGAIN

The only option which works for me is the fortnightly collection, however the price of £50.00 is totally unacceptable I will not be using this service

As Gardeners we rely on this service regularly so it wouldn't benefit us any other way.

I can't believe the price increase considering we pay over 2k for our council tax every year. Are you trying to get rid of the service really?

Very much appreciate your service! Works perfectly me

Maybe reduce the collections in the spring and ramp up in the summer months e.g every 4 weeks early and late and every 2 in the summer

Too much of an increase

We like the convenience of having the waste collected and appreciate the service.

I have no transport and appreciate the collections.

I think it would be better if the collection started a month later and stopped a month later because there are a lot of leaves at this time of year whereas we don't start to cut lawns until later

I think it is disgraceful that there is an extra charge for garden waste when the council tax is so high already. Also that there are no wheely bins for recycling and black bag rubbish ! Why is Monmouthshire so behind the rest of the world where we put plastic bags out for rubbish collection. Also why are garden waste bins free in Newport and not here and now you want to raise the cost ! And you wonder why people fly tip !

What you consider a three weekly collection.

If the collection is less than fortnightly we would not use it. £2.50 PER empty is about the maximum we would pay. We are lucky that Troy is on our way to Monmouth. Not so easy for folk further from a collection depot.

Every person has seen a rise in prices in every aspect of life, it would be unreasonable to think at this time anyone would be happy with an increase to £50.

Would be nice to start seeing some of where the council tax is going, rather than just witnessing Monmouthshire council at charity balls (for a fee)

If the collections were every 4 or 6 weeks we would end up using extra bins which would cost more in the long run for us and council costs.

The social benefits of the Garden Waste Collection service to it's customers and the visual benefits to the whole community at a time when M.C.C. Are allowing the visual deterioration of the visual provision to the community of their own responsibilities is abominable, and this collection service helps improve it's visibility and must be continued, but at a more appropriate cost to the residents who use it, with benefit being to the Whole community, so the cost must be shared!!! Also Think of the Gardening costs to the residentso who provide this benefit for the whole community. Very expensive now

Too big a jump in cost. £42.50 for fortnightly collections would be better.

Really disappointed that the council is pricing this service out of reach, which will no doubt increase the level of fly tipping going forward. Giving the 2 weely cost has increased nigh on 80% so way above inflation it is clear the council does not want this service to continue. I have always been proud of Monmouthshire's approach to recycling and so saddened to see this approach being adopted .

Service is invaluable

Where we live, there are a considerable number of elderly people who enjoy their gardens but have no other means of disposing of their garden waste. However, many of these will already be struggling with the cost of living so this seems like a significant hike on top of which, I'm sure the council tax will rise again. It is easy to understand why you need to make these changes, but please do also bear in mind that with every price hike, something else has to give. Whilst I acknowledge that garden waste collection may seem like a luxury, it is vital for mental health and also to help build a sense of pride in community. Our council tax is already 25% of our mortgage cost. It is often a struggle to see how we will make it all work. Cloths have already been cut significantly, and this may end up being a service that we just cannot afford, unfortunately. Equally, 6 collections a year will not cover the collections required. It might be better to consider keeping the frequency of collections but shortening the number of months - perhaps April to October instead.

I think it is an excellent service which I am prepared to pay for.

Whilst I understand the financial pressure the council is under, an increase from £28 to £50 per year is shocking. I do not see how it can possibly be justified.

At a time when MCC remove our local recycle centre which means the only option left is to use the collection service it appears harsh to increase this cost. Surely at a time of increased economic hardship people may now choose to not use the collection service and transport waste by car to a distant recycle centre. This will undoubtedly have an environmental impact. Reduce offer services such as libraries and offer digital resources instead.

Although expensive for me there is no convenient alternative so I have voted for £50 pa for fortnightly collection. If it was less frequent I'd be obliged to go to the tip so might abandon the bin altogether. It would be much for convenient if the last collection was early December not end November - the leaves are still falling

Still to much money

I will support whichever option is the majority vote as I do not want the service to cease.

I think the solution is different. Please hear me out. there is a way of reducing the cost (to the resident and to the council), reducing the mileage and improving the service to residents. I'll start by saying that the options that you listed above are not appealing, firstly because the reduction in price is too low, but also because if you drop the frequency some people will need to pay for more bins.

Unlike the other waste collections, few houses use the garden waste collection every time it comes around. but once or twice a year a garden may produce several bin-fulls of waste. What if through a simple app (or a page on the council website) one could request a collection when they need it. not a particular date, just a "please collect" button. the computer then groups together collections that are in the same area, saving many miles traveled to properties that don't need a collection but are on the route that day regardless. as long as it comes within about a week of the request it would satisfy residents' needs but leave the algorithm plenty of opportunity to group them more efficiently than daily routes. the same kind of software is used for planning courier delivery routes, so should be almost off-the-shelf ready.

I know its not as easy as just cutting services, and will take some planning and a small investment, but it will have a much better outcome, I think, in terms of the quality of the service and the savings for the council.

Anything other than fortnightly is not viable as we would need so many bins or be up and down to the tip so much causing much greater harm on the environment than a council fortnightly collection. We have a small plot but are surrounded by other peoples trees which we have to clear from our land. Cost is not desirable but better than a 4/6 weekly collection.

I don't object to paying more for the convenience of fortnightly collections. I do however object to the per bin basis of pricing. The difference in time and effort to collect 2 bins from a property is trivial when compared to collecting a single bin. The fees for collection should be a flat rate per property attended. If the pricing remains per bin, I'll only renew for 1 bin next year.

This service also reduces the qty of cars on the road as they don't have to drive to the tip. A tip that would become busier with a booking system that wouldn't be able to cope.

£50 is too much and I'd have to consider going back to driving into the tip. You can't leave grass in a bin for 4 weeks or even 6 weeks. ☹

Christmas tree collection service would be a good service

I think £50 is too expensive. I don't think there is a problem with the current service. We live in a small house with a small garden so don't even fill a whole bin in two weeks so £50 seems quite a lot. Taking your waste to a recycle centre is not viable, the current system of having to book time slots and only opening on certain days is bad enough. Measures like those and increasing prices will lead to more fly tipping.

I would be okay dropping to once a month collections, but if it's £50 for 20 collections or £42.50 for 10... doesn't seem quite fair - you get half the collections so shouldn't you charge nearer to half the price?

I regard this as an essential service. A fortnightly collection is just about manageable but moving it to a monthly service would be unacceptable. Having said that, maybe some thought could be given to varying the collection at certain times during the year. Autumn is the time when gardens are being cleared out ready for the Spring, so that ceasing the service at the end of November is too early given that there is still much to do in the garden.

In the Spring and early Summer there may be a case for a monthly collection when there is less waste to dispose of. My strong opinion is that this is a valuable service that should continue. Stop the service and the incidence of fly tipping will increase significantly.

I am not happy with the price increase. This is another thing for people to try and find money for when people are really struggling to make ends meet.

What are people supposed to do if they cannot afford it or able to get to the recycling center.

THE SERVICE PROVIDED IS FINE BY ME.

DON EDWARDS

£50 is a huge jump in price from this year and having moved from a different district recently where next year is £32 for a service that runs throughout the year (doesn't have a break over winter) makes £50 seem extortionate. Unfortunately, due to the size of our garden, we would be forced to pay the £50 as we do not have a suitable vehicle to take the grass cuttings to five lanes recycling centre every 2 weeks. Due to the cost of living increases expect an increase but not nearly double what already pay. A small increase would be welcomed.

We understand that budgets are tight but as pensioners we would not be able to afford to pay the extra costs

Charge per household regardless of the number of bins. This is likely to reduce the risk of dumping garden waste.

I live on my own so one bin is adequate for me.

The service is expensive as it is

Keeping the fortnightly schedule is easier to remember as it goes out with the green glass and rubbish. Going down to 10 collections does not reduce the price to £25. So best to be £50 for 20 collections.

Need to keep the fortnightly collections.

The reduced collections offer less value for money per collection.

worth while service, keep it every two weeks

I didn't use your service this year but was going to resume the service next year myself and my partner could afford the £28 between us but the options you have given we cannot afford so we will not be using your service again not at the prices and number of collection's you are providing

£50 is a ridiculous amount to ask for! You will be encouraging fly tipping. I put a lot of leaves blown in from council property in our bin, where would I put it?! Or shall I just leave it all clogging up the drain on the road where I usually pick it up from, a main road and let it keep blocking that?!

We pay so much for council tax, stop taking advantage of people in a cost of living crisis!!! Absolutely disgraceful trying to raise the costs. Those bins stink if you leave them too long in summer too!

The bins are quite large so I would be happy with a 6 week collection. If the cost was anymore than 35.00 so 6.00 a collection I would consider booking a tip run and taking it myself to five lanes. I don't want to do this really as I try and not use my car for unnecessary journeys.

If the service stops completely waste will be fly tipped. Likewise if the service becomes too expensive there will be fly tipping. Remember that some people don't have the space to store or compost garden waste.

Thank you

How can you justify a 78% increase in garden waste collection? Especially with the cost of living crisis expected to get worse. The elderly may not have the options to dispose of their waste any other way than with collections. They may have ill health or caring for another family member, no access to a car, cost of heating their homes going up. How will they be able to afford this increase? Could you not divide the amount up and get people to pay monthly which would be a more managable amount rather than a one off larger amount.

"JUST A THOUGHT"

Perhaps there is another option where the service runs April to October, which would provide a slightly lower cost option to residents.

Don't think the reduced collections suggestions are particularly good value for money

Perhaps you could offer more frequent collections (eg fortnightly) in summer, and less frequent (3 or 4 weekly) in spring/autumn?

Every two weeks is perfect. Thank you.

I understand there is a need for an jncrease but think the proposal of £22 extra is too high £ 40 should be the maximum

Have a large garden If I cannot have regular fortnightly collections I will have to go back to having A bonfire!

As I have mobility problems I have to absorb the cost as I have no other way to dispose of my garden waste. However I'm disappointed.

Has a low income family we could not afford this extra cost

You are providing less and less services for more and more money. I pay ever increasing council tax and see less and less service

It needs to be fortnightly otherwise the waste will be disgusting in the bins provided.

Due to being disabled and my husband having mobility issues we will have to absorb the cost however this is very disappointing. Beware of fly tipping.

Too much of a rise. can you provide free garden waste bags and we will book and drive to tip?

Why do we live in Housing association housing not that we can afford to keep in creating payments.

But then we keep our gardens tidy and get penalty.

I think it is disgraceful that monmouthshire council charge so much for this service.

Newport council does not charge for the same service ie green bins fortnightly. I attended the original community council meeting when MCC proposed this. At that time it was a token amount but has been increased dramatically almost every year.

MCC has also seriously restricted general access to the recycling centres which could be used as an alternative to collection. I am struggling to understand the disparity between the poor service MCC offers and that of Newport CC despite far higher council tax rates! Is perhaps money being wasted elsewhere?

I am aware MCC receives the lowest grant from Welsh government but this appears to be offset by having one of the highest council tax levies.

I feel very sorry for elderly residents of monmouthshire who will likely struggle with your pretty poor webpage for booking tip slots. There must be so many people who have just given up. I myself am well used to booking things online but still struggle with your less than user friendly web booking page.

OK I agree to the raised charges. Thank you for your services.

It is a valuable and very useful service, greatly appreciated

Stop wasting money in other areas and you'll have enough!

Could offer reduced collections during the year and do it on an if required basis - could book collection slots via website

What happens to the wheelie bin if the collections cease??

It's needed as accessing the recycling centre is so difficult now since Covid. On this street we have a need as size of gardens bigger than most modern houses.

I studied social science and the way you have positioned the 3 cost options is designed to get people to select £50 pounds option. If £50 is 20 pick ups a year, 10 pick ups half of 20 should be half the price. Why is there no option to to have more regular pick ups during summer months and less pick ups during winter when the grass doesn't grow as much - appreciate it may be leaves falling, but I think you would have data when most people put their bins out and when that starts to get less over the year - there must be patterns and trends that can help you offer another option.

The proposals you have submitted are so unfair. We paid £28 last year for a collection every fortnight. How can you justify wanted to charge an extra £22 for the same service. With everything else going up (including the council tax) I think this extra charge is just greedy and unjustified . Many people will not be able to afford this extra charge and now either take up the tip themselves or fly tip.

Please re think these proposals

Thankyou

The Planning & Highways dept can easily collect more cash through proper enforcement of new developments and save cuts to other departments.

£28 this year was fine but this service doesn't deserve to be increased by 78%! I rent a property and the requirements are to look after my garden but I can not afford to pay £50 on top of your large council tax bill! I would rather disregard it myself for cheaper

Although my preference is to maintain the service as it is, I would prefer any option more than the service stopping as really value having waste collection

How much would the council consider charging per bin for a weekly service because the contents of the bin can get really smelly in the summer.

None of the options given justify such a huge price increase and to go longer than a fortnight for a collection would mean we would need two or more bins to collect the volume of garden waste we would accumulate in this time. So this is no longer a viable option for us at this cost. I can foresee many current subscribers not renewing and sadly instead burning garden waste as an alternative.

Ridiculous idea. Keep the price at £28 and reduce the months to March to September. Keeping it running into December is over the top. Save two months and keep the price the same.

£23m deficit...the Council should have engaged with Mitel...£1.8m rent down the drain right there.

Stop wasting money on the 20mph 'trial' bunch of absolute clowns thinking you're a cut above. Adding MISERY to local residents.

Stop building houses. You're ruining Caldicot and surrounding areas.

Currently have two bins but don't think any of the options are fit for purpose. Would rather not bother with the bins and take a carload to tip once a fortnight.

If I was able to turn up at the tip at time and date of my choosing I would most likely take my garden waste to the tip.

Why is the council not promoting community composting as in Gloucestershire. This will reduce the cost of collection and the carbon footprint by composting locally.

By reducing the fortnightly collections is ridiculous. If you have a large garden, you then need to purchase more bins to take all the waste, which would cost us more. Therefore this would increase fly tipping!

If people can only afford one bin the smell would be horrendous in this time. I cannot believe the 6 weeks is even an option. Truly ridiculous, another way of getting money from people in these hard times. This council is just trying to make money from people wherever possible, absolute joke! Maybe provide the service for free, like Torfaen and other councils around wales? Otherwise increase fly tipping

I think by discontinuing these service you encouraging more fly tippers
I don't have large trees in my garden
And 40% off my waste has been neighbours trees
It's a bit expensive, especially as I no longer earn money
All the options are too expensive.
fortnightly is about right to £42.50 is a justifiable rise and would be sustainable for me

I know councils are finding things tough but to go from £28 to £50 is a little bit excessive ???
Are you sure that you can double the collection capacity from 10 to 20 collections a year for only an 18% uplift in cost? Are all three options cost-neutral? What are you assuming about the effect of the price increase on uptake?
We value the service and don't want to see it disappear because you have miscalculated the price point.
fifty pounds for 20 collections is £2,50 per collection which I think is a fair price.
I depend on the garden waste service because I cannot dispose of my garden waste myself and every two weeks is great . Please do not stop this service

I think this is a disgraceful increase. I understand it's not a "statutory" service but it should be!
Council tax is already at a ridiculous level and will inevitably also be increasing. You write your note as if youve done us a favour by not increasing it in 2021 but you increased it in 2022 and also REDUCED the number of collections, so it wasn't a like for like increase, it was bigger than that, and this increase is an extortionate amount for an even further REDUCED service. I have no option other than to sign up for it as I can't take my garden waste to the recycling centre but I do so under huge duress and disgust.
It is an excellent service and it would be a shame to see it diminish. This increase means that each collection would cost £2.50 and I'm prepared to pay that.
Nil

The money raised would depend on the number of households who take up the service. A lower price would raise more money if take up is increased. Without the service many households may not have transport to take their garden waste to a recycling centre, fly tipping would be increased. This service is vital for people who have no alternative but to have a collected service and cannot use recycling centres as an alternative

1. If the frequency of the collections were reduced from fortnightly, I would cancel my collection agreement.
2. Why is it the same charge for extra bins? It doesn't take more than 2 minutes to collect a further bin as your vehicle and staff are already there collecting the first bin. It would seem sensible to reduce the cost for further bins.

In summer, the collection needs to be every week, as the grass grows more and can't afford another bin

The price increase is too much.

Fortnightly is not enough however the cost looks to have risen for next year. In which case I would suggest fixed fee for one, discount for 2 and so on in order to resolve both value and frequency needs.

We only use the garden waste service due to the fact that we have fought a constant battle with overgrowth from neighbouring properties for over seven years. Our own gardens has no such waste. Due to the lack of our own transport, the garden service is vital to us. Anything less than fortnightly is not worth having. Already problematic that there is no collection in winter when most cutting back is done.

service is perfect as is

Increased costs of collections will cause fly tipping to increase which will end up costing more money. Also more energy consumed if people drive to the recycling centre. The 20 mph signage wasted lots of money.

This service is essential. Less frequent than every 2 weeks is just not possible in the summer when the gardens are growing quickly, and the cost at £50 is still a great service for 20 collections through the year. I know it is tough, but your team do a great job, please keep it going 😊

Whilst the booking system for the local recycling centre remains it is more convenient to have the facility of the garden waste collection service.

Newport provides this service for free, and the alternative is fly tipping. £50 is extortionate, particularly with a cost of living crisis. There is also no information here on why you're having to put the cost of the service up by almost 100%, so this seems even more unreasonable to customers. None except I find the bin men extremely helpful

If 20 collections a year cost £50, why don't 10 collections a year cost approximately half of this? I understand that it's not as simple as my calculation but £42.50 seems excessive for 10 collections.

I would rather purchase a compost bin

these prices are not affordable for every household. Favours wealthy. Poor ethos for a council

Will increase fly tipping

We will be moving house to a flat in May.

Expensive but a much needed facility

I feel that 50 pounds is very very expensive as an old age pensioner and collection less than every two weeks is not enough to double the price seems to me far too much a increase of 5 to 10 pound for every two weeks seems fairer.

This service should be included in our already hefty council tax bill. Other councils in Wales collect green waste for free!

Cancelling this service would create irrecoverable latent costs for the council e.g. increased fly tipping

I have difficulty leaving the house and cannot get to the five lanes centre easily. Although I also cannot do much gardening and don't use the service regularly, it is essential for me but as I am on benefits and low income, the £28 was about what I can afford. Nearly doubling that is out of the question. Even without the subsidy that makes it a 50% increase and there have been large increases for the service almost every year especially when we went to wheelie bins. Personally I would like to go back to the original service which was free but I know that is impossible.

leaving it in a bin for 4-6 weeks in the summer will turn the grass to jelly and your collectors will spend longer trying to get the green waste out of the bins because it will be sticking to the sides.

thanks

The council to sell the fortnightly service to more people for £35 ✓

If any changes are made to the frequency of bin collections, then the need to book a slot to visit your Recycling centres should also be removed. Unnecessary Bureaucracy!

This service is important. It greatly reduces carbon emissions by facilitating the removal of garden waste in the most efficient way. Without this service I and others would be forced to make individual trips to the recycling centre

Planning too re-instate our compost heap so less needed next year. With less frequent collection I'm likely to miss them

Being disabled means that I'm unable to take garden waste to the dump personally. I can't manage a compost bin either. Garden waste collection is my only option. It will be a struggle to keep paying out for all the things and services I need to support me living alone in my own home. Heating etc has already been cut back significantly and I'm economizing wherever I can. I'm well aware that I'm one of the many who are struggling and I suspect we will end up with more people fly tipping garden waste I am away quite often in the summer and would not make good use of it.

I have already complained in writing (on the second occasion receiving no reply) that the service already does not meet my needs as an individual whose primary need is for leaf removal in the autumn. Somehow, other councils seem to be able to provide a more comprehensive service at no cost. I 'am prepared to pay the increase but feel that it has come at a bad time.

This is a very valuable service for us as we have a large garden. The price increase from £28 to £50 per bin is huge, and it seems a shame that you are charging so much. Even the less frequent collections are expensive. Our alternative will be taking everything to the recycling centre again as we might not be able to afford this any more. But what about the elderly who love gardening but don't have this option - can you give a reduced rate for them?

It's a very good service, particularly for those who can't make it to the tip.

I still think that £35 for six collections is still expensive

At those prices and collections!!

The argument for increasing the cost is based on fuel and fixed costs. To charge the same for each additional bin is financially inaccurate and deceitful

Why is it only reduced by £7.50 for four weekly collections?

I have used the garden waste service since its introduction some years ago with the free collection of green bags if they were purchased. I have noted the creeping changes into chargeable brown bags and then the bins. I also note how the council has used covid to micromanage the use of the Tory site so that it is now impossible to make spontaneous visits to dispose of any waste rubbish, garden or otherwise. Frankly the quality of service seems to diminish as the cost escalates.

I understand that the year ahead will be challenging however we have a large elderly population and they rely on green waste collection. They take pride in their gardens but don't have the physical ability to dispose of garden waste. Although I feel we are paying a substantial amount in council tax I for one would be prepared to pay extra for this service to help keep it servicing for those that need it the most.

You would have more money in the account if people who carried out so say "refurbishment" of homes ,but actually rebuild , to the extent not even one pre existing wall is left on site , pay the appropriate council tax .. Instead you are left with one of the smallest cheapest council tax band homes , being turned into the largest , most valuable in the area, paying peanuts Do the maths it's thousands a Yr ! That's just one dripping tap on the account , there are many .

Absolutely extortionate increases. I will not be paying that, maybe educate your staff to put down food and bottle bins instead of throwing them to the ground which breaks them and you could make a saving which one day could be passed onto your customers

This service is invaluable for people with small properties having inadequate space for composting or similar. I would not like to see it ending.

For the cost this should be a 12 month collection service

We have a number of mature trees adjacent to our property on council owned land. During the Autumn period these trees shed a large number of leaves and seed pods. We regularly fill the bin and have to store the excess until the next collection. Why not allow the residents who are affected by these excesses to put out extra containers to be collected at the same time. (Suitable container being Garden Bags.)

Once again you are taking advantage and trying to balance budget by ripping off people. With very poor access to the dump you are not really giving people much choice.

We value the collections for the convenience of removing our garden waste from our doorstep
We need fortnightly collection in the summer but less in spring and autumn
It's an excellent service.

This must be one of the only councils to charge for this service, our community charge (rates) are already one of the highest in Wales. As pensioners trying to live an independent life you are crucifying us with huge rises. Time to review the councils structure and costings, paying for professional council employee's is acceptable but paying for Mayors and councillors is not and should go back to expenses only, the cost savings would be in the millions, in fact this cost should be made highly visible in your next bill. We are not cash cows for the privileged amateur councillor part time brigade who for the most is a second job. Back to garden waste collections perhaps you could give an explanation of costs and what happens to the waste, its recycling process and sales to whomever, maybe a costing to a private source could be made.

I would hate for the garden waste collections to cease for the following reasons.
I am over 75 and enjoy gardening and so keep fit.
I do not have a car and so cannot get to a recycling centre to dispose of the garden waste.
I have compost bins for grass and soft green waste, but do not put hard wood shrub cuttings , perennial weeds and diseased plants in it as the temperature in it doesn't get high enough.
Ideally I would prefer two week collections, but any would be better than none! And £2.50 per collection is less than a cup of coffee at a cafe.

Having moved to a property with a large garden our plan was to get a bin ready for the next season. The bins are not big enough to last a month with a large garden so fortnightly is preferred. However for £2.5 per collection it is cheaper to use the car fuel to put it in bags to go to the recycling centre.

For myself it is only grass cuttings and later some pruning and leaves clearing in late summer/autumn. This service is too costly in this day and age it should be free we pay enough council tax don't moan about fly tipping

I don't need to use the service regularly so every 4-6 weeks would be fine for the prices offered
Better to take garden waste in bags to refuse centre.
Could you supply green bags?
I fully appreciate that costs have risen significantly however the proposed cost above is wildly disproportionate. Surely 10 collections should be £25. This is simple mathematics. Very disappointed with this proposal
We have a large garden and could easily fill five bins a week (we currently pay for two) so reducing the frequency would be difficult; this is in addition to almost weekly tip runs. Our house comes with the job so the size of garden isn't by choice.

The trees at Overmonnow School are so huge, they dump all their leaves in our garden! During autumn, our green bins are FULL of leaves only. We should be paid to collect the leaves, not vice versa. If the bin collection gets less frequent, we will have no option but to throw them back over the fence into the school!

I made several comments yesterday - Thursday 24th November.

One thing I forget to mention is that if you reduce the frequency of green waste collections you should open the Llanfoist recycling centre 7 days a week.

Due to the amount of garden rubbish it is essential that the current frequency of every two weeks is maintained at whatever cost. The quoted figure of £50 is entirely reasonable

If collections not continued more fly tipping. Dump also needs to be reopened as it was pre-covid.

Without this service, I would need to drive to Five Lanes Recycling centre every two weeks. The collection service effectively reduces my vehicle's impact on the environment.

i will reduce the number bins to mne

I really do not understand why it has to increase by this much? It is a significant rise on top of the already increased cost of living in general.

I am No 16. I share the large bin with No 17, as our front lawn is a joint one and the back lawns are small. So we go from £14 per house to £25 per house which, in the present financial circumstances, is reasonable. Thus I vote for continuing 2 weekly, at £50 per bin per year.

Please keep the cost as low as possible, say £30 per bin pa

I will be assessing all household costs in the new year & may have to cease garden waste collection if the cost rises too much.

I very much value this service and want it to continue, but I cannot afford the £50. I hope this valuable service continues as it reduces the need to make appointments at the local recycling centre and may also reduce fly tipping garden waste.

It's a drastic increase, with other services increasing it's becoming unaffordable. Other councils (Newport) provide this service at no extra cost. Seems very unfair!

I have never paid the price as I think charging for this service is bonkers.

Gardens are natural and should be maintained but to charge for disposal is stupid.

It would be better if collections could continue into December as the end of autumn is the time of serious pruning

If it's a cheaper alternative why not revert to the green/brown bags and charge per bag?

I had no other choice than a minimum of a four weekly collection. That extra cost will not be easy for me to afford. One unhappy resident.

Yes very happy with service happy with added costs

I, like many other pensioners are finding it hard with the increase of energy prices and food etc.

I would like to put forward to you that all pensioners get to pay a lower rate for the garden waste bin.

Kind regards

M Reese.

If the frequency is reduced then i wouldn't want the service because in peak months even fortnightly meant the bin was full to the brim

We need to use the service, as we haven't got regular access to a vehicle to take garden waste to local recycle centre.

We could only afford one garden waste bin, each year this scheme has been running, we are a low income household. You are now looking to nearly double the price increase to cover costs. We will now struggle to afford just that one bin. But we will need more frequently than 6wkly.

We don't always put waste out every fortnight, but when the years collection starts it has been every fortnight. It took us 4 months to recycle the autumn/winter/spring backlog whilst keeping on top of the grass cutting during spring & summer.

The collection service needs to either stay the same or 4wkly at a minimum.

There's a worry if you drop the service to 6wkly it will increase fly-tipping on the patch of grass area next to where I live & other areas.

Alternatively you might consider if the collections needs to go into December and possibly stop in November, as a way of keeping costs down. From Mrs Morris, 07745560311

The bin men are brilliant .

A price increase of around 100% from last year. REALLY ??

That is a very steep increase in price from last year. It is an invaluable service for those who can't get to the tip

We at present have two bins which are regularly filled. Everyone knows that costs increase but for us to change to four weekly collection would mean doubling the number of our bins thereby increasing our expenditure even more - we are not alone in this situation. It will be better for collections to remain as they are (i.e. fortnightly).

Extreme price increase considering other authorities INCLUDE garden waste in their bin collections.

Why has costs gone up by 78.6%

You charge too much and unfortunately I have to make a choice and choose to dispose of my garden waste at the tip. How much more do you expect people to pay and council tax which should be apart of our amenities with bins etc.

I think the prices are a bit heavy and complicated. It's complicated enough now.

As I have no transport and a large garden, I rely on the garden waste collection as my only means of disposing grass cuttings etc.

I have no where to put garden waste except the use of the green bin. I would worry that garden waste would start to be dumped especially on the grassland behind our houses as it has no monitoring and garden bonfires have been an issue there in the past.

We have chosen option 1 but only because the other options are not viable. We are pensioners and have a large garden and going to the tip is not an option for us. When the time comes to renew the permit we will have to think again. Please can you reconsider to charge lower price for fortnight collections for example £30 - £35.

50£ ok by me but no more

Money could be saved if the overpaid management took a decrease in salary, and if the vehicles were used more efficiently on their "planned routes". Whoever planned the routes, must be on the same committee that planned monnow street. We have had four of the large lorries, this week. Whoever is picking up a salary for that bit of "cost effective use of transport" should seriously save the council money, and retire.

Has the option of using private contractors to bid for the provision of the service been investigated?. If not then why not

Being disabled I rely on this service. I already pay someone to cut the grass but an extra £22 for garden waste collection is not within my budget when trying to get by on a pension in this cost of living crisis. My sister in Swansea has no cost for garden waste, still with bags & can put out as many as needed.!! How will I be able to remove the garden waste now?

Assume we get to retain/keep the waste bin in the event that collections cease?

Where general citizens are facing extortionate prices at every turn, I consider the Council's 'options' to be all but insulting and for many the last straw.

I can foresee an up turn in 'fly-tipping' as a result of this and other charge increases being levied against the public.

As one who has no choice to rely on benefits, I cannot think how much longer I shall be able to avail myself of this service. Not at all with the almost 50% increase cited to keep the service fortnightly.

I cannot believe just how out of touch with the REAL world local and national governments are.

If bins are withdrawn, it would help if the current booking requirement at Recycling Centres was lifted. You could also offer taxpayers compost bins at subsidised/cost price

I don't object to any of the above, but am currently unable to manhandle a bin to a pick-up point.

The bags are a much more practical option for me.

Cost for 2022 was £28, so a close to 100% rise in the price for this service seems rather excessive. As the waste site in Usk was previously closed as a cost saving measure we are being left with little alternative for disposing of our garden waste. Hundreds of cars driving many miles to major waste sites (such as Llanfoist) will not be good for the environment and can hardly be considered to support MCC's "green" agenda.

If Monmouthshire residents were able to visit the Llanfoist refuse centre without restrictions put in place during COVID, which have not been lifted, we would not need this service at all. The public are being discouraged from using the facility, particularly those who are not very computer minded.

Some trees have leaf fall all year round were we live

If the frequency of the service is reduced, I would not be able to maintain the green waste from my garden. My two bins are filled every fortnight - greenery, hedge cuttings etc in spring/summer and leaves in the autumn. I would need to find a way of taking the garden waste to the refuse centre every week. I don't think that for example £42.50 per bin every 4 weeks is value for money or fair pricing. People have the bins because they have green waste, this won't change as vegetation will continue to grow and people will still have to find a way to dispose of their green waste in some way.

The only service we make use of and we have to pay extra for the privilege. You should be selling the green waste to a composting company to generate the income to provide this service, your move to four weekly or more collections plus the cost will simply result in more fly tipping, well done!

Very expensive! But I'm unable too take my garden waste down the tip. So I have no choice

Was willing to pay £28 , but any increase in cost ,with reduction in service, is not acceptable for me. £50 is outrageously expensive, especially for people with multiple bins.

Perhaps you could offer a scheme to encourage residents to have compost bins so they wouldn't require as many collections at extortionate prices. Other councils aren't charging for green waste collections. Monmouthshire are continuously increasing Council Tax per year but residents aren't seeing an increase in services being offered.... In fact we're now having to pay extra for such services which should be included in our council tax.

As a pensioner, with a frequent need to empty my bin fortnightly I find it appalling and unfair to have to pay even more than I currently do, the current rate should be frozen for pensioners not raised in the current cost of living crisis. I expect the general household rates will increase again by 5% yet another tragic cost for pensioners to find.

Less than fortnightly in summer would be very unpleasant with rotting vegetation in bins.

We only have a small garden. We were happy to pay the fees up to now but that's a lot of money, or leave your waste to rot in your garden for weeks.

We personally would rather sort our own solution at that cost.

It is appalling that you are increasing the amount by 78%, especially in this economic climate, and not actually providing any additional service with this increase!! We as residents pay more than enough in council tax, maybe you should manage your budgets better!!

The service every two weeks is most valuable. I usually fill my bin in that time so any reduction in service would make it far less useful and would necessitate trips to Five Lanes. If that were to be the case, there would almost be no point in the service at all and I would not subscribe.

The only other option is to take the waste to the WRC. This takes, time, fuel and ultimately has a greater impact on the environment if everyone has to do this. Please keep the current service as is. £50 per year is much less other councils charge for a similar service.

Not worth the money I will compost most of it and what can't compost I will burn and use the Ash for the garden

I do not wish to lose this service but I believe that we will lose it before too long. This charged service has only been running since (I believe) 2019 and superseded a previously free garden waste collection and it has increased in price year on year, although there has been a reduction in the number of collections.

We are I believe approaching the stage where residents when also facing a large increase in Council Tax (which is bound to happen in April 2023) will not be able to afford it. I believe that MCC are still operating transfer station services in Abergavenny under the appointment system arrangements introduced during the Covid-19 epidemic which may be convenient for MCC but is not as convenient for residents. It is ironic that Council Tax and extras (like garden waste) are rapidly increasing whilst Council services are rapidly decreasing. Where is the fairness and value for money in that?

This service is essential for people who have gardens, or enjoy gardening, such as me, who do not have the vehicular means of getting rid of their garden waste at the local refuse / recycling sites. My garden waste bin is utilised throughout the entire gardening 'season' and, although I feel the proposed charges are excessive, despite the comments that you make, I have no option but to go along with maintaining the current collection scheme (i.e. fortnightly collections). During the very hot weather last summer my garden waste bin was extremely smelly at times (due mostly to rotting grass cuttings and vegetable matter) and that would be exacerbated if the collections were less frequent than at the present time. In the current 'cost of living crisis' such a substantial increase in the cost of the service is hard to take but I am afraid that I will just have to accept the situation; as galling as that is !! Not everyone will be in a position to pay the increased fees proposed; especially some of the elderly and less well-off members of our community. How will they deal in the future with their garden waste ? I doubt they will be able to put it in a neighbour's bin who has paid for the service. An increase in the amount of fly-tipping in the area may result as a consequence of the actions you are proposing and that would lead to an even further drain on precious resources to clean it up; and possibly cost more to clean up than to collect in the first place. All told, I am extremely disappointed with the hugely increased charge that the council is proposing to introduce next year for garden waste collections.

We and our neighbours at Cartref have had very few collections this year. It seemed our two properties were missing from your collection lists. In fact several of the collections were made by your employees who saw our bins sitting outside for weeks. We will continue with the service and hope you will ensure collections are made as due.

These proposals are likely to increase demand at the Mitchell Troy facility, which is already unsatisfactory and has not returned to an acceptable service level after the Covid restrictions. It is inefficient resulting in long waiting times. Whilst the booking system has merit, I cannot see why more than two vehicles are not allowed on the tipping apron at any one time. It could surely accept at least three?

The extra charge is no problem!

Useful service - can't expect everything for free

I still disagree that we should have to pay £50 extra for this household waste collection!

The problem is that you cannot immediately access garden waste if you want to go to the tip. If you actually have free time and a dry day you cannot then dispose of the garden waste at that time so you have to book a slot and transport potentially wet garden waste.

Is there any way the booking system can be reviewed to accommodate this

Too expensive

Frequency was originally weekly, 2 weekly is ok but no point in providing service if you can't maintain that frequency.

Also at £50 I am 50/50 as to whether I would pay that.

20 collections @£2 per collection making £40 would be better.

We have a large garden and therefore use 2 bins. However, with the price increase we may need to reduce that to one bin only.

We are one of the highest council taxed area in Wales ,which is a disgrace I thought a labour council would have received a more favourable allowance from the synedd.Shame on you !

I think its very important to continue collecting garden waste on a fortnightly basis. However your proposal to increase the cost by 79% to £50 per bin is I feel extremely worrying!

Due to the size of my garden I have found it necessary to purchase two garden waste bins, which will mean based upon your proposed costing as above that I will have to pay £100 per year. (extra £44 pa.)

May I suggest that if you agree to increase to cost to £50, that anyone that has more than one bin, could the extra bins, (second, third or fourth extra bins) cost say be reduced to £28/£30 each, as the vehicle costs to collect them wouldn't increase very much.

I would very much appreciate it if my suggestion is accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Munslow JP.

We are all being "ripped-off" as now we cannot afford food, fuel or energy and now a ridiculous price for garden waste!, Shame on you Monmouth County Council as you wallow in your increased profits and BONUSSES!!!.

Difficult for us to access municipal tip

As a female widowed pensioner I find this an invaluable service as I would find it difficult to take my garden waste to the local recycling centre.

Charge is a reasonable fee for an excellent service

Thankyou to your Staff

Ridiculous to think you can increase this by a massive 78% and expect residents to continue using the service, the increase should be in line with inflation at most.

What the hell does the council do with our council tax money if there is a £23 million funding deficit? Greedy and lazy council members at the top trying to make quick money out of residents for a service that is poor and inconsistent at best.

Go ahead and scrap the collection service, I expect many others will say the same.

I think it will dramatically increase fly tipping, which in the long run could cost more money
Can you not earn funds by selling off the compost made from the green waste.

I have enough trouble remembering fortnightly collection days. Reducing the frequency would inevitably mean missed collections and either over-full bins or additional trips to Five Ways!
Should be included in the council tax! Newport area do not pay!!

Increasing the cost will result in households been priced out of the service, added to the ever increasing difficulty in using the Household recycling centres, has the potential of increases in fly-tipping which in the long run will cost the council more than the loss made on this service.

20 collections would work nicely as I am able to have my main garden waste taken away properly

Was charged for the full year when I only moved into the area in August and only started the collections in September. Would have thought it could have been pro-rata especially as collections already in the street. Very expensive service will take my stuff to the tip in future.

I find the service invaluable and hopefully it will continue

Good service

I cannot get to the recycling at Mitchel Troy often enough to be able to drop back on the frequency on collections.

Those prices are astronomical and due to the cost of living crisis I will not be able to afford those prices. It is disappointing for the elderly, disabled or those that don't drive that can not take the waste to the recycling centre themselves.

I believe that this charge is a scandalous imposition and ALL waste collections should be covered by our council tax.

Instead of looking at collection frequency perhaps the annual window could be reduced... collecting garden waste into December seems pointless as grass cutting finishes pretty much in October

It is very important to keep the 2 weekly collection especially with climate change.

As an older, single person, I would be concerned if the service ceased as lifting any amount of garden waste to take to the tip would be an issue for me.

I would happily pay £50 per annum but do feel the service period should be extended. We all like to be in our gardens in the summer, cutting the lawns etc. Autumn there is a lot more clearing up to do, leaves falling off the trees and blocking drains. I fill my garden waste bin more times in the autumn than in the summer. 1st February - 14th December would be a much better timescale less than once a fortnight would be completely inadequate and the increased cost will be offset by not having to visit the tip so often

Extend months of collection

As we are pensioners we have no option but to have a collection.

I use the bin to dispose of my used Guinea pig bedding so a fortnightly service is preferable. Would suggest as a way of cutting costs the purple and pink (paper and plastic) collections are reduced to every fortnight instead of weekly. This is what I do as the bags are never full after two weeks. I find putting them out fortnightly is quite adequate.

As we are pensioners we have no choice but to have a collection.

All of these proposals are absolutely disgusting and you should be ashamed of yourselves for even suggesting them. Council tax is VERY high here and will of course rise yet again in April. There should be no cost for collection of garden waste, the cost should form part of council tax. The proposed fee of £50 per bin can only be described as daylight robbery. We are in the midst of a cost of living crisis where people are struggling to buy food and heat their homes and yet you think that charging £50 to collect grass is an acceptable proposition. You need to live in the real world. It is time this garden tax was abolished.

Thankyou for providing a good service.

Excellent service still good value for money

None

far too expensive

The garden waste scheme is really useful, and I would be very sorry to see it discontinued It's already a struggle trying to pay it at £28, there's no way we could afford any more.

With the present climate conditions we will still have loads of garden waste left on Dec 02 and that is with three active composting bins , i have also just mowed the lawn 25/11/22 , think of the future . £50 a year is a big increase. But the gap between 2 & 4 weeks would be too long in the summer. Have you thought of having more collections in the summer every 2 weeks & Less through the winter & spring every 4?

Reduce the collection in March, October & November to one collection and subsequently reduce cost to residents

Could payments be staggered?

I would suggest a reduction or cessation of the Service would increase flytipping. Many elderly gardeners who keep their gardens neat and tidy do not drive and rely on the collection service. During difficult times gardening is a popular option for improving mental and physical health. resulting in improvement in the environment and personal well being .

Do the council offer a discounted rate for a purchase of compost bins?

Is the council able to sell items to Monmouthshire households as a profit/non profit organisation?

The service is very good. I find the bins easier to cope with than the bags [pushing not carrying] and they contain a lot of waste. It is worth the cost. Thank you

Very satisfied with the service

A two weekly service would be the only viable option but not at £50.

However, I may have to reconsider if I am not fit enough to drive to the recycling centre (Five Lanes)

I will try and set up home composting and burning.

The service for which I currently pay is not a luxury.

Can't understand why such a hefty increase in price when taking in inflation rise surely it should be £40 not £50 per year

You need to continue this service as the re-cycling centre I'd hopeless, it's closed more than its open. Some people, like myself are on our own and unable to manage getting to the skip, please don't make this any harder

Stop the appointment booking at waste centres let residents take their green waste in as and when they need to . Or provide a cheap community green skip for residents use

£50 is too far out of my budget and I can't get to the waste center to dispose of grass cuttings.

As a pensioner with no room in my garden for composting I would find it very difficult if I did not have a regular collection . I would have to consider cutting down on the flowers etc that I grow and love. No useful comments to add

Whilst I appreciate the fact that costs have increased, I fail to see where the council people are going to find the extra cash for a service that was always free up until a few years ago. It will encourage people to just dump their garden waste (fly tip) or they will just not maintain their gardens as other cost increases take priority, thus causing areas to look run down. I am assuming that Council Tax will also increase even though services are decreasing.

It's very expensive, but I can't really do without it.

Though reluctant to pay £50 per month, it is more cost effective than £42.50 for 10 collections which may not be sufficient. If it goes above £50 per month I would be unable to afford it. What will happen to all these redundant wheelie bins only recently purchased if they are no longer used? Will it ever go down if finances improve? Many people and in particular pensioners who enjoy their gardening, which is also regarded as a healthy activity, physically and mentally, will be unable to afford an increase which may then have repercussions in fly-tipping etc.

The fortnightly option still represents reasonable value for money. The other options don't and I would likely opt out of those completely

Saving between fortnightly and monthly not large enough to balance reduction in collections

Seems very expensive for garden waste, I feel the current charge is enough, when other areas do not pay anything. We pay a lot of council tax here at the moment, which should include garden waste Disappointed in huge increase in price, we believe that a lot more fly tipping will result as people will prioritise their spending going into the New Year.

Not much choice here- horrendous price jump!

Too expensive. Rather cancel it

I really value the collections and would find it difficult to go to the tip with my garden waste

We have recently moved into Llanellen from Merthyr Tydfil. There is currently no charge for green garden waste fortnightly large bag collections, which we used.

We would be willing to pay for the service to continue as is, even if a bit more expensive, as our garden, whilst not large, generates a lot of clippings, grass and flowers throughout the seasons and going to book in to amenity site and load into our car each time is difficult for us.

The service seems good, however my bins have never been emptied despite putting them out on the correct day and time, and chasing collection several times

I think it is disgraceful that we are charged for Garden Waste when Cardiff & The Vale Council include it in their normal rates. It would be very beneficial if the Five Lanes Recycling was opened up properly on a daily basis without people having to make appointments. Everywhere else no one has to make appointments. At this rate it will lead to fly tipping and cost the Council a lot more.

It would be very difficult for me to remove any garden waste from my property if the service stopped completely,

as I am a widow living on my own and at my age I wouldn't be able to remove it myself. I am sure there are many residents like myself that would have the same problem especially living in a rural area.

I can't get to the Llanfoist recycling centre now so I find the fortnightly collection very useful. I do have paid help in my garden but I still do some gardening and the wheeled bin is ideal.

Vital and brilliant service with lovely large bins

Would like 22 collections for my £50.00

I will use the local skip. Costs are too high

A really good service, particularly for those who can't make it to the tip.

Increase / service reduction relative to last year seems exorbitant even when considering inflation.

Extremely disappointing, in Newport & Torfaen their garden waste is collected at no additional costs to their council tax, we pay considerably more in council tax and get far less for our fees. We feel as if we're held to ransom for such a poor value of service. Roads in a poor state, paths not cleared, hedges not cut back, drains not cleared this area is going backwards, no local police where does it all end !! The ridiculous money spent on 20 mph zones but not able to be enforced

The service we receive is very poor, we are quite often missed off the collection. If you increase the price, can we expect the level of service to improve?

This is a massive increase to pay as a one off payment, perhaps payment could be made in instalments.

Although I have indicated the first option it is possible that I may have to cease collections if everything else continues to rise

As a potential new customer a monthly service is attractive if it is only for garden waste. A 2 week service is too frequent for garden waste unless it is combined with other organic waste such as food waste.

I have no choice as I have to somehow get rid of it. Doing this will cause more people to burn garden waste in their gardens leading to hazards, it's a false economy. It only takes one fire to cost you more than the £240,000

This will only exacerbate fly tipping in the area

Bins need to be emptied fortnightly as in the summer months it is required as they will overflow. The price of £50 per bin is very expensive and considering all the other recycling we do seems too much. In my view the two week cycle is required when maintaining a reasonable sized garden.

I don't think it is necessary to collect more than 4 weekly as you can fit a lot of garden waste in the bin - think this would be the best price for everyone in the current financial climate.

To say that the cost wasn't increased during COVID is ridiculous, as the garden bins weren't even collected, which was crazy, when people had more time at home and were doing more gardening.

It's also stated costs haven't increased since the 2020/21 tax year, well that's only a year.

This will cause more fly-tipping, which will end up costing the council more. It's so short sighted.

Absolutely shocking price rises shame on you.

Going up to £50 is too expensive. People will fly tip garden waste more frequently now

I find this service invaluable and while I would be happy for it to be only monthly, I would hate to lose it altogether

If costs increase to much above £50 I will donate my garden to wildlife to save future expenditure. If frequency of collections is reduced I will stop using the service.

The options are not consistently priced. The 20 collections are £2.50 per collection. The 10 collections are £4.25 per collection. The 6 collections are £7 per collection.

As I already pay the full council tax I feel that the garden waste scheme should not be increased

A service that is less frequent than fortnightly is pointless and unhelpful for gardeners. A rise in the cost of this service was expected given the rise in transport costs, wages etc but this level of increase is ridiculous.

The garden collection is ideal for disabled and those who cannot drive to the tip. Please don't abandon the service but please make it affordable for low income residents.

Price increase significant and unwarranted as introduction of wheely bins prevents disposal of waste at recycling centres. Previous green bags much better option. Collection of bins uses specialist equipment so removal of service completely would be false economy and inappropriate. Must be grants available from Welsh Government to provide this service so why aren't these being applied for to maintain subsidised costs and minimise there cost increase for this service.

Considering our neighbours of Newport don't pay for their garden collections along with our council tax being a fair amount higher than theirs I already resent having to pay for this service. Increasing the cost further or reducing service for that cost is adding insult to injury and I simply wouldn't use it. You will find alot of people dumping or burning in these scenarios unfortunately.

Charging more will prevent people from affording this extra cost and increase fly tipping

Feels really expensive but an essential service and appreciate the tough times

It is a big rip off as we pay council tax anyway

I know this is more complex but do the collections have to be at regular intervals as I find that at some times of the year it is needed much more eg in the autumn when things are being pruned back Reducing the frequency of collections makes no sense at all. It will very quickly result in overfull bins and queues at public waste disposal sites.

The amount of garden waste isn't going to decrease simply because costs are increasing.

Unfortunately we will have to pay more. Thank you to the Tories for ruining the whole country even in devolved administrations. Perhaps you should ask Truss to cover the increased costs?

I want keep 20 collections.

What is the reason to increase by over 40%. It is over the top compared to the cost of living

Keeping the service at fortnightly would be my preferred option. However, I'm not sure I could afford £50 but getting the waste to the tip is difficult for me. Please consider how this will increase people fly tipping and this is already a big problem.

Proposed cost rise is excessive at a time when household budgets are under pressure. Disposal of garden waste should not increase this burden.

Please keep fortnightly - the service won't work properly otherwise

There should be a collection for Christmas trees. Also, stopping collection the first week of December is too early. We still have lots of leaves on the trees and expect to be raking until mid December.

Living in a rural area the services provided to residence is limited anyway.

Green waste skip only in Usk a viable option ?

Although we currently use the collection service you provide we find the options you are suggesting are now too expensive for us going forward. As pensioners the service will no longer be something we can budget for. This will obviously mean we can no longer get the pleasure from our garden that we have grown accustomed to. We have no doubt many other pensioners within Monmouthshire will be in a very similar position!!

Also, we feel Monmouth County Council will soon have to deal with greater levels of Fly tipping in the future, and heaven knows how much that will cost the rate payers within Monmouth going forward!!

I can't get to the tip, so this is my only way to dispose of garden waste

I don't know if this will be sufficient for us. We have two wheelie bins and often fill them. I suggest trying it this year but have another consultation next year to see how everyone has been finding the reduced collections.

I would also like to add that we would find going to the tip regularly difficult. As we go out to work we cannot go to the tip in the week. Often at weekends there are no available slots.

Great service, it would be a shame too see it go

The only problem you are going to create is more and more people are going to throw their waste over the fence just like loads do in the lane to my house, I have reported it BUT no one seems interested to have a look, Mon cc going down hill!

Being a keen gardener and struggling for space in my garden I would like Cole room all year.

The service provided is very good. It helps me a great deal as I am now getting to that tender age!!! Although both my wife and I are very fit and well, we would like this service to continue in its present form.

I don't see that some of us have much of an option if we can't always get to the recycling centre, other than to have our gardening waste collected.

Much prefer to keep the service in some form, even at an extra cost and possibly fewer collections.

Absolutely disgusting that we have to pay £50 for green waste collection - what do we pay our council tax rates for? I believe there will be a rise in fly-tipping of green waste if prices are increased.

This feels like an attempt to push customers away from the service in a bid to abolish it completely. If it is abolished, will there be increased capacity at Council recycling sites to deal with the extra volume of green waste ???

This service with large bins is not necessary for average size gardens.

It has become too expensive to dispose of garden waste, I would dispose of elsewhere
Worried this is going to encourage more green waste fly tipping especially along the A466 where we live.

I rely on the fortnightly collection to take away the garden waste as I am a OAP.

The fortnightly collection is insufficient for my garden's needs at the moment so moving it to a longer duration would be impossible. I used to manage the additional garden waste by driving to my local refuse point (Usk), but you closed this facility forcing me to now have a 30 mile round trip. This is awful for the environment. Ceasing service at the end of November does not work either as the leaves have not fallen from the trees by this time. It feels as though I will have to move to burning the garden waste (again, not great for the environment but the volume is far too great for composting).
We need this service!

If you have a garden of any size this service is the bare minimum.

We are in the top band of council tax and consequently have a large garden. I pay for 3 x bins as visits to Mitchell Troy recycling centre are restricted to 2 per month. If more frequent visits to use the garden skip we're allowed that would help. People will start burning garden waste and that will have an environmental impact.

If this service is not available people will start to fly tipping again which will cost the council more money

Feel this service is very expensive. Not happy about paying £50. Without this service how would we dispose of our garden waste.

My initial reaction was to not renew the service. Having looked more closely, the cost equates to £2.50 per collection and I consider that to be value for money. I just hope that people will do the math's and keep the service as it now stands.

It's quite expensive as I'm on bennits but the kids have rabbits & need the bin for there waste, maybe you could up the bag collection to 3/4 bags per house hold

In order to be useful, the service needs to be regular. Although this makes it more expensive, it isn't compulsory so those who don't want to use it, or can't afford it, can make their own arrangements.

The best value for customers is undoubtedly the 20 collection option, especially if they are unable to drive to the tip.

We make use of the garden waste service regularly and would not want the collections to reduce in frequency. Whilst we do have an allotment and compost a lot of our garden waste, we also have a large garden and have too much waste to compost everything ourselves.

I understand why garden waste collection is not a statutory service, but it is a very useful one. Please bear in mind that if garden waste is not collected (or is collected less frequently), then more trips will be made in private vehicles to Five Lanes, Mitchell Troy etc., and that will increase CO2 emissions. This will have a negative impact on the declared climate emergency.

If garden waste collection was withdrawn access to local tips must be made easier. The booking system needs to be withdrawn and the sites would need to be open 7 days a week to allow garden waste to be cleared more easily. It is also suggested that residents be allowed to use any site near to them be areas making partnerships with adjoining councils. Removal of garden waste shouldn't be made difficult.

Question 2 is a poorly constructed question and set of answers. Where's the 'remain the same' option? What do you mean by "...deliver a viable service for our customers and residents"? Do you mean from a garden waste collection perspective or wider waste collection?
Each option has either an increase in cost or reduction in service. We regularly fill our bin, and I assume many also do, so any reduction in service won't be popular.
What do residents do with their waste if the service is reduced? Do we add it to our regular domestic waste?

I pay £280 per month for council tax...the proposed increase in cost for this is absolutely disgusting. Maybe you should look at your operating costs and where you can streamline instead of continually passing increases onto customers that are already feeling the squeeze. This is a great way to increase fly tipping of garden waste around the county. Ridiculous
It is a very good service - hope it continues.
The council needs to be careful that pushing costs up more and having an opt in or out service will encourage more fly tipping, especially in rural areas. People may not be able to afford extra and so opt out but do not go to tips.

I would either pay £50 or cease to use the service. The other options are a complete waste of money
If the green bin collections are reduced in frequency then more weekend slots at the tips should be opened up to enable more people to dispose of Garden waste.

Ceasing the service will lead to even more fly tipping than we currently see, which is a lot.

Obviously the cheaper the better, but with a garden frequency of collection is also important as the waste can build up. Perhaps this could change ie every four weeks during the 'tidying-up' times in Spring & Autumn but every six during the summer when less waste is accumulating?
This service is essential in a rural county where lovely gardens feature throughout. Stopping the service will surely increase the likelihood of fly tipping and add consequential cost elsewhere for the council.

I'm furious that the council will charge £50 for collection every two weeks. I currently pay 28 pounds per year which is reasonable, but to hike the price to £50 is unacceptable and an insult.
Monmouthshire is one of the highest for council tax and I cannot justify why we (I) am paying so much. It's becoming unaffordable to live here. I have recently retired but will have to go back to work to cover my council tax bills. Every year for years the tax increases and there is nothing to show for it. Many people are leaving Monmouthshire as they cannot afford to live here. I fear I will have to do the same. Please get it together and make it affordable. I am very worried.
Due to the size of the bins available a 4 or 6 weekly collection wouldn't be worth it for us so we almost certainly wouldn't continue with anything less than a fortnightly collection
Very satisfied with the service we have had this year
Keep the service running please. It works well and is worth the increase in fee.
We would reduce from two bins to one bin per collection
I can take garden waste to the tip easily by booking.

This service should be free, why do I pay council tax? This tax should cover garden waste collection, it is going up in price this year and I personally don't think we get a lot for the amount we pay.
I am moving to the area and want to join the service I'd prefer every 2 weeks and happy to pay the increase

It's getting increasingly more difficult for the elderly to live in a rural location. Since closing the Usk recycling amenity, disposing of any non recycling waste almost impossible for me. Now even garden waste which is recyclable is affected. We are all affected by the increase in costs and have to reduce spending levels in order to heat our homes and feed ourselves. This is yet another cost being passed on to the householder.

Very sad

Half as many collections eg 10 should surely be £25? Why so much more for half as many collections??

If the collection drops to monthly, what will the staff do on the missing weeks?

It make sense to keep at 2 weekly, as most bins are full and need emptying. Monthly collection will cause customers to find other ways to empty their full bin before collection time (fly tipping).

Including taking their own garden waste to refuse tip, increasing waiting time and work for an already busy place.

It's too expensive at £50 per bin, but we need fortnightly collection of grass cuttings otherwise we have to drive to the recycling centre ourselves to dispose of the cuttings, which is not good for the environment either

This makes very little sense, a few people will pay the increase and numerous people will stop paying. Surely meaning the council are no better off and invariably dealing with increased levels of flytipping.

Why can't some more thought be given to implementing some community composting schemes?

It is too difficult to dispose of garden waste without this service

You are proposing an increase of over 75% to keep the collections as they are. At any time this increase would be incredulous but during a cost of living crisis it beggars belief that you would even consider an increase this high. Are you aware that people are struggling to heat their homes and buy food? Do you even care? This proposal needs to be reconsidered urgently and changed to a number that is sensible and realistic. Your long term plan is obviously to make this 'service' so unaffordable that people stop using it. Well I won't be paying this amount next year (or any year). In future I'll cut my grass without a grass box and the grass cuttings can just blow away. Also when the leaves from trees on your land blow onto my garden they will be put back onto your land and not picked up by me and placed in garden bin. It is time that you stopped charging for this so called service. We pay enormous sums in council tax every year for very little return. I'm sure we'll soon be hearing how hard done by the council is in order to try and justify another large council tax rise. Well as far as I'm concerned you can stick your garden waste tax money because I won't be robbed blind by you! In the summer there is too much green waste to collect less than every 2 weeks. If you do collect less than this there will be more 'dumping' of waste illegally.

I find a nearly 80% increase totally unacceptable and will not be using this service again.

I really think this service should remain exactly as it is, £50 per year is a reasonable cost.

Increase the price, but have one post Christmas collection for Christmas trees/ fresh greenery.

Impossible to dispose of with small car and 40 min trip to tip.

If increased to 6 weekly we would never remember which week, and bins would be too small.

This is a poor excuse of a survey. All you are doing is letting us know that the price is hugely increasing!

Too expensive

I am in a band E property, it seems to me that if you are in this band it is presumed that you are mega rich, I have limited income but above benefit level, I receive the 25% discount but it is still a struggle. I have been a widow since 2005, I am afraid I will not be paying this amount.

I am registered blind and live alone. I have no other way to get my garden waste to the tip and, though I accept that all prices are rising, I wouldn't pay more than £30 for this service. Bagging it up and getting a taxi to take it to the tip is a possibility. (I'm sure some people will just put it in their household waste!!)

With proposed increase in council tax can't see why we have to pay extra again. The recycle centre isn't open seven days a week, street lighting has been reduced, drains are not being cleaned leading to more surface water and flooding. No police in Abergavenny so what exactly do I pay over £2000 a year in council tax for?

I'm shocked at the increase. I am a pensioner. Please remove the necessity for booking slots. It is madness to require a password for using the dump!

I don't mind paying for a service if it's of a good standard. This year the collections were often missed and I had to contact mcc many times to complain

Better for the environment with less collections.

We really appreciate the current Garden Waste Collection Service and even and even at a cost of £50 per bin per year consider would consider it reasonable value for money.

discount for more than 1 bin would make increased cost acceptable

Bin was put out last Thursday but whilst others in the street were emptied ours was not!

The best value for money is obviously the 20 collection option but still quite a jump with the current cost of living...just wondering how you could collect for nothing when it was Worm Tech....

Too expensive on top of council tax for collecting some vegetation.

I have a large garden front and back and use 2 garden wheely bins every fortnight throughout the collection period. a very useful service, thank you.

This is discusting, that as pensioners, that on top of our high cost of our council tax, we have to pay this.

Whilst I understand that costs have risen significantly - the price increase you are proposing is huge! We have a large lawn and hedge, so anything more than fortnightly would not be good.

Still feel this is the most cost effective and environmentally friendly option for myself. I feel driving halfway across the county to my nearest transfer station is not the best option. I also find it ridiculous that I have to book 2 days in advance to visit a transfer station.

This is a wonderful service, I would be happy to pay more for the fortnightly collection. Please keep it going.

The reduced frequency options would be very poor value for money.

As you have already mentioned its difficult times but to increase from £28 to £50 is extortionate. We are are seeing hard times financially and we all have to cut our cloth accordingly. Even £40 for 20 collections would be more acceptable.

Maybe switch To April to October collection only as these are key growing/waste months. (Grass cutting, hedge trimming, pruning etc)

Shambolic news.

I assume I could still take my green waste to the recycling point.

I think £50 is too expensive as I am an old age pensioner and can not take my own rubbish to the skip. We need this service

This service remains important

In a cost of living crisis we are doing everything to save money and pay the bills so putting it up would see us cease using the service. Hard enough to survive and no doubt council tax will keep going up

I was pleased with the men who kindly collected my bin from the front garden each collection day. Due to the cost of living I believe this is too expensive and would cease using the service as our council tax is much higher than neighbouring counties ie Torfaen who do not pay anything towards their collection!

It's getting too expensive to use comparing to other nearby local authorities. (South Gloucestershire charge £30 for all year round collection). We will have to just use our own composter.

We currently have 2 bins but would probably only pay for 1 to be collected fortnightly.

I think you are encouraging people to fly tip. As a retired person who has given up driving We need greens to be collected

I am grateful for the service provided and appreciate it, thank you

Need collection every 2 weeks - could not cope with garden waste if every 4 weeks.

I think these are rubbish solutions. We have garden waste all year. Monmouthshire Council offer very little to Devauden, so this should be kept. If you take it away, you MUST take away the tip booking system.

I have an alternative which is more cost effective to me personally.

The existing service is much appreciated and so much easier for us than many trips to the waste recycling in Mitchel Troy. I appreciate that this good service comes at a cost. Our garden is not huge and we use just about all of our fortnightly collections. I hope that you can continue.

A first class service for which I would welcome an increase in fee if the service continues

The garden waste collection is invaluable. Please, we need it to remain.

I would like to know why MCC charge for this service. Newport CC do not charge residents for collecting green waste and from speaking with friends and colleagues in other parts of the UK, their councils do not levy charges for this service.

If it went up to £50 per year I would probably take my own waste to the Recycling centre

We would be lost without the garden waste service

It is a highly useful and valuable service that more than offsets my fuel costs, as well as helping to reduce the environmental pollution effects, of making individual round trip journeys of 25 miles by car to take my Green Waste to Llanfoist.

Still good value compared to the inconvenience of having to travel to the recycling centre at Five Lanes and having to make a booking

The service has been excellent and has reduced the number of visits I have to make to the recycling centre.

We NEED collections to be done fortnightly at least due to the size of our garden, if it was done less frequently we would have to purchase multiple bins. It was expensive enough at £28 per year fortnightly collections, but £50 is just unacceptable. No doubt you will be putting rates up again this year as well as charging us for grass collections which Newport council does free of charge. Instead of putting these increases on the public yet again why not make cut backs in the Council and reassess the wage restructure in the Council which is taking up most of the money from the Welsh Government.

I believe that you are using this as a stealth tax and you could be making massive savings elsewhere if you really put your mind to it. I look to Caldicot library as an example. There are lights on ALL the time regardless of light outside. They should be on sensors. If this is one small area what about other areas such as offices etc.

I feel the increase the increase is very high and will encourage people to flytip !

This is a valuable service that surely reduces Fly Tipping, has this been included in your calculations ?
Access to the Tip is all very well if you have suitable transport - many don't !

We do not think 50£ is value for money. We very often find we have to take excess garden waste to the recycling center.

Reducing the frequency from fortnightly to four or six weeks would mean we would have to pay for at least one extra bin and perhaps two at £50 each

The service however should reflect the new price with a better quality. Paying MUCH more for the same service (with lots of improvement areas) is not acceptable.

Pandy is a rural village 7 miles from the recycling centre

I am 82 years of age

Do you really think this proposal is realistic and value for money for pensioners

A reduced frequency of collections, particularly in peak garden growth months, would either require trips to the recycling centre or multiple garden waste bins to cope with the volume of waste.

I think the current collection frequency is most appropriate with perhaps an increase of £2 so it was £30 March to November. I would be willing to keep the same frequency and raise the fee to £50 if there was a full years collection as in rural areas there is always garden waste, mainly leaves. I find I am doing the councils job by picking up the leaves outside my property (they get very slippery and dangerous) and cutting the grass on the verge next to my property and then having to pay for the privilege by funding the collection of said green waste by putting it in the bin I have to pay for. On the whole Monmouthshire CC do not provide value for money or bins for that matter, but the green bin is a necessity so please leave it alone! I have clicked cease collection above as none of the options are particularly attractive

If you reduced the number of collections we would not use the service. We are prepared to pay a maximum of £50 for 20 collections per year

The £28 we paid originally included the bin so why has it gone up so much? This will only encourage fly-tipping.

I would only use one bin but find the service really helpful. I think many older people rely on this service when they can no longer drive a car and take garden waste to the tip themselves.

When are you going to tax the backside out of the air we breathe ?

Shocking rise in cost!!!!!!

The other two options are too expensive per collection. We are unsure even at £50 whether to keep this in place, an incinerator is sounding appealing...

The cost of petrol and time have also got to be taken into consideration as well as actually getting the compost to the depot without sizeable transport therefore a fee is still preferable.

Apart from being a shocking rise in cost , I feel penalised as I am not able to go to the tip with garden waste (mobility impaired) so already have assisted pickups (can't manoeuvre the bin)

Also this could cause a rise in fly tipping

because people are struggling with cost of living already 😞

If you put the price too high you will have fly tipping of garden waste particularly on the coastal path at Sudbrook. We already have an inhabited derelict caravan on the path which is clearly condoned by council members and the coastal path authority due to any inaction concerning it or removing it.

Too expensive for the service provided. Can't see any point in 6 collections per year.

this is why we have fly tipping whar are we paying extra money for rates

This is a necessary service we pay for which has already been reduced. Whilst I understand the increased costs of the Council, further reducing collections will increase the number of garden fires that people have which has a knock on effect to people's health.
people without access to a car will flytrap this is too expensive for a lot of the residents in the current financial crisis. This is what happened when mcc put up the cost of collections of old furniture it just got fly tipped

Please can you publish the funding workings, as currently we are making a financial decision without understanding the underlying facts beyond a narrative that may/may not be biased.

As we manage a communal green area outside our house, we fill the bin every 2 weeks but £50 is a bit steep and monthly for a £7.50 saving does not seem a viable alternative.

The price increase is very high and I think unacceptable - but I have no choice

that's quite an increase. however as a pensioner with limited mobility I really don't have much choice!
Ar hyn o bryd mae 2 bin 'da fi. Felly beth fyddwch chi'n codi am yr ail bin? £50 ychwanegol? Neu'n llai - yn dilyn y rhesymeg oedd wedi'i ddatgan gennych eisoos?

I really appreciate the garden waste service and I think £50 a year is still value for money.

This cost is extortionate and I would reduce my collection to only one bin per fortnight It must have been very expensive to provide bins and a specialised lorry,I was quite happy with sacks. The service also finishes too early, there are still leaves to fall.

If necessary, we will go back to having a compost bin. We are pensioners and cannot afford all these increases

The current community charges are more than enough for the standard of services provided.

Clearly funds are being mismanaged if more money is being asked for and this should be questioned before applying additional charges to residents.

Without any collection fly tipping will increase, essential that garden waste collection continues.

If I am going to pay £50 I would require a more efficient service than we have had this year.

Our street still has 3 garden waste bins awaiting collection for week before last and this is not the first time the bins haven't been collected.

At £2.50 per collection the first option should be promoted much differently than you have done!!

like many residents of Chepstow, I have a large garden and although I have several active compost bins, I still need and appreciate the green waste collection. furthermore, our community recycling facility is a 15 mile return journey away and such a journey is not a green alternative! There may be many elderly residents who no longer drive. please do not cease collections - they are well worth the price increase.

Just moved would like to start this service

Come on!! Your having a laugh. With the cost of living going up and you expect pensioners(like myself) to pay an increase to take garden waste away. How about a reduced rate. The nine months I'm paying for collection I'm only using it for 3 months. I don't drive, so I'm unable to take it myself to the tip.

Good value, thank you for your collections.

I find the collection from my home extremely useful, as I am elderly and will find it difficult to take garden waste to the Recycling Centre as my sight and general health deteriorates.

I understand the reasons behind the increasebut...I worry that people will not be able to afford the cost and just dump the green waste.

Fortnightly best option as we currently have two full bins collected each time under present arrangement.

In comparison to other areas £50 seems expensive for collection.

Although I acknowledge that funds are stretched this year ,I do think that pensioners , should perhaps have a small discount as they are not always able to carry or have the transport to take the garden waste to the recycling depots.

I think £50 per bag is rather expensive. Would like to go to the oval tip without having to make an appointment.

How is it that Caerphilly Council provide a weekly garden waste collection free of charge and Monmouthshire collect fortnightly and are proposing an increase to what we are already paying? I have reluctantly ticked the fortnightly option as I believe less than fortnightly would result in garden waste either fly-tipped or piling up rotting outside people's properties awaiting collection.

Perhaps a more vigorous and open audit of how and where our council tax money is spent would be enlightening.

Still need a fortnightly collection

Vale of Glamorgan garden waste collection free included in Rates !!! Yet another way for MCC to overcharge people to use excess money elsewhere . Roads are in a mess , Chepstow needs a Bye pass and then someone decides this Increase !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
£50 is far too much but the service is required otherwise people will just fly tip
this is a good service and we would like to continue with it.

None

Should keep it to the service as is now, I feel most people would turn to take garden waste to the tip or start dumping it if the prices increased anything above £30, Where other councils offer it as a free service and some even do it all year around

The alternative will see multiple trips to refuse site - an inefficient way of disposing of garden waste Rather than maintaining an optional garden service we'd rather you focus on essential services that everyone accesses.

I have a 50m by 10m garden and if reduced it would be a nightmare. Also if reduced you will note a large increase of fly tipping as people will not recycle correctly.

its pricy but with fuel costs as are cheaper than going to 5 lanes

Would prefer it be kept to fortnightly collections as during the summer months I fill both my garden waste bins for each collection and I do not drive so I am not able to take it to the recycling centre to dispose of it

For £50 this should be all year round service

We are a group of 4 private flat owners,-all ;pensioners -with gardeners who look after our shared grounds and put garden waste in the bin for collection. We rely on this service.

All i can see happening is basically fly tipping of grass.

I disagree with the comment around maintaining service during Covid, the price was the same but the waste service was stopped and the household recycling centre became shut and then reservation only - that was not fair value and we were in effect subsidising the council - to claim you "maintained pricing" is dishonest in principal and offensive.

Reinstating the open access at the HWRC will alleviate the demand on the green waste service. When perform gardening work it is difficult to know how much waste they will produce and one trip to "the tip" is not enough. (And you can only book one visit)

I fail to understand why we pay for a service delivered free in neighbouring council areas. If you could demonstrate a service we get in Monmouthshire not shared by Torfaen or Blaenau Gwent to compensate, that would be helpful.

The service works well and we are very happy with this.

I don't have the space to compost the amount of green waste I produce and fill two bins easily every fortnight. If the service was reduced I don't know how I will get rid of my green waste.

I think that collection of garden waste is an essential service and for most people it is the only way to dispose of garden waste. I certainly feel that the increase in cost is rather large. How are older non drivers expected to get rid of their waste?

I think that this is an essential service particularly for those people without the means of disposing of their garden waste themselves. Removal of the service could lead to more fly tipping.

What are we going to do with the waste if they cease collecting?

Why can we not go back to bags for smaller households, it worked very well but once again MCC are greedy as usual.

In my opinion, the increase in fees is unjustified.

Times are hard for everyone and whilst the County Council is not a charity, they must be making a good deal of money from this service which is an additional charge to the Council Tax.

Given that this charge is additional to the Council Tax and given that everyone is struggling in these tough times, it does not sit well with me that charges are being increased. Furthermore, this could ultimately result in undesired side effects.

I don't drive and therefore not able to use the re-cycle plant, and to keep a tidy garden I have no options but to pay the excessive increase being asked by the Monmouthshire council..

I'm an oap, the price is already too much, but just about doable with a struggle!!! What do we pay council tax for !!!

Scandalous!! I pay over £3000 a year council tax. Shouldn't have to pay for grass to be collected at all and should definitely not be increased. All this will do is encourage people to fly tip. We are all facing a cost of living crisis, why MCC see the need to rob residents further is disgusting. Hope you're satisfied.

I'd be happy with either keeping the service frequency at fortnightly and paying £50 or four weekly. The current booking system for the recycling centres doesn't encourage people to recycle. Why do you have to book in several days before ? ☹

We would like to see an option whereby the collection frequency is increased during spring and autumn, but with the frequency reduced during the summer.

The prices are too high I would be unable to afford any of them and it will just go in the black bags
Can you remove the booking system from the tip and I can take my garden waste there. I have to book a week in advance and because I have a small trailer can only go at 10 or 4 and that does not work with the kids activities. You make it very difficult to access. The bins are very hard to use as I have a big hill and lots of steps, plus no where to store it.

Why not just provide bags that customers can take to the Refuse Centres

I think £50 pa is too high but I have little choice as I have a fair size garden which produces quite a lot of waste. I compost as much as I can Getting the rest to the tip is difficult for me now. [impossible for a lot of my elderly friends]

Unacceptable but reluctantly prepared to pay double. Where's your Green Strategy with everybody driving to the tip?

If your new home planning ensured adequate domestic design then it might be ok - but that's not the case here.

Don't think you have actually given anyone a choice there apart from the increase!

Typical council taking more and giving less!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Although it's expensive, it still seems to be the best option

I think this service is needed but if the cost continues to rise it would force me to stop.

If you reduce the collections we would need more bins / garden waste storage. The bins are already very heavy and so an extra bin would be needed but I imagine that would then involve us paying more for the extra bin, which would not be viable for many people. The only option is therefore £50 for 20 collections but this is extremely costly for most people and I imagine many pensioners use this service, so is an extra burden on the elderly's finances in particular.

We wouldn't need to use the service as much if the access to the dump wasn't so restricted. Since Covid it has been like trying to get into Fort Knox! What would help everyone in this time of financial crisis - is put resources into the dump so we can use it "on demand". We would then be able to take the garden waste there as soon as a sufficient pile was made, the booking system is an added inconvenience and deters us from using it.

What possibility is there of creating a separate garden waste disposal area in each village where residents can drop off their garden waste? Perhaps this could be turned into a composting scheme, which would have "Green" benefits? A large communal tub that is collected at the less frequent intervals might save costs for all. In Gilwern it could be located near the library / village hub, where there are cameras to prevent fly-tipping / misuse.

Garden waste collections are full at fortnightly collections. Don't agree with £50 price. Not ticked any option as mulling over what to do. Other councils, Swansea and Newport do not charge for grass collections and their council tax is cheaper than Monmouthshire. Suggest you look at this pricing and options again

Good morning,

We appreciate that the cost of living increases and inflation are on the rise like never before, and with that, no one is exempt. It's not lost on us the great service that has always been provided in Wales and therefore, we opt to increase the yearly cost in order that we continue to receive the same level and standard of service as previous years.

Thank you for all that you do!!

The Geers-Pryors

Monmouthshire is an exceptionally price high rated county. Most counties (including England) do not charge additionally for weekly green waste collection, it is included in the general rate charge.. An additional £50 for residents, especially those on a low income, trying to ensure their properties remain neat and tidy, is prohibitive. Budgets are a problem for everyone at the present time, not just councils.

This is a major increase in price which will be difficult for many people to afford. The service is valuable and the alternatives will be either green waste being dumped or more journeys to the Recycling Centre, which has other environmental implications and just moves the cost from the council on to individuals. If the collections are less frequent what happens to the vehicles and staff? How much saving would there be?

It is useful having a garden bin as it is not easy to go to a skip. Without a bin there is going to be more fly tipping.

I would be absolutely lost without council help with garden waste. Growing fruit and veg (thus reducing shopping bills) creates a lot of green waste as do prunings and grass cutting. My age and arthritis prevent me from disposing of green waste at the council's recycling centre.

Please keep the home collections.

We moved recently this year, and we would like to use the service for the next year

A disappointing increase but a valuable service to save congestion at the recycling centre 🙏

I am very happy with the service. However, I was not informed that the service with large bins (rather than too small bags) was starting. I found out from my neighbour. I think you would have more customers for the service (even after the price increase which is understandable) if we were notified by post and encouraged to subscribe. this would make it more cost effective. A reduced frequency collection service would NOT be suitable for me!

I still find 35 pound still too much for pensioners .

I think increase from £28 to £50 for similar service is too much

We pay plenty enough Council Tax for this! Disgusting. You don't even cut the council owned grass bank at the start of Lancaster Way behind my house! I am putting your grass in my bin!

I would certainly like to see the service continue, as with a busy work\family life I would not always have the time to visit the tip.

There seems little value is reducing the service when most of the costs are fixed . Better to increase the price so that subsidy goes to priority services . Sam Knight

Happy to have the collection less frequently say every 4 weeks (10 collections) for half the price of every 2 weeks (20 collections) and in my simple maths that's half of £50 ie £25

Making it too expensive will probably result in more fly tipping which will have to be cleaned up by the council at what cost?

This should be included in the massive amount of council tax we already have to pay.

As a volunteer litter picker, we have already seen a big increase in fly tipping and litter on the streets, increase the costs and it will almost certainly add to an increasing problem.

The service is still reasonably priced and very convenient.

The current services that we receive does not equate to the amount of council tax that we currently pay so would not be happy paying this extra increase in charges.

Collection need to be at least fortnightly or more/larger bins need to be provided. However, I feel that doubling the cost is excessive. Reducing frequency would necessitate trips to the recycling centre to deal with the excess garden waste, in which case I will take all waste to Michel Troy myself.

The current arrangement suits me fine, every four weeks I consider to be a backward step.

If you generate a reasonable amount of garden waste option two is insufficient nor is it cost effective.

Have you considered that if residents stop using the service and instead drive to Five Lanes, this is not a green option? You should have included a further costed option- a year round service with frequency reducing to monthly in winter months. This would be line with services delivered by some other local authorities.

I am disabled and would find it difficult to use alternatives to waste collection. I do not want to reduce frequency because I do not want to store more than the two wheelie bins I currently have.

Let's keep it going if we can. It's better for everybody.

44 Hillcrest Road, Wyesham, Monmouth

You having a laugh £50 per bin, going to be a lot of fly tipping around the lanes of Monmouthshire. Reopen Usk recycling and save us travelling halfway across the county for a recycling centre.

Both Newport and Vale of Glamorgan residents have free collection. I'm not impressed with Monmouthshire CC charging residents. We already pay high community charge for fewer services than other counties. Wrong assumption by some that we are all wealthy people !

As we have a relatively large garden we have struggled to manage our garden waste. If there were options for larger waste collections with less frequency we would consider this.

At a time where people's finances are stretched you want to increase prices to an extortionate price. This will mean more frequent trips to the tip increasing people's fuel cost at the same time as damaging the environment. For many years our council taxes have been going up whilst the services we receive are diminishing. Just one more slap in the face for Monmouthshire residents.

I only have a relatively small garden but the bin gets full every two weeks. The collection saves me having to drive to the tip with garden waste so I'm prepared to pay for the service. For me it's essential that you retain the fortnightly collections and also that it takes in 40 weeks - any other length of time would be too short for the growing season.

NB If you reduce the frequency I will end up going to the tip in between collections anyway so it would not be worth signing up for the service.

I would like it to continue through the winter as we have leaves that need composting

The garden waste collection service provided by Monmouthshire County Council is invaluable, especially to older residents who can't always get their waste to the recycling centre. It would be sad to see it reduced or discontinued because of lack of support for the service.

I am very disappointed that you feel it necessary to increase the cost to the consumer by so much. We have already paid for the bins ourselves and to maintain the current service you are almost doubling the cost. Can I take it that increasing the collection charge will mean no increase in our annual council tax. Is this indicative as to how the new Labour Controlled Monmouthshire County Council intend to treat their community in the future.

Ridiculous amount to increase for the service. I assume you wish to cancel the whole service as most cannot afford this.

It is crucial to continue the free green bin collection for community groups such as churches, and for those of us who clear public areas voluntarily. I purchase a permit for my garden waste, and receive a free permit for clearing a lane that is constantly used by members of the public taking kids to school, going to events at the Caldicot Castle and walking their dogs.

I do hope this will continue as it supports and builds on community good-will. Thank you.

It would be good to have collections into the second week of December as there are still a lot of leaves waiting to fall

It's beyond scandalous that our council services have decreased year on year and yet here we are paying ever more for what is very poor value for money services from our local authorities. Council Tax desperately needs reforming, We should only be paying for the services we use. Council Tax in its current form is un-affordable before you even consider increasing it in 2023.

My thoughts on this are,

Every six weeks the bins would be very smelly in the summer Months, which is too long every six weeks collection.

£35 (6 collections) = £5.84 each collection.

Every Four Weeks the bins can still be smelly, because I have missed a collection in the summer very smelly.

£42.50 (10 collections) = £4.25 each collection.

Every Two Weeks the bins will not be as smelly, and in the summer Months people will have more garden waste.

£50 (20 collections) = £2.50 each collection.

Kind regards.

If the bin collection is to stop, the public tips need to be open every day without the need for pre booking

With the amount of garden shrubbery (hedges, bushes, small trees and lawn) the current 2 weekly collection is a MINIMUM requirement for me.

I would rather pay more and keep collection's. It's too easy to miss a collection, so with only 6 collections it may not be enough.

Definitely don't want fewer collections.

Open up the recycling centre, not have to book a time, fly tipping has probably increased because of it, and now black bags have to be searched another slowing down of going to the recycling.

The collections need to stay the same my property fills a wheelie bin within this time scale! With the council tax and the extra charge for the garden waste any more increase in the charge especially nearly doubling the charge is unacceptable when we are in a cost of living crisis - I for one will look to put my garden waste elsewhere!

That level of increase (from £28 to £50) is simply not acceptable in the current financial climate. It will undoubtedly lead to increased fly tipping which will undoubtedly lead to higher clean up costs for MCC. I think the price should be maintained or reduced to encourage more recycling.

This is an extortionate rise for what is an extremely useful service

At this point I am unsure of the above options but with the probability of a large increase in Council Tax next year and the current inflation I feel increasing the cost of this service from £28 to £50 is excessive. Not all people will be able to get to recycling centres and rely on this service to dispose of their green waste. This could therefore lead to dumping of green waste in other places.

As the council tax will be increased I think the waste cost will be expensive, I would suggest reduced rates for pensioners say over 75 as quite a lot would not be able to manage getting to the waste tip

We have 3 bins & are pensioners, this service has been very convenient to us over the years. The price increase you are proposing is not affordable on our limited income therefore not acceptable. I will have to look at alternative ways of getting rid of my green waste probably using your refuse sights instead which will be very inconvenient but more affordable.

This is an extremely good service one that I should miss very much, I would pay for the extra increase if reasonable.

My only comment would be that the increase is more than 100 percent, whilst adjacent councils offer better services either incorporated within their overall rating policies, or provide longer collection periods. It seems that a real choice is not being offered; either agree or lose the service. Quiet hard as you get older, receiving fixed incomes as you have to pay for more and more services. The alternative thought of lifting waste sacks upwards over the bin bars at Five lanes at the age of 80 with little help being voluntarily offered is very off putting.

please keep the service

You should consider more collections in spring and reduced collections in summer when the requirement is less.

I find the service extremely beneficial and would appreciate the service very much to continue, even if frequency of collections is reduced.

Unfortunately with cost of living and council tax increasing every year won't be able to afford extra £22 to pay for it

Not able to afford extra £22 to pay for this

Council charge us enough council tax which should include garden waste .

As we have to spend our time sorting out recycling etc plus garden is now cluttered with different bins & bags to do this 😞

Keep it to fortnightly at the same price

If it's changed at all I would have to seriously think about renewing for next year ☹️

The present fortnightly collections have worked very well for our property. If they were made less frequent then we would have to use local recycling centre in the intervening weeks

They don't pay for garden waste in Newport or up the valleys and there council tax is less than we're paying. My be we should find out why.

Being elderly I would find it impossible to dispose of my garden waste. There is no alternative unless I pay for garden services privately.

Reducing the frequency of collection does not really work - the garden still grows week by week!

Having to increase trips to the tip & pay for garden waste collection (at 4 or 6 weekly intervals) is kind of like the worst of both worlds.

£50 for 20 collections is still just £2.50 per fortnightly collection - this still makes economic sense for those of us with too much garden waste to successfully compost everything! Please, try to keep the current frequency of collection.

this is a huge increase for any household to pay and will only encourage fly tipping.

Also why do we still need to book a refuse appointment to get rid of waste where by in New Inn refuse Centre you can go there any time? IT is unfair because often people who have made appointments do not keep them and it is hard to predict a time day to get rid of rubbish.

We already pay over £3,000 in Council Tax!

Given the lack of queues at Waste Disposal Sites and the end of social distancing, it would be helpful if Monmouthshire Council could end the system of having to book visits to the sites, especially as the system is quite cumbersome to use. This may help reduce instances of fly-tipping as well as making the sites more accessible to residents.

I think the cost of £50 is unjustified

If the collections are stopped what will the council do with all the wheelie bins that will no longer be wanted by residents?

If you are going to reduce the frequency, you really need to allow us to visit the tip without booking as we will need to take our waste to the tip ourselves. I think the booking system is increasing fly tipping and can't be justified now we are not distancing for COVID

This seems to be getting extremely expensive especially with the cost of living going up, so in the future if prices rise anymore I will probably cancel our collection. I hope because of high cost of this service it does not increase fly tipping, which I believe it just might
I think £35 should be the option for staying at fortnightly collections. Jumping to £50 for fortnightly from £28 is disgusting. I know a lot of pensioners who use the service and £50 is way too much. 6 weekly at £35 is too long

Understand the budget situation, however you have removed the option for Usk residents to use the free garden waste disposal at the Town recycling facility, having closed it, and then significantly increasing the cost to taxpayers who are paying for the service already. You are potentially risking significant increases in fly tipping by people who are not able to afford the proposed SIGNIFICANT increase in cost for this previously free service. You want to meet your target for recycling but don't actually appear to be encouraging people to do that.

Cut some of the trees down around my property as they are not on my land but I have the hard work of getting them trimmed ETC I am 83 years of age

I think you should consider the Money you have wasted in Monmouthshire some of it my money which could have been put to better use. I think the recycling centres are operated very well and must be costing less as you have far less staff than before COvid

I would prefer the council to not subsidise this service. I should be at full cost or no to at all.

We currently have two green bins, but due to the increased cost, will now only use one. I suspect many households will do the same. To avoid future waste of resources, will MCC collect the spare bins and reuse them for new customers/or replace damaged bins? This would also reduce future costs.

Having changed our collection from bags to wheelie bins at our expense last year and by default bought new trucks to collect I resent having to pay even more for an invaluable service especially in a rural area.

I would reduce the number of bins

It was inevitable that the council would increase costs for recycling services. What never seems to be factored in is that this will simply lead to yet more fly tipping, which then has a cost to clear up
Very good service, much needed by many households

I use and value the current fortnightly collections and want the service to continue but understand the financial pressures the council is operating under and therefore the increase in cost

We are feeling the pinch and would not be able to afford such increases.

This still gives excellent value for money whilst reducing the carbon footprint of taking green waste to the tip (compared to each household making multiple journeys). Thank you to all the refuse collectors for all the good work they do.

Considering the garden waste collection service was once included as part of normal waste collection, I resent making any additional payments.

However, I cannot keep running to the recycling centre to dispose of my garden waste so have no option but to pay.

We feel it is a good service

I struggle to see why you charge for collecting when other unitary authorities do not charge. I need the service so therefore have no option but to pay. Fortnightly only just covers my needs as I am unable to carry garden waste to the tip. If you reduce the service any more you will encourage fly tipping if it and it will cost more to pick up that waste than to run your collection service. The bigger picture needs to be looked at and not just how a few pounds can be so say saved here and there

It is quite a steep increase. I appreciate that costs in running the service have increased. However, it might soften the blow of the increase if there could be some kind of garden collection during December/January/February as there also is garden waste during the Winter months.

Wheelie bins are a blight on the streets, they block narrow pavements preventing wheelchair users and push chairs from using the pavement for its intended purpose and cause a hazard. They are usually left out for at least 24 hours, sometimes longer.

We have to have recycling bags as there is no access to the garden except through the house.

my bin would be overflowing for anything over fortnightly and the hike makes it cheaper to transport to and from recycling centre

If the frequency of collections is reduced it would undermine the value of the service at all. Many people in this predominantly rural County have larger than average gardens which need management throughout the year. We already have the headache of storing the green stuff that follows the end of year clear up as the growing seasons get longer and longer (climate change?). The garden waste service is important to us makes a significant contribution to managing domestic green spaces with responsible disposal built in. Please, no further reductions. If that means cost increase, so be it.

The second and third options above are far too expensive and make little sense to a resident given the cost/service ratios displayed. Given MCC's desire for us to pay considerably more for an existing service, we would want as frequent a service as possible. However, the entire waste collection service needs reviewing. Neither Newport nor Torfaen charge for green waste, nor do they require residents to travel (in our case a 12mile round trip) to collect single use plastic bags for recycling. With such a strong focus on sustainability, residents should be encouraged to recycle as much as possible. MCC's approach discourages people from doing it.

Pensioners. Can not afford £50 and less than 3 week collection will not be healthy. Collections could start Mid April to mid November. Payment €35

As a household I feel the County Council provide very few services that we use and tax we pay is already huge. I am still furious why we have to book a slot at the recycling centres. In Brecon you can just turn up. Also why is there no recycling in USK any more. Monmouth Council like the Welsh Government are complaining useless

20 is too much in my opinion. I would be happy with 6.

I would consider the proposed cost of £ 50.00 to be excessive.

I am sure by increasing this charge you will get more people dumping their garden waste in unsuitable places which will cost more to clear up. So it's a very short sighted attitude to increase the charges especially as everyone is struggling with costs at the moment.

Fly tipping into local community woods will increase substantially if this service is not available

We value the service and will abide by what is decided. Thank you

The removal of the garden waste recycling facility at Usk was the reason for having the home collection. I find this a valuable service, more so when I was a single occupant, but still valuable now. £50 per year is probably the limit of affordability, particularly in the current climate of austerity.

This is an exceptionally good service thank you we prefer for it to continue

The residents of Usk really need this service as we have no other way of disposing of our garden waste

I really appreciate the waist bin collection. I try to recycle as much as I can myself but all is not possible as a keen veg gardener.

However just as the council we as a family have been hit hard by the recent pay increase, we no longer could afford collection at the prices suggest and the reduction of collections I see no point as we will be overwhelmed with waste with 6 collections yearly.

As I am elderly and disabled (and there must be a lot of people like me) I could not possibly take my garden waste to the recycling centre so really there is no option for me but to pay the £50. As a pensioner this places an extra burden on my cost of living.

We are very happy with the service as it is and happy to continue as normal. Thank you
Monmouthshire Council

We certainly wouldn't pay more than we are already . we only need it every few weeks anyway. We just use it for grass cutting and binning plants that are seeding that we don't want more of in the garden.

Options are too expensive and when you need it ie winter leaves and all annuals need cutbacks or ripping out etc the service stops , collections are too frequent in summer when half bins are being emptied ie just grass cutting as everything else is growing

The service should be for the whole 12 months

Carry on with fortnightly collection

Keep it going, its providing jobs and a worthwhile service to the community - Merry Xmas to all
Thier is a need for a fortnightly collection BUT at a reasonable cost. £50 on top of the Community Tax is excessive and will encourage fly tipping and burning of the garden waste in Thier gardens £30 would be reasonable and in line of inflation

WE NEED THIS COLLECTION AS ANY REDUCTION WOULD MEAN TRAVELLING TO THE 5 LANES RECYCLING CENTRE BY CAR ADDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLUTION

The garden waste should come out of the ridiculous amount of money I pay for my county tax. Like other councils.

I will do my own composting

Big increase in cost, but still reasonable (£1 per week).

I can accept this.

This is day light robbery, EXTORTIONATE WE PAY ENOUGH ALREADY FOR LITTLE SERVICE

I've had to tick one , but don't agree with any questions, done under duress

Garden waste collection should continue throughout of the year. Current service is not adequate and not good value for money for the customers

1. Reduction or curtailment of this service is clear discrimination against the elderly and residents who have medical problems who rely heavily on the collection of garden waste.
2. Reduction or curtailment will inevitably increase fly-tipping and the costs for the Council to deal with it.

Provide 2 bins for £50 every fortnight or 1 bin for £35

None of these options are a feasible alternative. And the reductions that are on offer for the longer periods do not make financial sense to a customer, we would just be paying more for less.

I don't understand why collection cost isn't halved when reducing the amount of collections so significantly

I can't see the rationale in the 2 to 4 weekly price differences.

Not happy but it's a necessity to have garden waste removed.

Ridiculous - the council tax is so high and this was one of the useful functions.

Ridiculous - the council tax is so high and this was one of the useful functions.

I do not approve of stealth taxes

Why not let people have a second or more bins cheaper. Not costing any more petrol picking up more than one bin.

Make it easier for customers to dispose of their own garden waste

Why would you not carry on with garden waste collection. If it's not in place, at best it would be cars by the dozen using recycling centres adding to emissions & global warming, at worst garden rubbish being dumped over the nearest hedge.

Given the current financial situation for most households, increasing the cost for garden waste collection will probably lead to 'Fly Tipping' which will inevitably cost the council more in the long run. Do the council not recoup money from the sale of composted garden waste?

None

When is the last collection this year

Could you provide subsidised home compost bins and water butts?

Every 2 weeks works fine - it gets filled in that time so 4 weeks is problematic and every 6 weeks is ridiculous.

We pay enough council tax. We shouldn't have to pay for garden waste to be taken, more money for less services disgusting

It's an excellent service which is certainly appreciated to maintain our garden. A regular 2 weekly service suits fine.

Other councils provide this service 'free', from the considerable amount of council tax paid. Bringing in any of these proposals will increase fly tipping, instead you should consider cutting out internal waste (ie money spent on private consultants, often ex council employees) and inefficiency.

As we have a large lawn it would not work for us personally to have the collection any longer than 2 weeks apart.

I'm unsure whether I would continue at this cost. It is a big increase.

Given the later Autumns there is always garden waste to be collected. Extending the collection into December would be helpful.

You want us to recycle our waste yet you are putting prices up all the time as I am a pensioner I cannot afford the increase therefore I will find an alternative way of disposing the waste

£50 option is the best value for money for the customer and most convenient. The charge of £35 for just 6 collections costs £5.83 per collection, plus the added bother of trying to ensure that the infrequent collection date is not missed.

The collections need to stay as is, with a good size garden, the bins are constantly full and need emptying each fortnight. Without this service at the frequency, I would need more bins for a shorter frequency or trips to the tip which would be difficult.

If we don't have a collection at least fortnightly the smell will be an issue and it will encourage fly tipping as well as people using the general black bags instead and it will not get recycled. Cutting your grass happens once a week at peak so reducing collection will not work.

Sadly this makes the service very expensive but unavoidable for many residents. Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on the difficult options.

We would value a year round service as much work is still required in a garden throughout the winter and we have more than we can compost even with a fortnightly service. I can't say I'm happy with a price hike to keep the same levels of service but the tip alternative is not as convenient. Therefore, we would probably pay up. A less frequent service is worthless unless we were to have more bins, which ends up costing more than a fortnightly service.

Just as an observation, I think increasing the cost of the bin will inevitably lead to an increase in fly tipping of waste. Which budget does the clean up of this come from? Is this a question that has been included in the review?

I think the increase is very high and will encourage more tipping of garden waste. I have no transport so no way of getting my garden waste to the provided council sites.

I understand the financial pressures on MCC and why these charges are having to be increased.

I have no room in my garden for a compost heap but I have a plastic composter plus I do not have space to collect up my garden rubbish and take it myself to the Five Lanes tip

Far too expensive for pensioners to meet this cost.

Very important service to us as we have no other way because of physical restrictions to dispose of our garden waste.

Residents will stop using this service if the price goes up so you will end up with less revenue.

This service is valuable to us but this proposed price increase is astronomical! To jump from £28 per bin to £50 ...

The rates that we pay for the area are some of the highest bands around considering you don't get much for it, we don't have even street lights etc and to keep paying charges on top of that, that increase with a percentage rise of this much is appalling

Very steep increase in price doesn't help anyone with the cost of living at the moment

We have no other way to dispose of garden waste

I am a lady in my seventies living alone, and would not be able to use the recycling center, £50 for a bin is extortionate, but I have no option but to use this service. Don't know why Monmouthshire CC essential services are so expensive compared to Gwent!

Having a wheelie bin for my garden waste has made life much easier and I can't praise the men who collect mine enough. I'm happy to pay the additional cost to keep the service going.

Have you considered doing a monthly collection during the winter months? A lot of gardeners are busy in the winter too!

Good luck during these difficult times and Seasons Greetings to you all. Thank you

There would be a major impact on recycling centres if this facility was withdrawn plus potential increase in fly tipping.

Other councils provide this within existing council tax charges

I cannot afford to pay this

I really value the service and put out 3 or 4 bins per fortnight - really don't know how we would dispose of our green waste otherwise

I could not afford to pay more than 30 pound a year .

Lots of people already dump green waste in the woods in wye crescent ...I can see this happening even more

As an oap I couldn't cut any more out going s to be able to pay for this

Very happy with the service. The present frequency proved to be ideal

I do not agree with the this very substantial increase from £28.00 to £50.00 for green waste collections when i see many things going on and expenditure being used for things that i do not consider essential. MCC should be using the council tax i am paying for the benefit of its customers. None of the above,as I think it is a bit much to almost double the cost of fortnightly collections and the other options are not often enough.

This years service has been poor and not value for money already with failed collections and numerous complaints from me to the council. If the money goes up I would expect a guarantee of collection and compensation for failed collections.

It's preferable to extend the service to the end of December. Not all the leaves have fallen off the trees by the end of November, so we currently have to find an alternative way to dispose of them. We are very satisfied with your service Please continue as before but we do not want to pay extra money Our poll tax should cover it

There will be a majority of people who can't afford any of these costs, which is very unfair when you consider it started out as free

£50 a year is a massive increase for the service. A monthly service will not be adequate.

In view of you expecting households to take their own garden waste to the recycling centre will the appointment sytem be ceased and /or 15 min slots given to accomodate the increase in household visits to dispose of the garden waste ?

Elderly neighbours who do not have access to the internet have not been consulted on this subject and very annoyed at being excluded.

I think that if the service is not available there will be an increase in dumping in unwanted places.

There have been problems round here with rats and compost heaps. How do elderly people manage the waste if they have no car to get to a recycling centre?

Would not pay any more as most of this year my garden waste was never picked up and loads of occasions I had to make numerous phone calls ,sorry after this year I have no intentions of going though this stress

That is far 2 high a price in this state we r in this country

£50.00 is too expensive in this current climate. Four weekly collections would not be sufficient in peak season. Therefore I propose that householder's take they're own garden waste to the recycling centre without the need for an appointment as & when required. MCC should try & accommodate this proposal, by relaxing the booking system for green waste.

The garden service is vital to keeping my garden tidy

I feel you're backing us into a corner! The above prices are extortionate for the service. It's been made even worse by the restrictions you now have in force at the recycling centre. Life was much easier when you could go down, show proof of address and deposit your garden waste. Why change a good system? This is more money people will have to find, and God knows what the increase is going to be on council tax this coming year. I know it's hard times, but don't make it even harder. I want the service to remain the same but at a cheaper cost.

Why does MCC charge separately for garden waste collection when other local authorities don't? We pay exceptionally high council tax in Monmouthshire for fewer and fewer services.

A good facility thank you.

We pay enough poll tax already it is the only thing you do in Ladyhill there has never been a road sweeper up here also where would you like the garden waste to go as you took away the skip in usk perhaps you should cut expenses to councillors this could help

Why has the cost of each bin increased so much? £28 to £50! This is higher than current inflation!!

Like the service all good to me

It's so convenient to have it collected

An increase from £28 to £50 is expensive, especially when I will require two bins. Are you able to provide larger bins or is the cost linked to volume of waste collected? Reducing the frequency will lead to waste being dumped / more congestion at the recycling centres and a general reduction in the aesthetics of the county as people cut back on how much waste they produce as it can't be taken away.

What about the pensioners who cannot manage to pay this amount. People will be dumping rubbish especially if they have not got a car.

Essential for most who already have green bins.

I will have to look at my finances when it comes to it! Finances will decide whether I get it or opt out

If you wish to increase fly tipping then reduce the collections!!

People from our estate tip in the woods behind Thornwell

Extension of service may be required to cover warmer spring periods.

What ever happened to service? Perhaps cut the free tea, coffee and biscuits for senior staff and politicians?

I would prefer a weekly collection.

It is totally pointless in having a service with a frequency of more than a fortnight. Garden waste needs to be collected at least on a fortnightly basis. To nearly double the cost especially in a rural area is very unfair. Other councils like Torfaen include Garden waste in their council tax. As usual no doubt that will be going up as well! I would be prepared to pay £40 for a fortnightly collection but no more.

I hope you will be able to continue to offer this valuable service and wish it could continue through the winter as that is when most pruning is done.

Very reliable service. It's well worth £50. Keep it going.

I think that this is outrageous. We pay around £305 a month and you have the audacity to charge a lot more for a collection that we have to use, some of us who find it hard to get rid of the green waste just have to opt in. The saying "Over a barrel" comes to my mind.

And yes I hear you saying.....

You don't have to use it or move to a small place with no garden..... very helpful

Still very expensive from £28 a year to £50. When pay so much council tax.

This service is essential but I would suggest a reduced price per year of £40

. This will help the recycling targets. If it is too expensive either people will take their garden refuse to a waste site thereby causing carbon emission issues or they will end up dumping it.

It should be free. We pay more council tax and get less each year! Absolutely wasteful councils

Would not be happy with rotting waste for four or six weeks.

I don't particularly want to pay any more than £28 but will pay a higher rate rather than lose the service. If Monmouthshire Council hadn't deemed that we no longer required our recycling centre in Usk we would not be in this situation and it wouldn't be costing us to visit Ilanfoist etc or harming the environment using our cars

Need to look at more efficient ways to collect all waste. Not to be thinking in terms of this is how waste has always been collected. If service is removed or becomes too expensive for householders, "fly tipping" will increase resulting in higher additional expense for the council.

An increase by inflation i.e. 10% would be OK with the same frequency.

We get our street swept once a year, our road doesn't get gritted in the winter, if you provide a universal service for ALL council tax payers, I might agree to one of your options. However, how much will it cost us to clean up all the fly tipping when you increase the charges? The cost of fuel is also going down at the moment, not up.

This will also increase pollution as we have nearly 100 houses in our postcode. 20 trips a year is 2000 car trips instead of 20 trucks a year.

As pollution is the cause of our 20 mph torture throughout our county I beg you to reconsider.

A keen environmentalist

The fortnightly service is already inadequate, to reduce it further completely undermines its viability. It is very difficult to understand how an 80% price increase can be justified. Monmouthshire residents already pay one of the highest council tax rates in Wales for substandard service levels. Given the increase in Welsh government funding, why should Monmouthshire residents continue to be penalised for the local authority's incompetence?

It's a very substantial amount to increase by and expect home owners to pay. They should be all year collections not just March-November or at least start in February as people cut their lawns and tend to plants and trees throughout the year

I think this is at odds with how garden waste is collected in other councils. I don't know of another one that charges for garden waste collections at all. This should be something that is covered by the (excessive) council tax cost in the first place. I frequently miss the collection day due to leave so anything less than fortnightly is not viable as often it turns out to be monthly as it is due to a missed collection day anyway. Charging such excessive fees runs the additional risk of increased dumping of waste, which unfortunately is already a large problem in Monmouthshire (and nearby rural Newport areas).

My problem is not having enough garden waste to fill the bin on a fortnightly basis but... sod's law says I'll then forget to put the bin out and end up with too much waste for the bin!!

Collections in towns and large villages seem necessary, but I don't think are really needed in more rural locations (such as my postcode area).

£50 for 20 collection sounds reasonable. It works out 2.50 a collection which I'd rather pay than having to drive to get rid of it another way. Could you do other options.. PAYG, select the collections you want, or choose the option your want from above
No comment

How can you almost double the price? I do wonder what I pay my council tax for?? Why are you increasing the prices again? Where do you think people are going to find £50 in the current climate. My mother is on a pension - where is she going to get the extra money. My fuel bills have doubled, my food bills have gone up by a third, petrol has almost doubled in price. I have one wage coming in to my household. I currently work 2 days in the office and 3 days from home fixed hybrid working. When I work from home, I sit in one room with no heating on and have a candle burner to take the chill off the room with a blanket on my lap to keep my fuel bills down. £35 for a fortnightly collection would be somewhat better, but still expensive. Maybe if you did the collections all on the same day instead of sending out trucks on multiple days (especially in Rogiet where my mother lives) the cost could be reduced.

I am unable to get to the Waste Centre and this service is key for me being able to keep gardening

Given the lack of subsidies it is inevitable that there will be changes to the current arrangement. However we hope that this does NOT close the door on the council keeping informed about any changes in being able to use garden waste etc. for biomass energy purposes in the future. Hopefully a close eye will be kept on any progress made by other councils in finding a beneficial use for waste as more innovations will inevitably be introduced somewhere given the drive to avoid fossil fuels. This increase in charges could be seen as encouraging some negative environmental impacts - more single use trips to tips, more fly tipping, more concreting over drives and gardens or using artificial lawns etc.

If you charge the 50 quid you will see flying tipping increase ten fold as people won't bother going to the dump. With the cost of living crisis which effecting a lot of people they can only just afford to pay their bills. How come is it that Newport council can this service for free but we have to pay. I think you should look long and hard about the increases you are suggesting

Customer thinks that the increase is a lot.

£50 is a lot of money for smaller households to pay compared to the £28 we have paid previously.

Could we not provide smaller bins for smaller garden households?

As my wife and I are 80 year old pensioners would we be entitled to any discount ?

Would it be viable to have a three weekly option

£50 is a lot of money for garden waste especially for smaller properties who may not require the 120ltr bin, people do not want to have fewer collections due to smell - maybe look at a small bin provision?

the current system is nonsense. some people do the right thing and pay for the service, otherwise dont and drive many miles to the tip thus increasing pollution / climate change. the problem is that MCC are only looking at the issue from a cost perspective not a "total carbon" point of view. shallow thinking? make everyone pay even those who visit the tip would be my suggestion to make the service more equitable.

Not much of an option was it?

I would like the service to be all year rather than ending in the Autumn. This year's service ended on 2nd December before all the leaves had fallen. I am now faced with paying privately for someone to remove my rose bush cuttings, Autumn leaves (a lot of them), and my Christmas tree in early January.

I currently pay for the fortnightly collection but have found that a monthly option would be better suited to the amount of waste I generate.

Not at all happy with the price going up but feel carrying on as now is the cheapest option - leaving rubbish for a month would lead to overflowing bins and rats and for six weeks it would be even worse! Whatever the outcome we as residents do not seem to get much for all the tax we pay!!!!

A very necessary service particularly for elderly residents who still derive pleasure from their gardens Invaluable service. We don't own a car and have no other way to remove bulky garden waste from our garden

The price is either too high or the frequency of collections is too long between each one. Whilst I am willing to pay the current price I would not be able to pay the proposed increase as I have two bins. I feel all mcc are doing is charging more and more for services which should be in our council tax. We are all feeling the increased cost of living and have to survive without help from the council or government, because I work. If I claimed tax credits or any other credits I would get everything paid for

Nil

Less frequent collection means having to use the refuse sites instead. This has costs as well and is not practical for all, e.g. older or unfit residents.

We ve have only just gone to the bin collection which we purchased on the basis of a fortnightly collection. It was probably a rash decision to pay all that money for plastic bins when the bag system was fine. Don't forget this summer was a drought and there was far less growth of lawns & vegetation. There is maybe scope to go 3 weekly in height of summer July/Aug. When growth of everything is normally reduced but less frequent collections in spring & autumn would just cause huge problems . People would just allow hedges, bushes & trees to overgrow affecting roads footpaths and pavements and potentially creating further more expensive problems We pay over £3200 so would be very frustrated if you only collect six or four weekly. As we'd have to get at least 4 bins or more & would have nowhere to keep them.

I would not subscribe to the service if it was any of the other options, these are not frequent enough.

Would be a shame to lose this excellent service, so will continue to support it. As I do not have my own transport to take garden rubbish to any centre, this service is valuable to me.

Valuable collection service, a 4 weekly pick up would be useful. Saves multiple people/car visits to Llanfoist site

We have the highest rates of council tax in Wales, but we still have to pay more..

To say that you have not increased it previously is an insult to our intelligence. By reducing the number of collections to every two weeks and keeping the cost the same was a 100% increase! If I am being asked to pay £50 per bin I think the very least you should do is to collect until Christmas. As I understand they don't charge at all in Caerphilly! Because we have a large garden we already pay more rates!

This garden waste service should be included as part of the council tax and not an additional charge against household

This service is essential

Very happy with the current service, still good value at £50.00.

It is not quite clear from your explanation the reasons

for increased cost and reduced service. You just write down some figures.

I don't use my garden waste much in the autumn so maybe you could stop it at the end of September to save money

The present price and frequency is just right.

Disgusting !!!

Why is it that MCC charge a higher rate of council tax PLUS additional fees for removal of garden waste , whereby TBC and NCC do not charge any additional fees for collection of garden waste ?????

Now you want to substantially increase the fees even further !!!!! Shame on you MCC . Well done for encouraging escalation of fly tipping !!!!!

Spencer Perrin

Although we try to compost some garden waste, we value the fortnightly garden waste collections by your Council staff. Frequent visits to the waste recycling centres by lots of residents who currently use the garden waste collection service will generate a lot more emissions.

Happy with current service and wish to see it continue at current level.

The annual cost of Council tax demand from MCC is already at a level that is extremely expensive and in addition, the proposed increases suggested in the consultation survey are ridiculous. Why is it that other local councils include garden waste service in their overall council tax charge, yet MCC can't, and are looking for even more money from homeowners!

Price increases are mental!

The most value for money would be the 20 collections for £50 per bin, however if you were to reduce the price to £25 per bin for 10 collections. I would continue with 2 bins and be happy to reduce the collection to 10.

Even at £50, 20 collections equates to £2.50 per fortnight. Trips to the waste tips would be considerably more expensive and unnecessarily time consuming.. it's a bargain can we change back to bags if that would be cheaper (they are less cumbersome to move round the garden and to store

Why not go every 4 weeks april, may, october, november but growing season every 2 weeks

We assume that if the decision is to cease collections, that each household will be reimbursed for the cost of the bin....

I think this is absolutely disgraceful £28 upto £50 how is this justifiable nearly 100% increase I believe this large percentage increase will mean households will cease using the service. It could also lead to increase in fly tipping.

Hopefully the collections will continue. If they become less frequent, I will still use the service, but will need to take garden waste to the recycling centre as well.

The service is very useful for this household as we have a large garden (and have two garden waste bins). Reducing the frequency of collections would result in us having too much for the bins available. There could also be issues with waste beginning to compost itself in the bins whilst awaiting collection. Please keep the collections to fortnightly. The increased cost would still represent good value for us.

I would be prepared to pay £50.00 per year to keep the service as it is at the moment

I feel that the current charge is sufficient and with the amount of council tax I currently pay a significant rise in the cost of collecting is unfair

That is just a ridiculous amount to pay

i ma a pensioner and i cannot afforded the bills i hvee now but do need mu garden wast removed

Whilst an increase was expected I am disgusted by the very large proposed % increase.

It seems very unfair that we have to pay for this service when other local councils provide this service free- particularly as we already pay higher Council Taxes than other local councils.

Everyone should be able to compost their waste as the amount produced should be relevant to their garden size especially in rural areas

Good service - well appreciated

Disgraceful price increase.

One collection per fortnight is OK but frequent collections near the start and end of the gardening season and maybe once per month in July, August, September and October.

Weekly collections would be nice

Just wondered why a three week collection was not considered. This would have been an ideal compromise for those with smaller gardens vs those with larger gardens. Especially if costed around £42.50 as per your second option price or less.

Was also curious why it also cost less the more collections you had and that the charge on the other options although reduced, did not equate to that of the first offer. I understand economy of scale but it does not make sense to a consumer to pay more for less service.

The best value for the consumer is to continue with the first option, as I have chosen. At least this way the bin does not overflow nor is too heavy to move up my steep drive.

I would appreciate some feedback on my submission.

I think £50 is rather expensive.

It was £28 last year so rather a large increase in price especially in the current situation when everyone is struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Disgraceful

I think £50 is way too much. I can honestly see there will be more bonfires and dumping of garden waste. Not everyone is able to take it themselves in vehicles to the tip.

I will be sharing my mum in laws garden bin, £50 is way too much for 1 household.

Would it be possible to have a mixed solution, so those who want fortnightly can pay for that and those that opt for fewer collections can have that? If it goes to £50 all in I will probably withdraw from the scheme.

Whilst we expect prices to increase, it would be handy to have an option for 15 bin collections rather than reducing the collections to half

A valuable service. Our garden size requires a fortnightly collection.

Going to the dump is increasingly difficult for persons of our age

Our bin is only usually full in the height of summer so I'd rather extend collections to four weekly.

Thank you for the chance to comment on these proposals.

Ideally, I would like a more frequent collection.

As an older person and living on my own, I would find it very difficult to take garden rubbish to the tip. I can afford to pay £50 per annum. Driving to the tip would cost at least as much as the new charge in petrol costs and probably more.

It is an excellent service which allows those who do not have access to a car the ability to dispose of garden waste in a responsible way. The removal of the service will surely damage the Authority's green objectives. What happens to the material collected is there the possibility of selling the resulting compost?

will consider 2weekly collections, if majority vote for this. As I am not able to take my rubbish to 5lanes, I really appreciate this service.

If the service cost was £50 per year, it would still be cheaper than going to the waste recycling centre. The only downside to raising costs would be that more fly tipping would take place, costing the council more to clean up

The constituents should take the garden waste to a recycling centre themselves, I would be in favour of the service ceasing or the cost should go up from £50 a year to £100 and that would be for constituents who can't drive or able to take the garden waste.

I can understand the need for an increase in costs, but this is a huge rise - almost 100 per cent. How can that be justified?

If the service is reduced /stopped then there will be an additional burden on the access to the HWRC Centres at Llanfoist etc.to cope with the extra demand. What extra provision will be provided?

This is a valuable service which in the current financial climate should not be subsidised. We are willing to pay the proposed increase in costs.

If you cease collections, I would hope to have the recycling centre at llanfoist open for local residents to dispose of their garden and other waste free of an extra charge 7 days every week. As it used to be before covid.

As a council I believe you need to think very carefully about significantly increasing/introducing payments for waste services. The higher the cost the less people will use the service. They will instead start fly tipping meaning the council will have clear up, which obviously has cost implications. Many councils around the UK offer this service F.O.C. I believe that the present charge represents a good balance between a charged and free service. I also think that any substantial increase would encourage the practice of 'fly tipping' which in turn will cost the council greater cost than the status quo.

When the service started the council provided it free of charge with the somewhat optimistic idea of making money by selling the resulting compost. Since then we have seen a steady increase in price. I personally have reported several incidences of fly tipping in the area. The increase in cost plus the closing of the recycling centre i n Usk is not going to reduce the incidence of fly tipping. I would not be surprised if your costs of cleaning up fly tipping will be more than the increase in revenue from this service. I hope I am wrong, but I shall continue to report incidences when I see them. I can afford your increased costs this time (although many more increases might not be affordable on my fixed income). I am afraid there are people out there who regard the world as their dustbin and they know how to fly tip without being caught.

Please open up the Llanfoist waste site more freely then I can take my garden waste there and not bother anyone. The appointment booking system is too limiting because often you can't get an appointment for a week and then can't return on same slot. I understand there is a budget crisis but surely if the site is already manned it can be opened up and save you money on the collections.

A very valuable service, which is much appreciated.

Service is irregular even allowing for fortnightly basis. Didn't appear to be included for a while. 20 collections is not much for the [increased] money

£50 is very expensive! But the frequency is required. Very disappointed we pay more council tax than other areas and pay high extra charges for other things, unlike other areas who pay less council tax and are charged less for additional services. A detailed breakdown of why it costs so much and where the money goes would be appreciated.

If 20 collections work out £2.50 per collection I would pay £25 for 10 collections.

The current price is extortionate and now you are trying to take the piss !!!!

I feel that if we leave our bin for emptying for more than 4 weeks it will smell especially in the hot weather so 4 weeks should be a maximum.

I feel it is really important to maintain a garden waste service fortnightly to help ensure that people take pride in their gardens. Not only for the local areas to appear attractive but also to help protect wildlife. If the service ceased I fear how bad fly ripping could become.

Fortnightly collections for £35 per bin would be a more acceptable option.

Would rather this service cost less as we already pay very high poll tax.

As I have rather large-ish garden and am also unable to drive I feel that the current option is the only one that will help. However even if I could get someone to take it to the recycling centre around the corner from me it seems very inconvenient that those in Monmouthshire have to still have to book to go to get rid of their rubbish. Why can we not go to the recycling centres on an ad-hoc basis as we did before Covid? To me the booking system seems to be a hangover from Covid restrictions which have long since gone. I have noticed a lot of complaints on this issue on the Abergavenny Voice on Facebook. I fear that the current recycling centre restrictions will lead to fly-tipping and I believe that you as a Local Authority will end up paying more for this than you would if the Recycling Centres had these booking restrictions.

I still think it is a lot of money considering how much council tax we pay

It's very expensive considering the amount we pay for council tax in Monmouthshire. A monthly collection of £35 sounds fair but I doubt this will be listened to

It's such a great service and not having it would discourage me from recycling my green waste. I would find it a huge inconvenience having to go to the Centre at Mitchel Troy

Think that garden waste collection has gone up too much in price. Times are hard for everyone and think people will fly tip garden waste

Would not pay that amount for the service when it's already included by neighbouring councils at no extra charge. And why is it only part year - vegetarian animal waste can go in there but it's not going to be nice in there from December to March waiting to be disposed of

I forgot to put my bin out when I was a customer a few years ago and so the bin has been full since then so a lower frequency seems fine. I never managed to sign up again because from your form I wasn't clear if I was ordering another bin or just renewing my payment, so I would suggest working on the form.

Are there alternatives to bin collections the council could fund that might be cheaper with subsidy? Compost bins? Communal compost bins/drop off at the end of residential roads

Any other collection frequency option would mean the necessity for more bins and a higher cost per bin per collection.

Also have you taken into account a probable increase in fly-tipping and an increase in traffic to local amenity sites?

An increase of virtually one hundred percent is disgusting, especially with the cost of living as it is today. I only chose this option as this is a service we use all the time and we do not want to see the service reduced in frequency.

Shocking cosy and you wonder why people fly tip.

It would be sad to see the service end, but I have 2 bins and so couldn't afford to pay £100 for only part-year collections and I'd need 2 during the main grass cutting season because of the size of my garden. As I drive past the tip every day anyway, I'll just take it to the tip.

Also, it's worth noting that missed monthly collections would also be a huge problem, unless arrangements are made to revisit, as this hasn't been done this year.

The collections to begin from March to the end of September on three weekly basis if possible

An agreeable service for us as customers

I can't understand how other councils, with lower council tax rates, can collect green waste free of charge and MCC has to charge for collection. The rise in the collection cost is only going to lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

Possible additional discount for more than one bin. Overall we thought the service was very good and the guys were excellent in managing the workload.

Have a lot of grass so fortnightly best

I think this is disgraceful. Why no 4-weekly option that reflects the cost savings? Halving the collections for a meagre saving of £7.50? I run a business and if I offered these options to my customers I'd soon be out of work. Shameful, absolutely shameful. The public sector really has no clue about commerce

I don't like any of the above options to be honest. 4 weekly collections in the summer is not enough and £50 for the year is too high with the cost of living at the moment.

We feel Fortnightly collections suit us well at the moment as opposed to monthly

The service doesn't run long enough to allow for leaves falling from trees into late December.

Certainly not happy about these charges. Surely 10 collections should be half the cost of 20 which would be £25 not £42 50p

None of the options were acceptable but chose the most acceptable. This will lead to an increase of fly tipping which will eventually cost the council a lot more to clean up - very shortsighted!

I think it's incredible that other councils don't charge for garden waste i.e Newport

What happens to the waste if we cease collections. This will increase fly tipping.

Absolute madness

I'll drive to the tip when I need to. Present bin sometimes not enough room, some times not put out.

Depends on time I spend tending the garden.

What happens to bins when the service is discontinued?

Too expensive

Needs to be rethought especially in the current cost of living crisis

It's a very good service.

Too expensive, 78% rise in costs during a cost of living crisis is despicable. I don't think many people will feel too morally concerned with fly tipping green biodegradable waste.

Reducing times more than fortnightly I would simply forget to do it.

This cost increase is going to encourage fly tipping, as it is unaffordable. Flytipping is a higher cost to the tax payer, then if you keep this as an affordable cost as it was in 2022.

Very happy with service received to date.

This service is heavily subsidised by all council tax payers because the council cannot work out what it would cost to run it as a standalone service and if they could the cost would be prohibitive to most users. Either make it free or allow the market to take up the customers and provide a proper customer based service which they define.

Anything over a 2 weekly collection would increase health issues. Plus where could people store all that amount of waste

If there were community drop off areas which DO NOT NEED prior appointments I would be happy to do this instead of collection.

What justifies an approximate 60% increase in costs???

The new price per fortnight is still cheaper than going to the tip by car or van

Just ensure that we don't lose another vital service unless you are going to stop the appointment system at the dump

If the service ceases we believe there will be a lot more fly tipping for you to deal with.

We are still able to take excess waste to the tip but people like our 90 year old neighbour need the collection.

No comment

A reduced frequency might be OK if it wasn't so difficult to go to a recycling centre. The appointment system is hopeless especially for moving things like garden waste which needs to be done on a dry day. I have a second home in England . The recycling centre there is absolutely brilliant. No appointment is needed and I have never had to queue [I do choose a quiet time of day]. The difference is stark.

The garden waste collection is a really useful service, it probably saves many gardeners from burning their waste, and also saves many individual trips to the tip, therefore it's environmental impact is so important and it's a shame the government cannot subsidise it.

I appreciate times are tough and the price needs to go up to reflect increased costs, however I am going to have to opt out as I'm unable to afford a fortnightly collection and as we have a lot of waste, will have to visit the tip more frequently.

This is criminal, you are holding garden waste hostage. There are plenty of non statutory provisions made by the council which are not charged for. This was and still is household waste and as such should be collected free of charge, For winter I am using black bags and shall continue to do so next year. Recycling is your issue not the customers!!

This is DISGUSTING. We have lived in 4 Council areas in total and MCC are the worst Council I've ever come across. The service is poor, the prices are terrible. No one gives two hoots.

I find the increase is way too much so will not be using this service anymore it will increase more people to the recycling center or you will see people fly tipping as keen gardeners we could fill it weekly we managed just with fortnightly but won't be using the service no longer which is a shame. This service has now become too expensive for us. We are pensioners and with all the other cost of living costs rising this is a service we will now stop using.

Removing the service will lead to fly tipping. Composting locally attracts rats. We pay a lot of council tax. I have no idea how this can be considered optional

Stopping the service in December is not helpful as gardens are still being cleaned up many leaves only just fallen so have bins full and no collection needs to be an all year around service

Excellent service, 20 collections at £50 is reasonable in my opinion. The option for us is booking a slot at Mitchell Troy - a system which is perhaps less than user-friendly?

As a private provider of green waste removal it is in my interests that your service becomes more expensive or ceases altogether.

how on earth can you justify those prices ?!!! even £28 was much too much . im sure i can find another way to dispose of the little garden waste i produce without paying any of those rip of prices your proposing !!!

By increasing my costs as a Monmouthshire ratepayer, at present paying higher rates than other local authority ratepayers, then MCC will not be subsidising other local authority residents. I have been made aware that some authorities do not charge for garden waste and some authorities even give out free dog mess bags. I also trust that MCC ratepayers will no longer subsidise other LAs, such as Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen etc.

Mr Drakeford should also consider how he accounts and spends taxpayers money on such trips for he, and his colleague Vaughan Gethin, when spending £13,000 going to Qatar, wasting £174m on a M4 relief road consultation, and changing Welsh traffic and road signs.

That's all we'll and good. But not everyone can afford these ridiculous price increase!! And what if you haven't got a car to take your waste to the recycling centre???

Suggest an extension to the collection service until the end of December as many Oak trees in the Raglan area have not shed their leaves this year (mid December).

Increased charges will put the service beyond the reach of some residents and people will find other ways of getting rid of garden waste - in food or other rubbish bags, garden fires etc or just simply dumping it in the locality.

Really like the garden waste service. Thank you

The service would still be good value at £50; only £2.50 per collection. Much better than driving to Five Lanes site.

My main concern is people using other people's bins - we have ours "topped up" on times when we've put it out - which is cheeky, but no real issue, but we're aware that others in the village have had waste put in after the collection by someone else - so they haven't room for their own waste & have someone else's waste in their bin until the next collection. Any proposals to help with this issue, which I think will worsen with reduced collections.

It needs to be collected every two weeks but the fee of £50pa is too much.

Still more cost effective than having to travel to the house hold recycling centre given rising fuel costs. Not everyone can commit to composting.

I think it would be a sensible option to have a two weekly winter collection and then maybe a 4 weekly summer collection. Will always use more in winter with leaves etc and trimming plants for the frost than in the summer

I do not see why we should have to pay for this service and why it stops in December as we pay enough on our rates. Money is wasted by having correspondence in Welsh as well as English. Money could be further saved by switching of street lights at say 11.30pm to 5.30am. Why can garden rubbish not be collected at least fortnightly by using bins for food and garden waste as a lot of councils do?

I need this service as do many others, getting rid of this service will potentially cause some current users to dump their waste.

Another idea would be whether it's possible to provide (purchase for those who want one) composting bins for garden waste (not food waste) for home use?

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p>Name of the Officer Carl Touhig</p> <p>Phone no: 01633875845 E-mail: carltouhig@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Implement full cost recovery model for garden waste collections service.</p>
<p>Name of Service area Community and Place – Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>Date 19/12/22</p>

4 Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Retaining the garden service was highlighted in the customer consultation as important for older residents who don't drive or would struggle to take material to the household recycling centre	The increased costs in delivering the service may impact more residents on low income	We will continue to provide cost price composters through the reuse shops for residents that can't afford the service but want to compost at home
Disability	<i>As above</i>		
Gender reassignment	NA		

Age 261

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	NA		
Pregnancy or maternity	NA		
Race	.NA		
Religion or Belief	.NA		
Sex	NA		
Sexual Orientation	.NA		

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2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	<i>Increasing the costs of the garden waste collection service for the 14,000 customers will reduce the subsidy from all residents to operate the service.</i>	<i>Increasing the cost of the service for all residents is likely to impact adversely in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</i>	We will continue to provide cost price composters through the reuse shops and provide advice to those seeking to reduce costs and compost at home.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.




How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p><i>The proposals do not impact on the Welsh language requirements and we will continue to promote and use the Welsh Language in all communications</i></p>		<p>We will continue to promote the Welsh Language and offer learning opportunities to all staff.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>NA</p>		
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>NA</p>		



4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Retaining the service provides jobs for drivers and loaders on the collection service. The material is composted in Abergavenny by a local company providing further job opportunities	As a non-statutory chargeable service the proposal sets out that those who benefit from the service cover the costs.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Composting garden waste creates a soil improver that reduces the need for chemical and peat-based fertilizers	Promote home composting and encourage everyone to mow less
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Gardening is a positive stress reducer and improves mental health and wellbeing. Retaining the easy system for garden waste collection and treatment will help make it even more enjoyable	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Providing good quality options for residents to recycle, compost and reuse keeps our communities more attractive	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Welsh Government support chargeable garden waste collections as part of high-quality recycling services. We must all think about the waste we produce and contribute to its treatment.	Continue to provide home composters at cost price to further promote the principles of proximity and producer responsibility
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	NA	
A more equal Wales	NA	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances		

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Retaining garden waste collection services at the current frequency is important to 67% of respondents to the consultation. Delivering a viable service for the long term that allows residents to continue to benefit.</p>	<p>NA</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>NA</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Consultation with customers and residents to shape the proposal.</p>	<p>Continue to listen to resident's views and investigate further the requests in the responses to maintain the service through December to capture later leaf fall with changing climate</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Providing a full cost recovery model will ensure the long-term viability of the service</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>.NA</p>	

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	NA	<i>.Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect</i>	
Corporate Parenting	NA		

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The results of consultation with customers showed a 67% majority in favour of retaining the current frequency of collections at £50. The qualitative data shows that many customers believe £50 still offers good value for money but understandably the data also shows that for many others there is contradicting views. To ensure the service is full cost recovery and viable in the long term a list of options was provided to existing customers and was open to all residents. Appendix 1 and 1A.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Continue to promote home composting alongside the garden waste collection service.

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9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Customer consultation	December 2022	<i>Preferred option taken forward into proposal</i>
1	Place Scrutiny	January 2023	Will include recommendations as part of Cabinet Report
2	Cabinet	January 2023	

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Place Scrutiny Committee

Action List

12th January 2023

Minute Item:	Subject	Officer / Member	Outcome
5	To add Rural Broadband on to the next agenda	Councillor Chandler	Rural broadband was added to the 12 th January 2023 agenda
6	To reintroduce an Action List on each agenda	Councillors Chandler, Brown and Strong	An Action List will be added to all agendas, henceforth
8	To clarify whether the proposed 20mph in Monmouth will change	Councillor Lucas/ Mark Hand	Action to be completed once the review has taken place

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
30th June 2022	Forward Work Programme	To discuss the process for formulating a forward work programme and agree items for future inclusion.	Hazel Ilett	Work Programming
	Wye Valley Villages Future Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Roger Hoggins Mark Hand	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Regeneration Funding and Delivery Plan 2022-2025	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Mark Hand Daniel Fordham	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Petition: Castle Meadows, Abergavenny	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillors Maby and Burch	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Community Play Area, Tudor Road, Wyesham	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Burch	Receipt of Petitions
12th September 2022 at 5pm	Workshop 1: Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033	To brief members on the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 and discuss next steps.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop
Special Meeting Monday 26th September (10am)	Response to the Forest of Dean's Replacement Local Development Plan	To provide a view from MCC as part of the Forest of Dean's consultation process.	Mark Hand Councillor Griffiths	Consultation

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Page 274	Revised Local Development Plan: Options Paper	To scrutinise the options paper for the revision of the Local Development Plan.	Mark Hand Councillor Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Rivers and Ocean Report	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Hazel Clatworthy Councillor Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Petition: Excessive speeding on Birbeck Road, Caldicot	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Llantrisant Village Speed Reduction	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Usk to Wentwood Road Speed Reduction 50mph	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Poor Condition of Roads and Pavements in the Meadows, Usk	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
19th October 2022 at 5pm	<u>Workshop 2:</u> Replacement Local	To brief members on the Candidate Sites put forward for inclusion into the	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	Development Plan 2018-33	Replacement Local Development Plan and discuss next steps.		
2nd November 2022 at 5pm	Workshop 3: Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-33	To brief members on the Preferred Strategy sites put forward for the Replacement Local Development Plan.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop
10th November 2022	Revised Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the new Preferred Strategy ahead of reporting to Council on 1 st December 2022.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis Paul Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Speed limit of 20mph on the B4245	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report and consider the community responses received.	Paul Keeble Councillor Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Call-in: Land Adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School	To consider a 'call-in' request for the decision taken on 20 th October 2022 in relation to a Housing Development Opportunity.	Peter Davies Councillor Burch	Call-in Request
	Petition: Council Use of JCB Machinery	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Garrick	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Excessive speeding on Birbeck Road, Caldicot	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
12 th January 2022	Local Toilet Strategy	To scrutinise the latest policy development.	David Jones	Policy Development
	Rural Broadband	To provide an update as requested.	Cath Fallon	Position Update
	Garden Waste Collection Service	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the proposed changes to the Garden Waste Collection Service.	Carl Touhig	Pre-decision Scrutiny
2 nd February 2023 (pm)	Scrutiny of the Budget Proposals	Scrutiny of the budget mandates relating to the committee's remit.	Peter Davies Jonathon Davies Councillor Garrick	Budget Scrutiny
2 nd March 2023	Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Controls	To scrutinise the latest report, considering the stakeholder engagement responses included.	Huw Owen	Policy Development
	Revised Local Development Plan	To consider the responses following consultation.	Mark Hand	Policy Development
13 th April 2023				

Workshops: Revised Local Development Plan

- **12th September** ~ To brief members on the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033
- **19th October** ~ To brief Members on the Candidate Sites submitted.

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

- **2nd November** ~ To brief members on the Preferred Strategy

Items for future Inclusion into the Work Programme

- Flood prevention and protection ~ new Flooding strategy, the Update paper on Section 19 (flooding investigation reports)
- Replacement Local Development Plan
- Town Centre Regeneration ~ Transforming Chepstow Masterplan
- Placemaking ~ Placemaking and maximising civic capital for the benefit of the County
- Active Travel Plans (across Highways and MonLife)

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Responsible Cabinet Member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Council	01-Sep-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the RLDP following receipt of the Inspector's report, making it the County's	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	01-Sep-24	RLDP submission for examination	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the submission of the Deposit RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	01-Dec-23	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Abergavenny Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Abergavenny Town Council, to	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Sep-23	Local Flood Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Flood Strategy Plan	Mark Hand / Ross Price	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Jul-23	Adoption of Magor Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Magor with Undy Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Magor with Undy Town Council,	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Jul-23	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Monmouth Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Monmouth Town Council, to inform	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Council	23-Jun-23	Standards Committee Annual Report		This report is the first annual report from the Standards Committee to Council as required by	Matt Phillips	10-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 12			Jon Davies	
Council	01-Jun-23	RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the RLDP Preferred Strategy including any proposed changes arising from the	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	3-Oct-22
Council	01-Jun-23	Standards Committee Annual Report				
ICMD	01-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
ICMD	01-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
ICMD	05-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 9th March 2023			Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	03-Apr-23	Road Safety Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Respite Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities	Tudor Thomas - Social Care & Safeguarding	Services for people with learning disabilities and seek approval for implementation of the report's	Ceri York	9-Dec-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Corporate Parenting Strategy			Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Youth Council			Jade Atkins	7-Dec-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution			Jon Davies	
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investments			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22

Cabinet	01-Mar-23	RESERVATION OF GRAVE PLOTS IN LLANFOIST CEMETERY		To seek cabinet approval to cease the provision of reserving grave spaces (not incl cremated)	Rhian Jackson	7-Nov-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy			Scott James	22-Aug-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Pavement Café Policy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Local Transport Plan	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Adoption of Transforming Chepstow Masterplan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan, co-produced with Chepstow Town Council, to	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Transforming Towns Strategic Grant regeneration priorities	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree the priority projects for bids for WG Strategic grant funding to 24/25	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Monmouthshire ECO Flex 'Joint Statement of Intent' and Memorandum of Understanding"			Steve Griffiths	16-Nov-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 7	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	15-Dec-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	19-Jan-23	'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny		'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny	Cath Saunders	28-Nov-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Diary		To confirm the Council Diary 23/24	John Pearson	14-Dec-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Appointments to Bodies				
Council	19-Jan-23	Community and Corporate Plan				
Council	19-Jan-23	Tudor Road Call-In			Nicola Perry	3-Jan-23
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Garden Waste			Carl Touhig	21-Dec-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh Medium Seedling school in Monmouth		To seek cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation processes to establish a Welsh	Debbie Graves	23-Sep-22
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To seek approval for the transfer of land associated with the Clydach Ironworks	Matthew Lewis	8-Dec-23
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	Council Tax Base report			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	2023/4 Community Council & Police Precepts - draft			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	Regional Integration Fund		To consider the financial liabilities and implications of the Regional Integration Fund and	Jane Rodgers	21-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	National Adoption Services and Foster Wales Joint Committee			Jane Rodgers	9-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 6			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Corporate Safeguarding Policy.		For Council to endorse the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.	Jane Rodgers	10-Nov-22

Council	01-Dec-22	Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22			Andrew Wathan	18-Oct-22
Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Preferred Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek Council endorsement of the new Preferred Strategy for eight week consultation	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	TUDOR STREET		To seek a decision regarding the Council's forward use of the property located in Tudor Street ahead of the outcomes of the wider review of My Day My Life	Jane Rodgers	14-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Govilon Section 106 Funding for Recreation & Play	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Mike Moran	8-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 5	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) Deferred to 30-Nov-22	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand Phil Thomas	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 6	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Implementing Sharepoint online		To secure funding to implement the project	Sian Hayward	13-Oct-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	A County of Sanctuary		To set out the reasons why an earlier decision is required due to time restrictions associated with TAN 15	Matt Gatehouse	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	SPF Update Report			Hannah Jones	12-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or ICMD)		DEFERRED	Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Council	27-Oct-22	RESPONSE TO URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION		To present a proposal to enable Council to respond flexibly and promptly to the urgent need for housing accommodation to address the	Cath Fallon	10-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Matt Gatehouse / Paul Matthews	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Outside Bodies Appointment			John Pearson	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Annual Safeguarding Report			Kelly Turner	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Social Care & Health: Directors Report 2021/22			Jane Rodgers	6-Jul-22
ICMD	26-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	14/7/22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	PSOW annual letter		Present the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales' annual report as required by the letter	Matt Phillips	28-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Regional Partnership Board - Gwent Market Position Statement		To provide a Market Stability Report produced by the Regional Partnership Board setting out a high	Phil Diamond Head of Regional Partnership Team	22-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Gatehouse / Paul Matt	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	22/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 4			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Land adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School - Housing Development Opportunity		To seek approval of the disposal of land at Caldicot Comprehensive School for the	Nick Keyse	
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Local Development Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Rachel Lewis/Cllr Paul Griffiths	23/08/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Dave Jarrett	14/07/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Ending Library Fines		enabling more people to enjoy reading without the worry of incurring a fine if they are unable to return	Cheryl Haskell/Fookes?	20-Sep-22

ICMD	28-Sep-22	Transport Policy			Deb Hill Howells - MG	22-Aug-22
ICMD	28-Sep-22	B4245 speed limit		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Mark Hand	18-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Tackling poverty and inequalities			Nick John	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Sep-22	RLDP Options Report			Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Rivers and Ocean			Hazel Clatworthy	9-Jun-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Monmouthshire County Council self - assessment report 2021/2			Richard Jones	23-May-22
ICMD	14-Sep-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st July 2022 (no meeting/no report -			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Transport Policy Consultation Update.			Deb Hill Howells	22-Aug-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Cost Of Living			Matt Phillips	25-Jul-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	MY DAY, MY LIFE SERVICE EVALUTATION			Ceri York	15-Aug-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	Homeseach Policy & Procedure - Amendments & Welsh Translation Requirement			Ian Bakewell	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Additional Resources in Educations Strategy		Resources required to develop and maintain schools education systems and the implementatin	Sian Hayward	14-Jun-22
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Designation of Secondary Catchment Areas			Matthew Jones	6-Jun-22
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022			Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Wye Valley Villages Future Improvement Plan			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Regen Three Year Programme			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Review of Chepstow High Street closure			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Home to School Transport Policy 2023-24.			Deb Hill Howells	27-Jun-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	MUCH (Magor & Undy Community Hall) report			Nick Keys	9-Jun-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Shared Prosperity Fund Local Investment Plan and Regional Lead Authority Arrangements			Hannah Jones	23-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn			Peter Davies/Jon Davies	17-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 22/23			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homeless Strategy)			Ian Bakewell	

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Thursday, 10th November, 2022 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor Lisa Dymock (Chairman)
County Councillors: Louise Brown, Emma Bryn, Ben Callard, Ian Chandler, Tomos Davies, Jane Lucas, Su McConnel, Maria Stevens, Jackie Strong, Jan Butler, Tony Easson, Paul Griffiths, Sara Burch, Christopher Edwards, Catherine Fookes, Simon Howarth and Frances Taylor

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Mark Hand, Head of Place-making, Housing, Highways and Flood
Paul Keeble, Group Engineer (Highways and Flood Management)
Nicholas Keyse, Estates Development Manager
Graham Kinsella, Traffic And Road Safety Manager
Craig O'Connor, Head of Planning

APOLOGIES: None

1. Declarations of interest

Councillor Chandler declared a non-prejudicial interest as a former employee of Amnesty International.

2. Public open forum

Shaun Hartley spoke on the subject of the RLDP Preferred Strategy.

Hugo Perks spoke on the subject of the petition under Item 4 regarding Council use of JCB machinery.

3. Petition: Excessive speeding on Birbeck Road, Caldicot

Petition withdrawn. Councillor Easson explained that following conversations with officers, that actions are due to take place in Birbeck Road to reduce speed, and subsequently monitor the efficacy of those measures. He thanked the officers for their work.

4. Petition: Council Use of JCB Machinery

Councillor Davies expressed opposition to the boycott and sanctions movement against Israel. While recognising the plight of the Palestinian people, he would hope that the Council would re-affirm support for Israel as the only democracy in the middle east, and proposed that no further action be taken.

Councillor Callard also proposed that no further action be taken, as it is not an area on which the Council should follow up.

Councillor Chandler disagreed with the statement that Israel is the only democracy in the region. He expressed sympathy for the sentiments behind the motion, and noted that the international community has repeatedly declared the Israeli occupation to be illegal. However, in this instance, the motion is too tokenistic an action to take but wanted to put on record that the council could at some point formally express solidarity with the Palestinian people and call on the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupation, and call on international businesses conducting business in those areas to withdraw.

5. Discussion on the Committee's Forward Work Programme

Councillor Chandler asked for Rural Broadband, originally on today's agenda, to be added to the next agenda. Councillor Howarth noted that in the investment committee this week there was discussion of a paper being brought to full council soon about the county's broadband – this might help to inform the discussion and answer some questions.

6. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2022

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

Councillor Chandler asked about 'matters arising', officers agreed to provide an action list following each meeting. Councillor Brown concurred. Councillor Strong suggested linking the action plan to the forward work programme.

7. Revised Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy

Cabinet Member Paul Griffiths introduced the item. Craig O'Connor and Mark Hand delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions with Councillor Griffiths and Councillor Burch. In relation to the comments made in the Public Open Forum, Mark Hand noted that the Local Transport Plan and Infrastructure Plan will accompany the LDP at the later deposit stage; this is the first stage of statutory consultation. Officers are complying with the regulations and progressing in the right order – the matters raised will be fully considered later.

Challenge:

Are there assurances that there will be funding for robust active travel links to these new sites prior to new houses going up? e.g. the Abergavenny site is close to a busy road and rail line, it is unlikely that people will walk or cycle to town via the Hardwick roundabout, and once they have a car to do so they won't revert back to active travel.

We are not yet at the stage to give reassurances about funding but the national planning policy has recently been updated to clarify active travel and timescales for development and delivery, so it does support new developments in the way described. We are working closely with the Active Travel team. These strategic sites were picked up in the integrated network maps so that options are kept open for future priorities, and

those network maps are the basis for future funding applications. The intention is to have routes in place at the outset, and funding for them.

We cannot envisage taking the Abergavenny site forward without a clear link across the railway line into town. We are already investing in an active travel route to the Caldicot site from the centre, which we hope to see completed before taking forward the residential development. Plans are in place to connect the Bayfield site to the schools and Chepstow town centre; we must ensure that they are completed in advance of/alongside residential development.

There has been a lot of development with housing estates built but no services built with them. What levers can we pull to ensure that these public services are in place in order to create communities and keep residents out of cars?

We are working with various organisations concerning various aspects. One is that some sites are mixed-use development, another concerns school places, which is relatively straightforward as we as the local education authority can deal with capacity and need. The most complicated part is health infrastructure, for which we're working with ABHB e.g. at recent and upcoming meetings of Monmouthshire GP groups. We will engage fully with them as this process continues.

We need more than 'ambition' in relation to net zero: we need 'requirement'. Is there any reassurance about that?

We sent a detailed note to all promoters of sites that we seek Net Zero, going above building regulations. The strategic policy will say that each home constructed will be net zero ready. That detailed policy will come later in the plan – this is the wider vision of the plan – hence the use of 'ambition', but we are making net zero a requirement.

What about the impact on rural areas? How are they being favourably developed?

National Planning Policy is to focus on town centres first, ensuring their viability and that they are protected for the long term. We have to think about new methods of delivery, e.g. different uses of town centres. Planning Policy Wales highlights the need for community services in town centres. This document is the preferred strategy so doesn't include the detail yet, but later we will have detailed policies about how we do that. The RLDP allocates land for development but there is also a swathe of planning policies by which all future planning applications will be determined. At this stage we are looking at the strategic level of growth: addressing affordability, the demographic challenge, the climate change agenda, etc. It is worth also remembering what the planning process stops, as well as enables e.g. the other aspect of supporting town centres is preventing out-of-town retail. Therefore, some of the preventative measures support town centres.

Concerning the number of different rural settlements e.g. Tier 4 settlements, many of those fall in the Upper Wye catchment area, which hasn't necessarily been recognised – could we have clarification on that?

Any development proposals in those areas are considered in terms of phosphates and the NRW planning guidance i.e. ensuring that we evidence nutrient neutrality and that no development will have an adverse effect on river conservation. That will continue

until the river comes into favourable consideration. The strategy outlines that 100 homes will be allocated in the smaller settlements; we haven't decided which yet. Some of the detail being sought will come at the deposit planning stage. In Table 1 of the report, we've stripped out every assumption for the Upper Wye valley catchment. We haven't assumed a past trend of windfalls within it.

What does the insistence on energy efficiency entail? Are we getting to the point where in Planning we will be able to say that something is not approved if these things aren't in place?

We are working in a planning policy framework from 2014. It's positive that this preferred strategy proposes that we go for a high level of net zero homes so, yes, it will give members the option to say no to a development that doesn't hit that standard. It will be different for different sites, i.e. whether having solar panels makes it net zero, or something else. Some of this policy should be at a national level but in Monmouthshire we will be able to hold developers to account.

Will there be an extra question on candidate sites?

Candidate sites are in the Council report for 1st December – Council will be asked to endorse this strategy for public consultation, agree to the candidate site register going out to public consultation and the delivery agreement for submission to Welsh Government (the timetable and community involvement scheme), the habitat regulations assessment and the integrated sustainability appraisal. In terms of candidate sites, it's a chance for people to comment on everything that has been submitted in the process, including the 3 strategic sites.

For the Forest of Dean's proposed development in Lydney, we suggested a bypass and active travel – does the same not apply to Chepstow and Caldicot? Welsh Government has put a moratorium on road building but if roads can't be built, surely houses can't either, if we can't put in the right infrastructure? Won't Chepstow come to a standstill with all of this house building and the resulting traffic flow from Caldicot's developments and FOD?

Yes, we need to consider wider strategic sites and proportion of growth together. We are comfortable with 68% of that growth being in Chepstow and Caldicot but we need to look at infrastructure issues in the round. It is worth noting that a significant proportion of Chepstow's growth has been bumped to Caldicot, being the same housing market area, but Chepstow is heavily constrained. We are mindful of the issues raised, such as how we link with FOD and how the sites will work.

The hierarchy in national planning and transport policy is: initially, it's about reducing the need to travel (having the developments be sustainable, urban extensions on existing settlements with the most amenities e.g. Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth), then it's about active travel (sites being in walking and cycling distance to town centres, and transport infrastructure), then public transport. There are undeniably knotty issues to work through in coming years, but there is a rationale behind the sites identified, and it is right for the growth to go on to those larger towns with those amenities.

What defines a ‘settlement’? Has Welsh Government not said that there are to be no new settlements?

We aren’t proposing new settlements, they are urban extensions to the towns – a new settlement would be defined as being self-contained with its own amenities, employment, etc. National planning policy has changed; in our first growth options we looked at the option of new settlements but due to the national policy it isn’t on the table any more.

What about the possibility of a train station at Caerwent?

This proposal isn’t on the table but there is the South Wales Metro proposals to increase railway frequency in Chepstow and Abergavenny, and the Burns Commission M4 alternatives, looking at significant improvements, particularly at Severn Tunnel Junction. There are ongoing discussions with Cabinet Members about other aspects of travel infrastructure, including rail connections between Lydney and Severn Tunnel Junction, which are currently lacking. Caerwent isn’t in those discussions. Magor walkway station is, however, recognised by the Burns Commission, which we are supporting as a planning authority.

Is there an opportunity for new schooling? The Crick site is a concern: there’s no provision for extra school places. Caldicot infrastructure is a great concern e.g. some trains aren’t allowed to stop in Caldicot.

New schools is certainly something to be explored, particularly regarding Abergavenny East and Caldicot East. We work very closely with our education colleagues; they have already given us ideas about school capacity but almost until deposit plan stage, when it’s known exactly which catchment a proposed development will be in, they can’t give us certainty about how to proceed. These strategic sites constitute new information for us to work through with them. The size probably means that there is scope for on-site primary school provision for both.

Should there be a Plan B for Monmouth, if things being put in place to address the phosphates problem come to timely fruition?

We have had detailed conversations with Welsh Water and NRW looking at when a solution can be delivered. Welsh Water is committed to finding a solution but they don’t know what it is yet – more R&D is needed. In terms of the preferred strategy, we need to move forward, we could stop and wait but the issues are continually increasing, which is why there are no new allocations in Monmouth. There are sites there though that will still be in the plan as bonus sites – they can be retained, so affordable housing can be delivered in the town, not in new allocations but on existing sites.

Will Exception sites be able to deliver a percentage of affordable and mixed-need homes?

Welsh government policy is clear that we need to be ‘plan-led’, so we need to ensure that the LDP allocates sites for development and any other sites outside that don’t come forward, so we can ensure that we have the right infrastructure and connections. But we

are looking to have an affordable housing exception policy, so exception sites on our primary settlements for small, proportional growth, to allow for 100% AH sites.

Can we not include battery storage for personal use and therefore lower prices for the household?

Yes, these can be included and we will look at that.

With aiming for 50% Affordable Housing, can people in time purchase the house, meaning that further down the line it will no longer be an 'affordable house'?

There are three types of affordable housing: social rent, intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership. With the latter, it's typically 50% but one can get to 100% and own the property. But to be national planning policy compliant the affordable housing is affordable in perpetuity, and the receipt from the sale of the extra proportion of the house goes back to the registered social landlord and reinvested into AH. It's not a loss of affordable housing in the grand scheme of things, in the way of right-to-buy, which no longer exists in Wales. The model that we use, that allows for moving up to 100%, is effectively an equity share scheme. We probably do need to review the model in Monmouthshire.

What other facilities would you expect for a site that's 900+? Would it be large enough to have things like contributions to surgeries etc., to improve local facilities?

It's too early to say what will be on the sites. There will be detailed master planning of the strategic sites with site promoters, stakeholders, colleagues, and Design Commission for Wales. Sites of that size might have space within them for a new GP surgery, depending on healthcare needs in the area. It is all to be determined but there will be some amenities for a development of that scale.

Chair's Summary:

Cabinet Member Paul Griffiths made the following comments:

I assure the committee that their comments will be included in the 1st December report if possible, but if not, then as the process moves forward. Recognising the earlier comments, 'ambition' is nonetheless an important word to include and quality to have. We want our homes and settlements to set a national standard. The aim of improving town centres is why the new settlements are attached to existing ones. Connectivity will be so important; active travel will be crucial. We continue to have ambitions for rail transport: in conversations with Transport For Wales, we already have a commitment for at least 2 trains an hour on the Chepstow-Caldicot line and will press for enhancements on that. Welsh Government is reviewing roads, as part of which I will press the case for road enhancement in the county. The intended developments for Caldicot require a new junction on the M48, or a reclassification of that road – we will make that case forcefully to Welsh Government.

The Chair added the following comments:

From a Portskewett perspective, it seems that there is a disproportionate amount of housing in the Caldicot area, and a shared concern about the infrastructure becoming gridlocked. There is already a lot of traffic due to developments that are underway. We need to learn from overdevelopment mistakes in the Chepstow area. There are references to town extensions but the centres are very tired – there isn't a good offer e.g. Caldicot. The land proposed for the Crick Road development attracts a lot of visitors – if that goes, there is little attracting people to the area. Did Welsh Government not say that they were against open countryside development, and noted any adverse effects on the landscape of Caldicot Castle? The castle floods very badly so constituents are very concerned about the proposed number of houses.

Members share concerns about active travel being incorporated at the outset, rather than as an afterthought. There are concerns about health and public transport for the proposed sites. We want to see high standards with regard to energy efficient homes. Members have raised infrastructure issues, especially in the SE corner of the county. We want people out of their cars but some residents travel out of the county and railways aren't always suitable. Affordable housing is welcome but, again, the infrastructure is vital. It is disappointing that no new allocations are forthcoming for Monmouth, but hopefully a solution will be found soon. We encourage residents to be part of the public consultation.

8. Speed limit of 20mph on the B4245

Graham Kinsella and Mark Hand delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Is this the only change proposed for the Severnside pilot, or are there likely to be others?

On the current amendment order, going to the Cabinet Member on 30th November, the only changes are the 2 stretches shown on the slide in the presentation (those in green, the part-time by Durand primary). Severnside members requested another change on the stretch between the eastern side of Undy and the western side of Rogiet: it's currently 40mph with a small 60mph section in the middle, with members suggesting that it all be 40mph. This wasn't included in Amendment Order 5 due to an error, but will be in Amendment Order 7 early in the new year.

The area around Durand primary school is a concern, as the criteria say there shouldn't be an exception within 100 metres of a school? What about lunchtime in relation to the school and times for the varying speed limits?

The exception criteria reference the distance to the entrance of a school. In this case, Durand's entrance is just off the B4245, leading to a great deal of discussion. The thinking is that as it's a primary school, occurrences of unsupervised children leaving at lunchtime will be rare.

How will the changing 20mph be signalled to drivers?

The intention is to sign it with flashing signs: the orange beacons will flash between this time and the sign will say '20mph when lights flash', so it will be clear to all drivers. We consulted with the school and these timings were their preference.

In light of the newly published Welsh Government exception guidance, is it possible that the proposed 20mph in Monmouth will change?

We don't know at this time but will go away and reply outside the meeting. **ACTION TO BE COMPLETED BY MARK HAND ONCE THE REVIEW HAS TAKEN PLACE**

Will a review be possible in, say, a year's time? Especially considering the possibility of unintended consequences e.g. with drivers avoiding the B4245 by going down narrow roads, resulting in near misses.

We are happy to do a holistic review of the B4245 with members. It would be worth meeting fairly soon to start shaping it. As a slight caveat, much of our resource in the next financial year is going to be on implementing the legislative change across Wales.

There is no school sign on the road outside Durand school – can that be looked at?

Yes, this is a good point, we will take that forward.

Will monitoring be in place, particularly concerning drivers creeping back up to 40mph?

There is one monitoring location directly in this area already. We will keep this in place and ensure that 30mph is adhered to. There are induction loops cut into the carriageway throughout both of the pilot areas – they will continue to monitor over the next 5 years.

Will this road be reviewed if the speed limits aren't working out?

Yes, we would look at that as part of the holistic review.

Will the route from Caldicot to Rogiet generally be 30mph now?

The only stretch being discussed is Woodstock Way up to Castle Gate roundabout – we aren't looking at any other changes on the B4245. Once in the settlement of Rogiet or Caldicot it will be 20mph, except for those areas just discussed.

How is a house regarded as 'fronting'? If the back or side of a house faces the road would they be counted? What about houses that front but are set back from the road?

It's frontage in a more general sense, particularly where the main entrance is located. All of the houses back on to the stretch that we are proposing goes back to 30mph – their front doors and main entrances are the other side. Even with a long front garden, a house would be classed as 'fronting'. The only difference would be if a home fronts a road but has separate access by a side street/shared driveway/cul de sac e.g. parts of Hereford Road in Abergavenny.

In Gilwern, the road goes from 60mph to 30mph. The biggest problem is that by the time drivers hit the 30 they are going too fast – will there be a problem with drivers dropping from 40 or 50 to 20 in time? Regarding Rogiet, are drivers going from 50 to 20 or 30 to 20?

We note these points. We have attempted to have 'gateway' features e.g. roundels on the road, signage clearly indicating 20 and speed indicator devices. Normally, buffers are in place and the speed reduces. In theory, drivers should be doing the limit by the time they hit the area, as there are warning signs beforehand.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to members for their comments and for officers in working with Severnside members to find a solution that will benefit residents. This will go to the Cabinet Member for approval on 30th November.

9. To agree to exclude press and public for the following items

10. Call-in: Land Adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School

Councillors Taylor and Howarth outlined the reasons for the call-in:

- *In 2018, the Council agreed to create a development company for the purpose of taking an interventionist approach to the local housing market. In 2020, there was testing and further discussion.*
- *Our understanding was that the site in question was considered in respect of the council's opportunity to learn, build internal capacity and develop its own knowledge about providing affordable units, the intention being to advance the development of a housing development company and use the Caldicot site as a test site.*
- *The report that went to Cabinet recently seemed to be a significant departure from that route of travel. A number of options available weren't fully explored, and we are now facing a very different financial situation.*
- *We contend that the process in arriving at the decision made by the Cabinet hasn't been fully transparent and not given consideration to all options.*
- *Areas on which we seek clarification include: the option to bid on this site wasn't completely open, that the Labour manifesto pledged to establish this housing company and not to enter into any asset disposals, the matter of capital receipt, and delegation to officers and a single cabinet member.*
- *Have we really appraised that this is the right option, given that this is a prime site, not an exception one?*
- *If we move forward with this site we will look for a significant capital receipt – if there is none, it would not be justifiable to the people of Monmouthshire.*

Following a discussion between members and officers, members stated that the report didn't contain sufficient detail – particularly in the options appraisal – but the majority were reassured as to the outcome. Officers wished to confirm that there would be a capital receipt as a result of this proposal.

Chair's Summary:

The Committee agreed to accept the Cabinet's decision, by a vote of 5-2.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 12th January 2024