



Camboaters Community Association

Summary of Camboaters Refuse and Recycling Survey, 13th September 2007

Introduction

In September 2007 the 70 residential boaters, licensed to moor in Cambridge by Cambridge City Council (CCC), were asked to record how much domestic refuse they dispose of each week, how much of this they recycle, and how they would like refuse collection and recycling services to be improved. This report summarises the findings of the survey. The questions asked in the survey are contained in Appendix 1 and a summary of responses is shown in Appendix 2.

Response

Completed surveys were returned from 17 boats, representing 24% of licensed residential boats in Cambridge.

How boaters dispose of refuse

Most people (76%) reuse carrier bags to dispose of their rubbish (fig 1.), only one boat exclusively used the orange bags provided by the City Council, while 18% of boats used both types of bag.

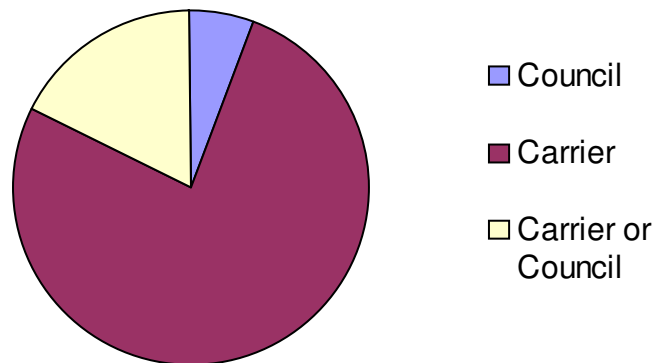


Fig. 1 – Type of refuse bag used.

Every boater who responded to the survey disposed of their rubbish in public bins on Jesus Green, Midsummer Common or Stourbridge Common.

Amount of refuse produced per week

Boaters disposed of an average of 2.2 (minimum 1, maximum 7) carrier bags of rubbish per boat per week (assuming 1 large orange CCC rubbish bag holds the same

as 3 carrier bags). If this figure is extrapolated to all 70 boats, an average of 154 carrier bags (or 51.3 large orange CCC rubbish bags) are disposed of by boaters each week.

Recycling

Of those boaters that responded to the survey, 94% recycled at least some of their rubbish. It is estimated that boaters dispose of 411 glass bottles, jars, etc. most of which (88%) they recycle. Most of the estimated 245 cans and tins (69%) are also recycled, while 56% of the estimated 150 papers, magazines, etc. disposed of were recycled but only 38% of the estimated 226 plastic bottles, etc. were recycled. No boaters who responded to the survey currently recycle compostable material.

Boaters generally used CCC recycling points close to the river, most frequently at Tesco on Newmarket Road (used by 47% of boaters), at Abbey Road (used by 35% of boaters) and at Mitcham's Corner (used by 24% of boaters). Other recycling centres used include at the Beehive Centre on Coldhams Lane and Milton Tip.

Improvements wanted by boaters

A total of eleven people made suggestions about improving refuse and recycling facilities. The commonest improvements suggested by boaters were as follows (number of people mentioning this in parentheses):

- A new recycling point near Jesus Green swimming pool (4)
- Access to this recycling facility restricted using EA (Abloy) key (3)
- Recycling boxes provided for boaters (3)
- Widen range of items that can be recycled at existing CCC recycling points (2)
- CCC refuse collection currently too expensive (2)
- Some means of recycling compostable material from boats (2)
- Engine oil recycling facility (1)
- Lifting (not fixed) grids covering existing bins (1)

Detailed suggestions are contained in Appendix 3.

Camboaters Committee 13th September 2007

Appendix 1. Camboaters Refuse and Recycling Survey

1. Boat name (this information <u>will not</u> be passed on to the Council)
--

2. What type of bin bags do you use (circle)?	Council/large bin bags	Shopping/ carrier bags
--	------------------------	------------------------

3. How many of bags of refuse of this size do you dispose of every week?	
---	--

4. Where do put your rubbish (circle)?	Public bin	Private bin
---	------------	-------------

5. How many of the following do you dispose of every week? (Please tick if you recycle these)		
Item	Number	Recycle?
Glass bottles, jars, etc.		
Metal cans, etc.		
Plastic bottles, etc.		
Newspapers, magazines, etc.		
Food waste & other composable material (number of bags)		

6. If you recycle which recycling point do you use? (Please tick)			
Abbey Road		Daily Bread, Kilmaine Close	
Adam & Eve Street		Greyhound Pub, Coldhams Lane	
Beehive Centre, Coldhams Lane		McDonalds, Newmarket Road	
Byron Square Recreation Ground		Mitcham's Corner	
Campkin Road		Park Street Car Park	
Castle Hill		Sainsbury's, Coldhams Lane	
Chesterton Recreation Ground, Church Street		The Ship Pub, Northfields Avenue	
Cowley Road Park & Ride		Tesco, Newmarket Road	
Other (plaeese specify)			

7. How would you like the refuse collection/recycling service improved?
--

Appendix 2. Summary of Responses to Camboaters Refuse and Recycling Survey

1. Response	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2. What type of bin bags do you use (1 = carrier, 0 = Council, 2 = both)?	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	1
3. How many small bags of refuse do you dispose of every week?	7	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	3
4. Where do you put your rubbish (1 = Public bin; 0 = Private bin)?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5a. How many of the following do you dispose of every week?																	
Glass bottles, jars, etc.	20	7	2	16	NR	10	7	5	2	2	9	1	1	4	3	5	1
Metal cans, etc.	0	2	2	10	NR	8	2	NR	2	8	1	3	0	3	3	7	2
Plastic bottles, etc.	3	3	2	7	NR	5	5	NR	2	2	0	3	0	6	4	5	3
Newspapers, magazines, etc.	10	2	0	0	NR	4	1	NR	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	7	1
Food waste & other composable material (number of bags)	3	1	0	4	NR	0	1	NR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5b. Do you recycle any of these (1 = Y, 0 = N)?																	
Glass bottles, jars, etc.	0	1	1	0	NR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Metal cans, etc.	0	0	1	0	NR	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Plastic bottles, etc.	0	0	1	0	NR	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Newspapers, magazines, etc.	0	0	0	0	NR	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Food waste & other composable material (number of bags)	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. If you recycle which recycling point do you use?																	
Abbey Road		1										1		1	1	1	1
Beehive Centre, Coldhams Lane												1					
Milton Landfill							1									1	
Mitcham's Corner	1		1									1	1				
Tesco, Newmarket Road						1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1	
None				1													

NR = No response

Appendix 3. Suggestions made by boaters to improve the refuse and recycling service

1. 'Camboaters idea of a recycling point at the lido would suit me fine and I would put all papers/bottles into the bins. At the moment the recycling point is too far for convenience.'
2. 'Would like to be able to recycle everything including plastic and compostable waste. Could have facility using the EA key we all use to get into the water point if worry about getting messy. Then boaters would be responsible. Also oil recycle facility would be very useful as boaters without cars can not easily take to civic amenity.'
3. 'Would like a box like houses have but beside the bins on Stoubridge Common. But if not then the present arrangement is OK as it is no difficulty to recycle every day while travelling to work.'
4. 'All of the bins should have lids that lift! I've had to carry heavy bags several hundred metres because I couldn't get them in some of the bins – can you imagine a Cambridge householder putting up with that? I've also seen people on the common pile their bagged litter on top of the bin because it wouldn't fit, only to see it then spread over the common by animals.'

I have used the Abbey Road point but, like many other central recycling points, it does not accept all recyclables so we use Milton dump. However, this means using the car and although we try to combine it with shopping trips to Milton Tesco, this is far from ideal as we would otherwise shop by bicycle.

Any refuse or collection service should accept all recyclables: Glass, metal cans, plastic, paper, cardboard, compost, and, ideally, polymer/board/foil packaging such as tetra-paks. By plastic, I mean any plastic marked with a recycling code (ie not just bottles!) as this constitutes the largest remaining element of my non-recycled refuse – I'd be happy to further sort my plastic waste into the different types of plastic. I'd also be happy for a portion of my mooring licence fee to be spent on taking recycling to the next level and beyond what householders currently enjoy. Perhaps the boating community could act as a trial for improved recycling?

Remember that we don't have a lot of room on boats and most of us are moored some distance from roads – any scheme should be frequent or readily accessible and should not involve umpteen different types of bin.

If collection points are used, these should be monitored so that the size or emptying frequency can be adjusted as required. Simple access control such as the abloy key used elsewhere on the river or CCTV could be used to dissuade people from abusing or vandalising the scheme. I would very much welcome sitting a recycling point at the water points.'

5. 'I would like the box recycling scheme extended to boats.'

6. 'Very happy just putting the few bags that have to go in the bin in the nearby public bins on the common. Wouldn't be very environmentally friendly or cost efficient to have collections from the boat for just this. Recycling is much harder on a boat than in a house though. Have to cycle rubbish to recycling point, not too bad, but no plastic recycling near to river. More importantly, we have little green buckets for compostable material, but nowhere to empty them. Used to stealth-raid De Freville and empty onto someone's green bin, but can't be bothered anymore worried will be confused for a terrorist.'

7. 'My wife said she would empty the bins for £10,000 per year!!

We don't really mind how its done but obviously the current cost is ridiculous. We don't generate much waste (mostly its food packaging) and junk mail gets disposed of at work. Paper gets used to kindle the fire in the winter. We take big stuff to the Milton recycle centre. Easily combustible items go on the fire (in the winter).'

8. 'The same as all the other City residents for recycling – i.e. weekly box collections. Rubbish bins should be collected as they always have been on the commons, as they receive public waste as well as ours. I would like to be able to put my rubbish into all the bins, rather than on top of most of them, as this presents less of a hazard for the cows/horses and scavenging wildlife on the commons, as well as making It less likely that the rubbish will be blown into the river.'

9. 'I think it's good but too expensive. Why not have a big bin at either end of Riverside, with an Abloy lock on it? This would be far cheaper for the Council to deal with and ought to make the mooring licences cheaper (but probably won't). Surely if we decide to live on a common away from the road it's our responsibility to walk our rubbish down to a collection point.'

10. I would much rather that the cost of refuse collection is deleted from the mooring fee entirely and that the license includes an agreement to dispose of all rubbish at one of the nearby public recycling/waste points. OR boaters could purchase rubbish bag stickers from council as needed & then attach them to bin bags to be left & collected from the deck of the boat.

11. 'Individual collection from boats not very cost effective, as would have to be regular as no space to store. Therefore, sensible suggestion is refuse points for ALL types of recycling at regular points along the river (preferably where can moor, but understand not always feasible). The water point would be a great spot.'