

**QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC
UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 24 September 2025**

Question from: **Anna Carlton**

Question to: **Councillor Danielle Durrans**

QUESTION

What does the Council propose to do about the bin issue in Hebden Bridge, following removal of several bins by Calder Holmes Park and reduced collections. Since removal the area has become strewn with litter, fly tipping and rodents cited and ignored and residents have just learnt that the statutory pest control service was cut. The council has a statutory duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, to keep it's borough free from rodents and should not be contributing to the problem as is now evident.

RESPONSE

Litter is an issue that matters to residents and businesses.

It also affects what others think of our towns and villages.

It is, therefore, important that the council has a clear plan for keeping Calderdale's streets and green spaces clean and tidy.

The challenge is to do this within the resources available and so the council is reviewing its street cleansing operations to better align with current staffing levels and budget constraints.

Our overall strategy is to ensure we have an adequate network of litter bins, in the right place, and of the right type for the volumes of litter generated in each location, and to make sure that we can empty these consistently.

In terms of Hebden Bridge, there are 55 public litter bins in and around the town centre and these are emptied at least once a day, with those that see most use (such as in the heart of the town centre/around the market) being emptied more frequently. The bins in the park in particular may fill up late afternoon and evening, but they will always be emptied as soon as possible the following morning.

Only four bins have been removed over the past three years - two from the Rochdale Canal near lock number nine, one from Burnley Road, and one from Station Road.

The canal bins were removed because the Canal and Rivers Trust indicated that, due to the need to reduce costs, they could no longer fund their servicing and upkeep; the one on Burnley Road was not well used and was also difficult for the operative to empty due to its location; and the bin on Station Road was being repeatedly misused by people depositing household and commercial waste (and there is an alternative bin available nearby on the main walking route).

In terms of street sweeping, Hebden Bridge is swept once a week, either Monday or Tuesday at 5.30a.m. (when few people are about to see this happen).

Hebden Bridge also benefits from the services of a dedicated operative who uses a barrow and is responsible for the cleanliness of the town centre and surrounding area. His round takes him from Calder Holmes Park up into the town centre, emptying bins and litter picking as necessary, prioritising the main streets and pedestrian areas. As well as litter picking, the operative will sweep up glass, cigarette ends and any other detritus. During the winter, when footfall is less, he will undertake other tasks, such as 'grubbing out' weeds, to improve the look of the town.

We are also fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers across Calderdale who help keep their local areas clean, and this includes Hebden Bridge.

We support registered volunteers and ad hoc litter pick groups by providing litter picking equipment and removing the rubbish they collect.

For the wider public, who might not want to volunteer, our simple request is:

- Please use the bins provided.
- If a bin has been moved or removed, please do not leave your rubbish where the bin used to be – take it to the nearest available bin.
- If bins are full, please do not leave litter on top or around the bin. Use the nearest available bin or take your litter home.
- Report litter hotspots to us.
- Let us know if a bin is being used inappropriately, such as being filled with domestic or commercial waste.

So, whilst we might not have the level of resources that were available to us in the past, we have a clear plan to make sure we get the best out of what we do have to address an issue which we know matters a lot to local people.