

Recycling Banks Consultation

Results

Introduction

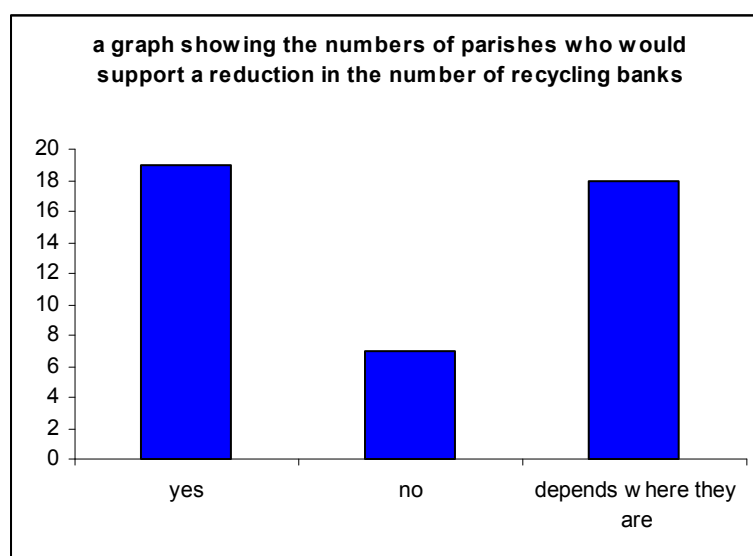
1. The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Head - Healthy Environment- with the results of the 2009 surveys carried out on recycling banks.
2. Three surveys were prepared during April 2009. One was sent to 77 parish councils, one to 6 supermarkets (as these have the highest tonnages), and one was placed on the website for the public to give us their views.
3. The consultation was undertaken primarily to inform a decision that has to be taken with respect to the future of the recycling banks. The content of the survey was amended slightly according to the group being contacted and included questions on:
 - Retention of the recycling banks
 - Whether the recycling banks provide a valuable service and provide value for money
 - Reducing the number of recycling banks whilst still ensuring district-wide coverage
 - Completely withdrawing from the provision of recycling banks
 - Whether day to day management issues cause a problem for the supermarkets
 - Whether supermarkets would be interested in taking over the running of the banks located in their car parks
4. 47 responses were received from parish councils, a response rate of 61%. 2 responses were returned from the supermarkets, a response rate of 33.3%, and to date 26 responses have been received from the consultation placed on the website.
5. Copies of the respective surveys have been attached for your information.

Details of report

Consultation with parish councils

6. Parish councils were asked if recycling banks were something their parish would like to retain. 51% of the respondents stated that they were, 20% said they wouldn't and around a quarter didn't answer as they did not have a recycling bank in their parish.

7. They were then asked if they thought that recycling banks provided a valuable service and value for money. 70% thought that they provided a valuable service, with 20% disagreeing. Interestingly, when asked if they thought the banks provided value for money, 42% said yes (a significantly lower percentage), 30% said no, and 28% didn't know.
8. When asked for their opinion if the council were to scale down the number of recycling banks provided, restricting them to those that have the highest tonnages whilst still ensuring district-wide coverage, 43% said that they would support this. 40% said that it would depend on where the banks were located and 16% stated that they wouldn't support this course of action. The number of parishes choosing each option is shown in graphical format below.



9. Parishes were then asked if the council were to withdraw completely from providing recycling banks, what their opinion would be. Half answered "No, I do not support it, but I do understand why the council is considering it". 28% said that they would support the withdrawal of recycling banks and 23% did not support it and didn't understand why the council is considering it.
10. Responses were received from across the district, with all postcode areas represented. This is shown the table below.

postcode area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	NG31	2	4.3	4.4	4.4
	NG32	10	21.7	22.2	26.7
	NG33	9	19.6	20.0	46.7
	NG34	6	13.0	13.3	60.0
	PE06	1	2.2	2.2	62.2
	PE09	4	8.7	8.9	71.1
	PE10	9	19.6	20.0	91.1
	NG23	4	8.7	8.9	100.0
	Total	45	97.8	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.2		
Total		46	100.0		

Consultation with supermarkets

11. As part of this consultation exercise, the 6 supermarkets which collected the highest tonnages from the recycling banks situated in their car parks were contacted and two responded.
12. When asked if the recycling banks were something they would like to retain, 1 organisation said yes, one said no. When asked if they thought that the recycling banks encouraged people to visit their supermarket, 1 said yes, 1 said no.
13. Both respondents thought that the location of the recycling banks and the day to day management of them caused their organisation problems.
14. When asked if they would be interested in taking over the operation of the recycling banks located at their supermarket, both responses given were favourable. One stated that they would consider it, but would require further information and the other that they would be prepared to work in partnership and share the costs.

Consultation with the public via the website

15. To date 26 responses from members of the public have been received from the survey placed on the website.
16. People were asked the same set of questions that parishes were asked. When asked if recycling banks were something they would like to retain, 61.5% said yes and 38.4% said no.
17. 57.6% thought that recycling banks were a valuable service, 42.3% thought that they weren't. Interestingly, a similar percentage to the parishes (38.4%) thought the recycling banks provided value for money, 50% thought that they didn't. 11.5% did not know.

18. When asked if they would support the council if it limited the number of recycling banks it provided to those that collect the highest tonnages, whilst still ensuring district –wide coverage, 61.5% said that they would support this course of action. 34.6% said that they wouldn't and 3.84% didn't know.
19. Respondents were then asked what their opinion would be if they were to stop providing recycling banks altogether. 30.7% would support the withdrawal of the service, 19.2% said that they wouldn't. 38.4% did not support it and don't understand why the council is considering it.

Conclusion

20. The results from these surveys will help to inform the decision that has to be taken with respect of the future of the recycling banks. A more complete picture will be made available when the website consultation has run its course.

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Performance Management and Engagement
8th June 2009