
Assessing the Advantages and Disadvantages of Bring Bank and Kerbside Recycling in the Parish of Grouville

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Parish of Grouville
Connétable Mark Labey

Introduction

Holme Grown has kindly provided a bring bank site for approximately 23 years without charging for the use of the land. At present, the Government of Jersey is responsible for managing the collection service from the bring bank site, who have confirmed that Holme Grown are 2nd in the island for volume of recyclables collected. However, due to the increase of popularity of the site and the associated increase in maintenance requirements, Holme Grown has indicated that it is seeking a land rental fee of £14,000 per annum from the Parish of Grouville.

On Thursday, 14 October 2021, the Parish held an Assembly to discuss the merits or otherwise of kerbside collection of refuse, to improve recycling in the Parish and decide upon the course of action that the Parish should take on this matter. The recorded outcome noted that 40 were in favour of recycling, with 39 against. However, the extent of this support, particularly whether it related specifically to kerbside collection or to recycling provision more generally, was not clearly defined in the minutes. It should also be noted that a bring bank arrangement was already in place at the time.

Following assurances from the Connétable, Mark Labey, that a further Assembly on recycling would be held, the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public, have been engaging with contractors to try and obtain estimates for both bring bank and kerbside collection services. This information is to enable parishioners to better understand the associated costs and practical conversations involved in introducing or expanding services within a small Parish.

Bring Bank

How it works

- Residents take cardboard, paper, cans, plastics and batteries to a central recycling point; currently Holme Grown.
- Large containers are available at the site to dispose of recyclables and are usually monitored by the collecting drivers.

Advantages

- **Lower Costs**
No monthly collection rounds and less fuel used by collection vehicles. No specific bags are required to separate items.
- **Better Quality Recycling**
People tend to separate materials more carefully, thus less contamination.
- **Community Ownership**
Encourages responsibility and awareness; people actively choose to recycle.
- **Flexible Capacity**
Bring banks can be emptied when full rather than on a fixed schedule.
- **Tidier**
Bring bank facilities use large containers that reduces littering and keeps recyclables protected from certain weather conditions.
- **Ideal for Small Populations**
The 2021 Census reported that the total resident population in Grouville was 5,401 people, which is an ideal size for a Bring Bank to work. The Connétable is aware residents from other parishes visiting Holme Grown may also deposit their recyclables whilst there.

Disadvantages

- **Accessibility**
The facility may be inconvenient for those who are disabled, senior citizens, or those without their own mode of transport. However, the 2021 Census reported that only 5% of households were without a car/van.
- **Traffic**
Depending on the location of the site, there is a risk, particularly on weekends, of an increase of traffic.
- **Risk of Overflow or Fly-tipping**
If not monitored closely, full banks can discourage use.

Kerbside Recycling

How it works

- Recyclables are collected monthly from each home, exactly the same as we currently do for glass collections.

Advantages

- **Participation**
The convenience of kerbside recycling may encourage more people to recycle.
- **Accessibility**
More accessible to people who can't easily travel to a bring bank.

Disadvantages

- **Higher Costs**
Vehicles must travel every street in the Parish on a regular schedule, which increases fuel and likely higher contract costs to cover vehicle maintenance and employees. Bin bags or boxes need to be purchased regularly. The 2021 Census reported that there were 2,352 total dwellings in the Parish.

Route planning (especially during road closures), customer communication, missed collections all add ongoing administrative costs. Regular vehicle routes for a small population can be inefficient. Collection vehicles will visit all households even if there is no recycling to collect.

- **Participation**
Parishioners' participation may be high to start, however can drop to 35% after a few months. Having multiple bin bags inside someone's home may not be convenient for everybody. Not all premises/households have the facility to store multiple recycling bags. The 2021 Census reported that 76% of properties in Grouville were houses and 23% were flats (these figures exclude vacant properties).
- **More Contamination**
People often put the wrong items in their bags or boxes, in which case everything is considered contaminated and will not get recycled.
- **Littering**
Bags or boxes left outside can blow over in windy conditions, contents could be spilled onto pavements and roads, be torn open by seagulls and therefore creating mess outside resident's homes and on the streets.
- **Less Visible Community Engagement**
Kerbside recycling increases convenience for some, however it also reduces community interaction and collective responsibility.

Estimated Costs

In accordance with the Procurement Policy, the identities and details of the contractors approached shall be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party, or individuals not directly involved.

Bring Bank Collection

Three contractors were invited to quote for bring bank collections in Grouville. One contractor quoted £63,000 for the collection of cardboard, plastic and household metal. A separate contractor quoted £7,000 for the collection of paper, coming to a total of £70,000. However, at the time of writing this report, a further quotation from one more contractor is still pending.

Building a New Bring Bank Facility next to the Parish Depot

Two contractors were invited to quote for a new bring bank facility next to the Parish Depot, however only one quote was received for £79,501 to install a concrete slab only. This quotation does not include structural engineer designs, any planning or bye law applications, or similar and did not include a provisions for dayworks should something unexpected occur.

If a new facility is developed, several associated costs and risks should be considered. These may include the need to employ additional staff to monitor the area, as well as the purchase of large waste containers and the installation of appropriate lighting to ensure safe use should there be low visibility. It is also likely that the turning circle for the trucks would need reinforcing, which approximately costs £30,000.

There is also potential traffic and safety concerns relating to increased vehicle movements on La Rue de Grouville, which is narrow and occasionally used. This may lead to safety risks and could generate complaints from nearby residents.

Operational impacts should also be considered for existing depot users, including staff requiring safe and efficient access, as well as organisations such as the Battle of Flowers that utilise the site.

Environmental concerns have also been raised, particularly regarding potential pollution risks to adjacent fields and the wetland meadow.

At present, there is no other suitable land owned by the Parish on which to locate a bring bank site, which would otherwise avoid the need to incur land rental costs. The development of a new facility is all subject to planning permission.

Kerbside Recycling

Two contractors were invited to quote for kerbside recycling, however only one quote was received for £69,814, subject to review once a month.

Summary

Factor	Bring Bank	Kerbside
Cost	Low	High
Convenience	Medium	High
Cleanliness	Medium/High	Medium/Low
Participation	Medium/High	Medium
Recycling quality	High	Medium
Community engagement	Medium/High	Low
Best for	Small, engaged communities	Larger towns/cities

A well-run bring bank system will perform better than kerbside recycling at a fraction of the cost, with cleaner recycling streams.

Effect On Rates

			Qtrs. as at 2025	On Combined	On Combined
			78,781,626	25,000	40,000
<i>Continue paying land rental to Holme Grown</i>	£14,000	Per Qtr.	0.000177706	4.44	7.11
<i>The introduction of kerbside recycling*</i>	£69,814	Per Qtr.	0.000886171	22.15	35.45
<i>To take over bring bank collections</i>	£70,000	Per Qtr.	0.000888532	22.21	35.54
<i>To build a new bring bank site by the Parish Depot**</i>	£79,501	Per Qtr.	0.001009131	25.23	40.37
<i>Combined estimates of taking over bring bank collections and paying land rental at Holme Grown</i>	£84,000	Per Qtr.	0.001066238	26.66	42.65
<i>Combined estimates of a new bring bank site and collections</i>	£149,501	Per Qtr.	0.001897663	47.44	75.91
<i>Combined estimates of a new bring bank site and collections, and kerbside recycling</i>	£219,315	Per Qtr.	0.002783834	69.60	111.35

* a reminder that this quote is subject for review every month and could increase substantially.

** not a final quotation as other factors have not been accounted for.