

Dudley Road Household Rubbish Survey 2004

A survey of residents living in Dudley Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells was conducted during December 2004 to establish associated problems with household rubbish and the reasons why large volumes are left on the high street.

200 questionnaire were sent out, 35 responding, representing a response rate of 18%.

What's the Research telling us?

- There is a problem with household rubbish in Dudley Road.
- The problem appears to be quite bad, particularly on Monday, Tuesday and Friday's and has got worse over the last 2 years.
- The biggest cause appears to be no where else to leave it, other than on the pavement, and a lack of communal bins.
- The Council is seen to be most responsible for keeping the street clean from rubbish.
- People think it's acceptable to keep their rubbish indoors for up to 3 days.
- Most people are able to keep their rubbish contained, in bins / bags inside or in a wheelie bin.
- The use of black refuse sacks is high.
- Refuse is mainly put out the evening before collection.
- More could be done to encourage residents of Dudley Road to recycling more household kitchen waste and make better use of their paper / cardboard recycling box. This could help reduce the volume of waste generated at the door step.
- If a long term solution is required to ensure the problem doesn't continue to get worse, there is potential in exploring two options further. Modify the road to accommodate large communal bins and to provide a dedicated area of car-parking in a multi-storey for Dudley road residents that is safe, secure and well light.
- Providing small wheelie bins (free of charge) is an option for a small group of people.
- Monday and Thursday are alternative days for household rubbish collections.
- Residents feel the council should put greater pressures on landlords to resolve the problem.

Executive Summary

Refuse problems

- The vast majority (91.4%) think there is a problem with household rubbish.
- Over three quarters (77.2%) think the problem is very bad.
- The main cause(s) for household rubbish being left on the pavement are:
 - No where else to leave it/store it (41.7%)
 - Lack of communal bins (20.8%)
 - Residents' laziness (20.8%)
- Almost three fifths (57.1%) believe it is inevitable that household rubbish is left on the pavement.

Better, worse or stayed the same

- Just over half (51.4%) believe the situation has got worse over the last 2 years. Just over one in ten felt things have improved (11.4%), with 8.6% stating things had stayed the same.

Who's responsibility?

- Almost three quarters (64.1%) think its TWBC's responsibility to keep household rubbish off the pavement. Almost two fifths (38.5%) think its residents' responsibility.

Household refuse storage

- Two fifths (37.5%) think its reasonable to keep household rubbish indoors for 1-2 days, followed by a further (25%) that think its ok for 2-3 days.
- The third largest proportion (15.6%) don't believe its acceptable to keep rubbish indoors.
- Prior to collection:
 - Over three fifths (48.5%) keep rubbish inside:
 - 20.7% keep rubbish in their kitchen bin and 27.8% keep it in plastic bags inside until collection day.
 - Just over a quarter 27.8% keep it in a wheelie bin.
 - A fifth (10.3%) keep it in plastic bags outside their house, but within their boundary until collection day, with a minority 3.4% placing their rubbish on the pavement.
 - Over four fifths (88.6%) use black refuse sacks.
 - Three fifths (59.9%) put rubbish out the evening before collection day.
 - 28.6% do so when either their kitchen bin or black bag is full, with the minority 2.9% doing so when it begins to smell.

Household refuse problems

- Household rubbish appears to be worse on Monday (57.1%), Tuesday (51.4%) and Friday (42.9%).
- Over the weekend, the problem is bad for 34.3% of residents.

Recycling

- Just over half use local recycling facilities (51.4%), falling to less than one fifth (17.1%) recycling their paper/cardboard using their green box.

Communal bins

- To accommodate large communal bins in Dudley Road:
 - 40% are prepared to lose up to six car-parking spaces. 48.6% are not
 - 48.6% are prepared to park in town centre multi-storey car parks free of charge. 42.9% are not.

Smaller wheelie bins

- Almost two fifths (37.1%) would be able to store a small wheelie bin off the pavement/highway until collection day.
 - Of this proportion, 38.5% would store it in a garden, 15.4% in an alley way.
- Of those not able to accommodate a small wheelie bin (51.4%):
 - 11.4% would keep their household rubbish inside using black refuse sacks until collection, and 5.7% would make better use of recycling facilities.
 - Two fifths (40%) do not have a problem with their refuse.

Household refuse collections

- Almost two thirds (64.7%) are happy with the current household refuse collection days; Wednesday and Saturday.
- Of those not happy (28.6%), 22.9% think it would be better on a Monday and 14.3% think a Thursday.

Solutions

- Almost half (48.6%) think the Council should take legal action against residents who leave their household rubbish on the pavement or hanging from railings in Dudley Road.
- Almost three quarters (74.3%) think the Council should force landlords to take more responsibility to provide adequate facilities to store rubbish, and 51.4% for the behaviour of the tenants.
- Finally, residents were asked what solution(s) would help resolve the issue of household rubbish being kept/dumped on the pavement:
 - The majority indicated install large communal bins (65.7%)
 - Take legal actions against offenders (34.3%)

- More smaller wheelie bins (31.4%)
- Households to recycle more (25.7%)
- Almost two fifths (37.1%) have lived in Dudley Road less than 12 months.
- 62.9% live in a flat / studio type accommodation.
- 45.5% are aged 25-34, 12.1% aged 35-44 and 18.2% aged 55-64.