

Runnymede Borough Council

Dog Waste and Litter Bin Consultation

June 2023

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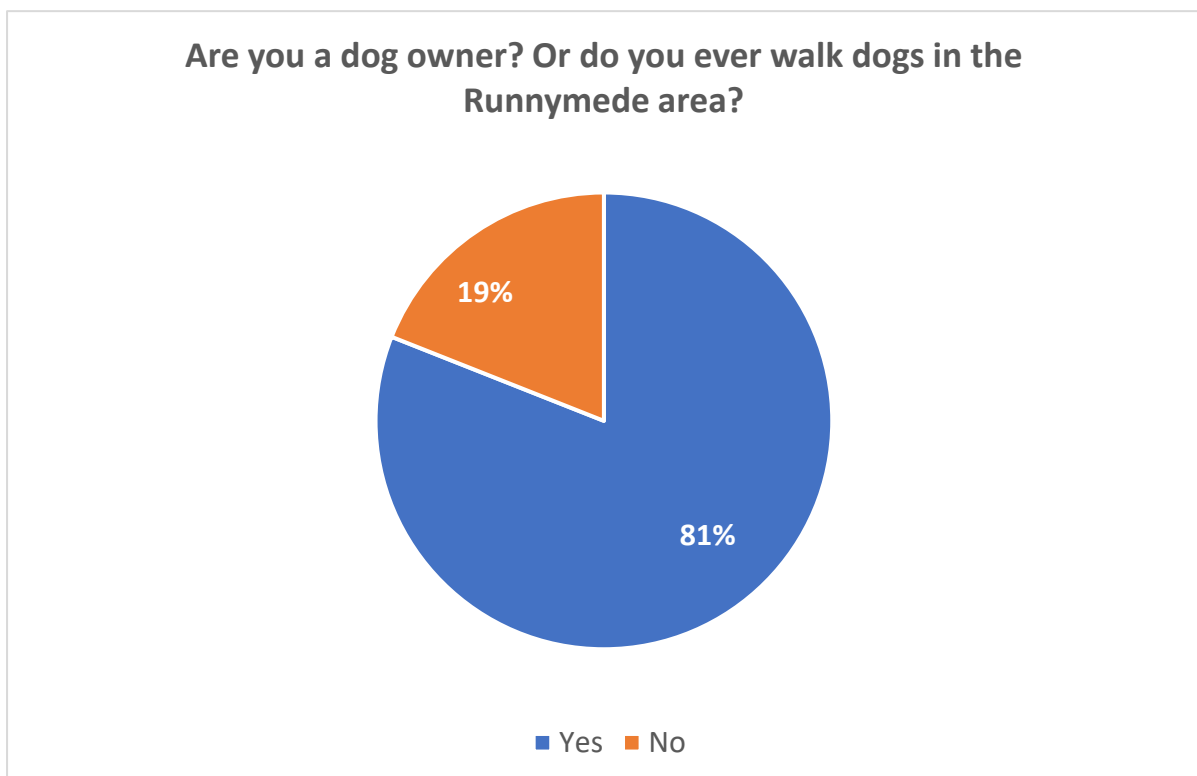
RBC Dog Waste and Litter Bin Consultation

The dog waste and litter bin consultation was distributed in the form of an online survey with the aim to hear Runnymede's residents' thoughts on the RBC's proposal to phase out dog waste bins in Runnymede's streets, open spaces and parks, and replacing them with general waste bins. The survey was posted on RBC's social media on the 9th of May 2023, the survey was open for four weeks and closed on the 6th of June 2023. Seventy anonymous Runnymede residents completed the survey by answering the six questions survey.

Results of the Consultation

1. Are you a dog owner? Or do you ever walk dogs in the Runnymede area?

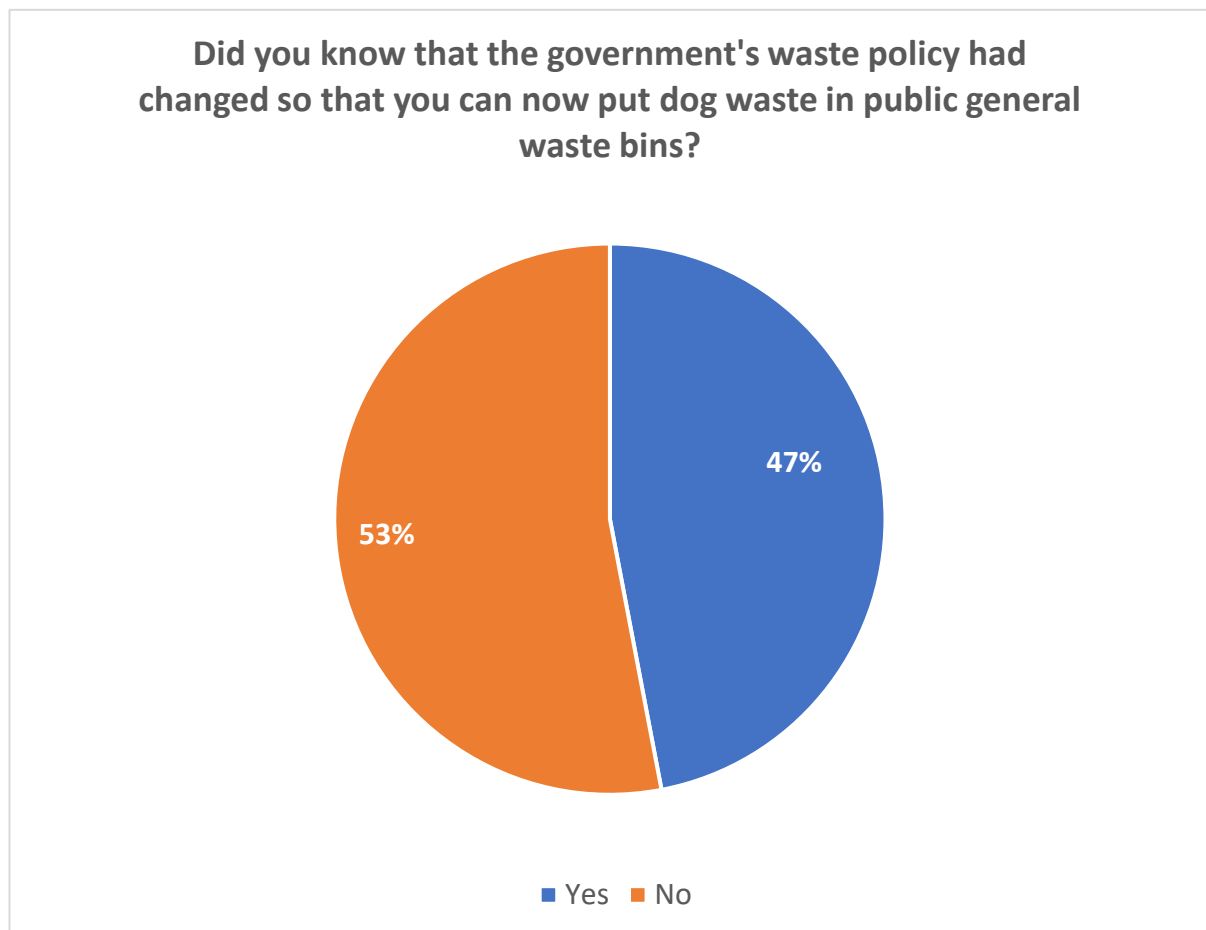
Of the 70 respondents, 57 (81%) were dog owners or residents who walked dogs in the Runnymede area. 13 respondents (19%) were not dog owners and did not walk dogs in the Runnymede area.



2. Did you know that the government's waste policy had changed so that you can now dispose of dog waste in public general waste bins?

Of the 70 respondents, 33 reported (47%) that they did know that dog waste could be disposed of in general waste bins. 37 residents reported (53%) that they did not know that the policy had changed so that dog waste could be disposed of in general waste bins.

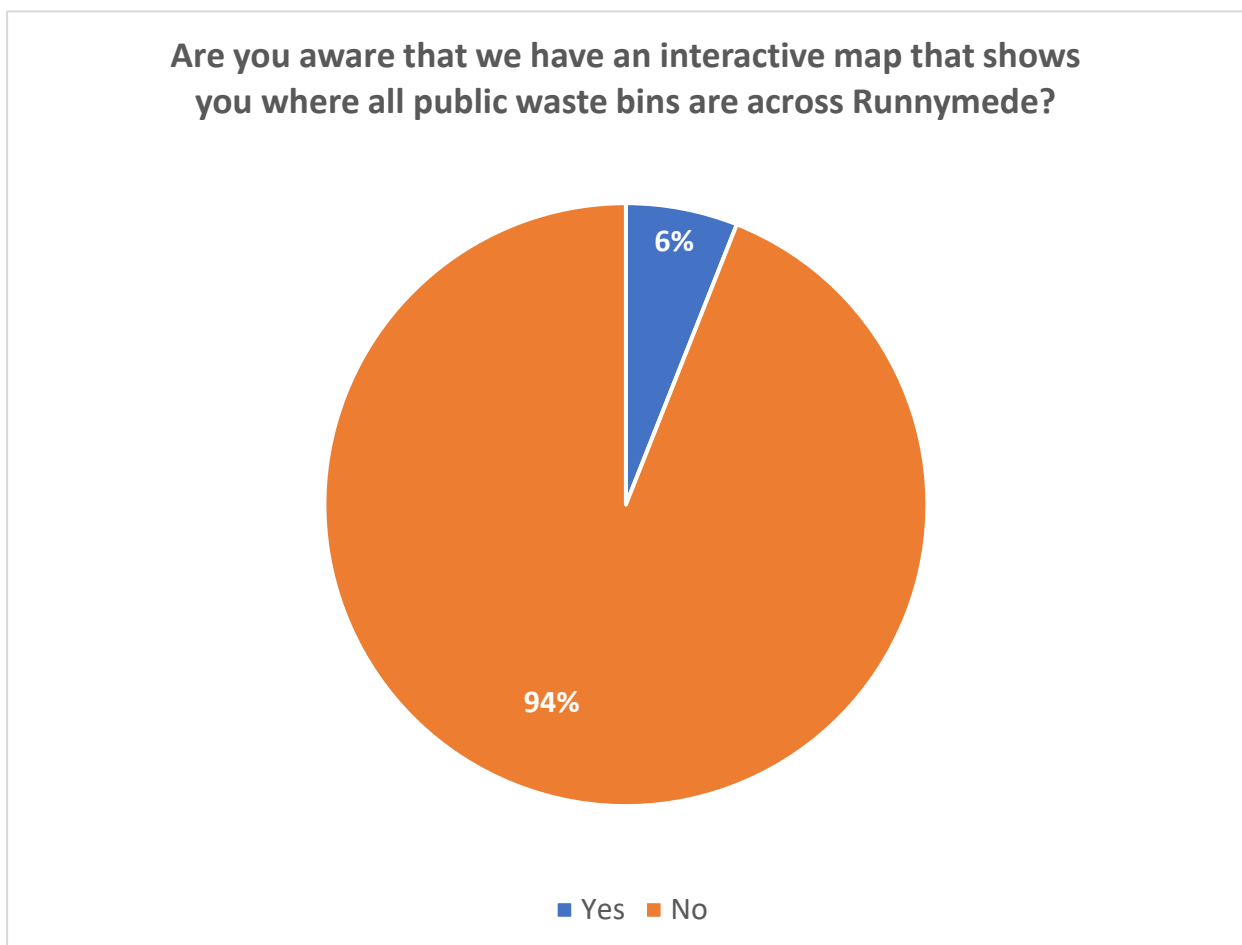
Action: We are going to put in place more comms work on social media and other channels to inform more residents that dog waste can be disposed of in general waste bins. The comms team have designed new signage that will be printed on stickers and will be placed on the public bins around the borough to show residents that dog waste can be disposed of in general litter bins.



3. Are you aware that we have an interactive map that shows you where all public waste bins are across Runnymede?

Of the 70 respondents, only 4 of them (6%) knew of the interactive map that illustrates how many public waste bins there are in Runnymede and where they are located. 66 respondents (94%) stated that they did not know of the interactive public waste bin map on RBC's website.

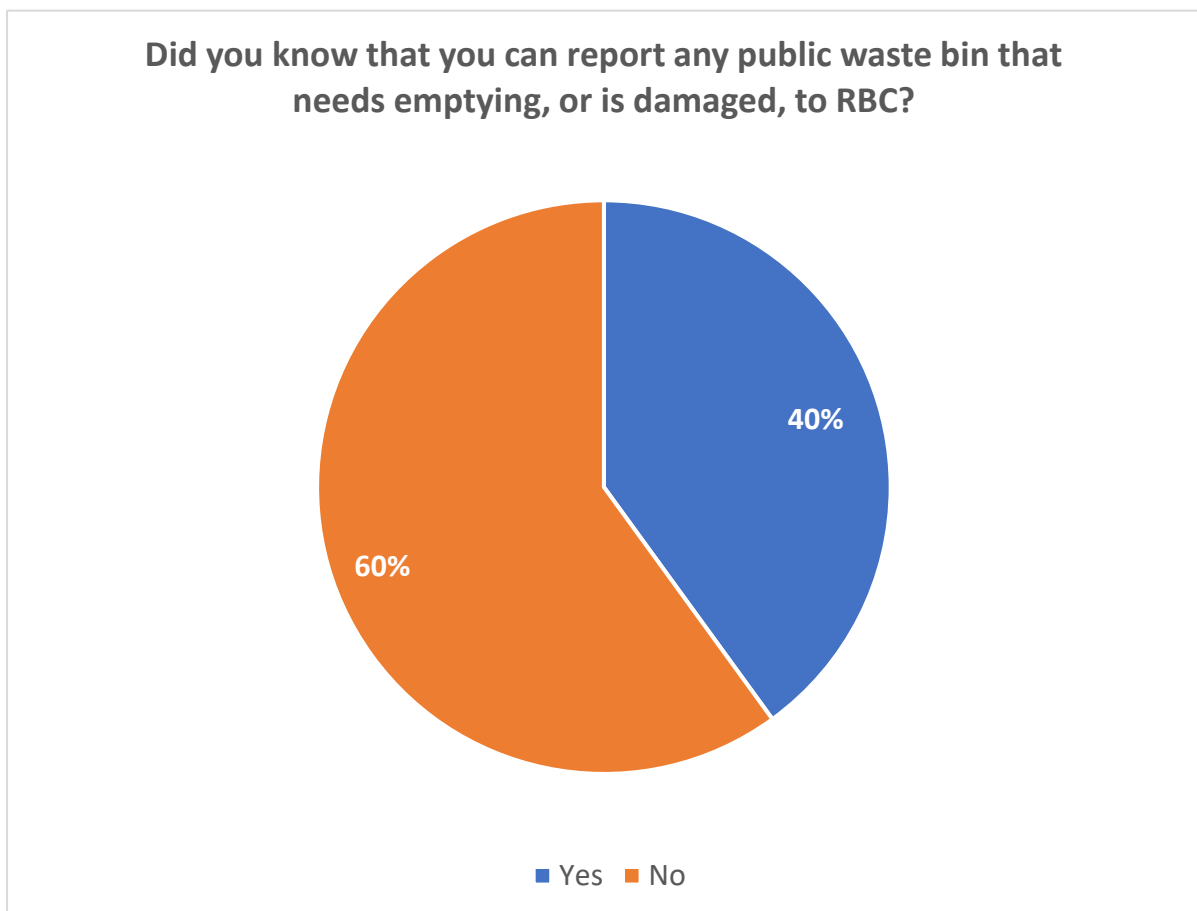
Action: The comms team are going to work on this by using social media posts to inform more residents of this tool on our website.



4. Did you know that you can report any public waste bin that needs emptying, or is damaged, to Runnymede Borough Council?

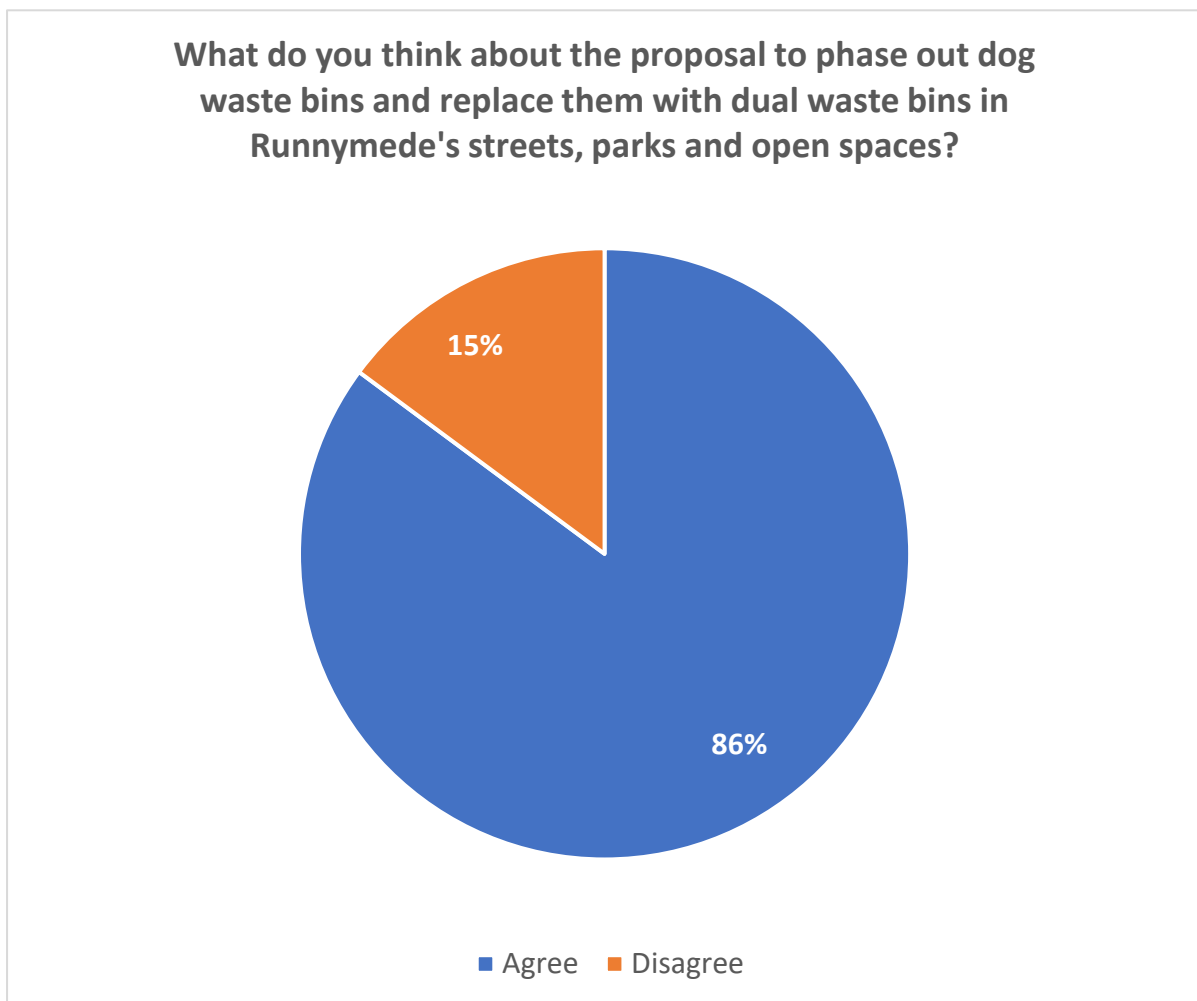
Of the 70 respondents, 28 (40%) knew of the 'report it' function for public waste bins on RBC's website, and 42 (60%) had not heard of the function.

Action: The comms team are going to put out more information over our social media channels to inform more residents of this feature on RBC's website. We are also going to print labels to stick on public bins in the borough of a QR code that will directly take residents to the 'report it' webpage. This means that if a resident sees that a bin in Runnymede's streets, open spaces or parks is damaged or needs emptying, they will be able to scan the QR code on the bin and report exactly which bin needs to be managed very quickly and efficiently.



5. What do you think about the council phasing out dog waste bins and replacing them with dual use waste bins which are badged to say that they can be used for both litter and dog waste in Runnymede's streets, open spaces and parks?

Of the 70 respondents, 60 residents (86%) agreed with the proposed policy to phase out dog waste bins. 10 of the respondents (14%) disagreed with the proposal to implement dual waste bins in Runnymede's streets, parks and open spaces.



6. Our proposed new Litter Bin policy can be found below. Please let us know if you are generally in approval of the new policy.

Runnymede Bin Policy:

- *Litter bins will be located in Runnymede towns and open spaces to support our duty under the Environmental Act 1990 to keep our land clear of litter and refuse.*
- *Bins will be replaced when broken beyond repair and where a continuing need for a bin is demonstrated.*
- *The style and size of bins will be chosen to reflect the location with all new bins to be lidded where possible.*
- *New bins will have signs to state that dog waste can be deposited.*
- *New bins will be to a standard design where possible to ensure ease of opening and emptying.*
- *High street bins will be emptied daily. In other locations bins will be emptied according to season, weather, and local demand with the overarching aim to empty all bins before they overflow.*
- *Overflowing or damaged bins can be reported via the website at: <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/street-cleaning-1/public-waste-bins>*
- *Subject to consultation, from May 2023 we will commence a program to remove all dog waste bins with signposting to explain that dog waste can be deposited into any litter bin.*
- *Additional litter bins will be provided where capacity dictates.*
- *The Depot can provide and collect refuse and recycling bins to support events held in our open spaces. These are subject to a fee as specified in our schedule of rates listed on the website.*

For the final question of the survey an open-ended question was put to the respondents to allow them to answer in an open text format. Of the 70 respondents, 44 of them completely approved with the new litter bin policy and supported RBC in the phasing out of dog waste bins. In addition, 6 respondents also agreed with the new policy, provided overall bin capacity does not decrease and there is a clear commitment to replace all dog waste bins with general purpose bins.

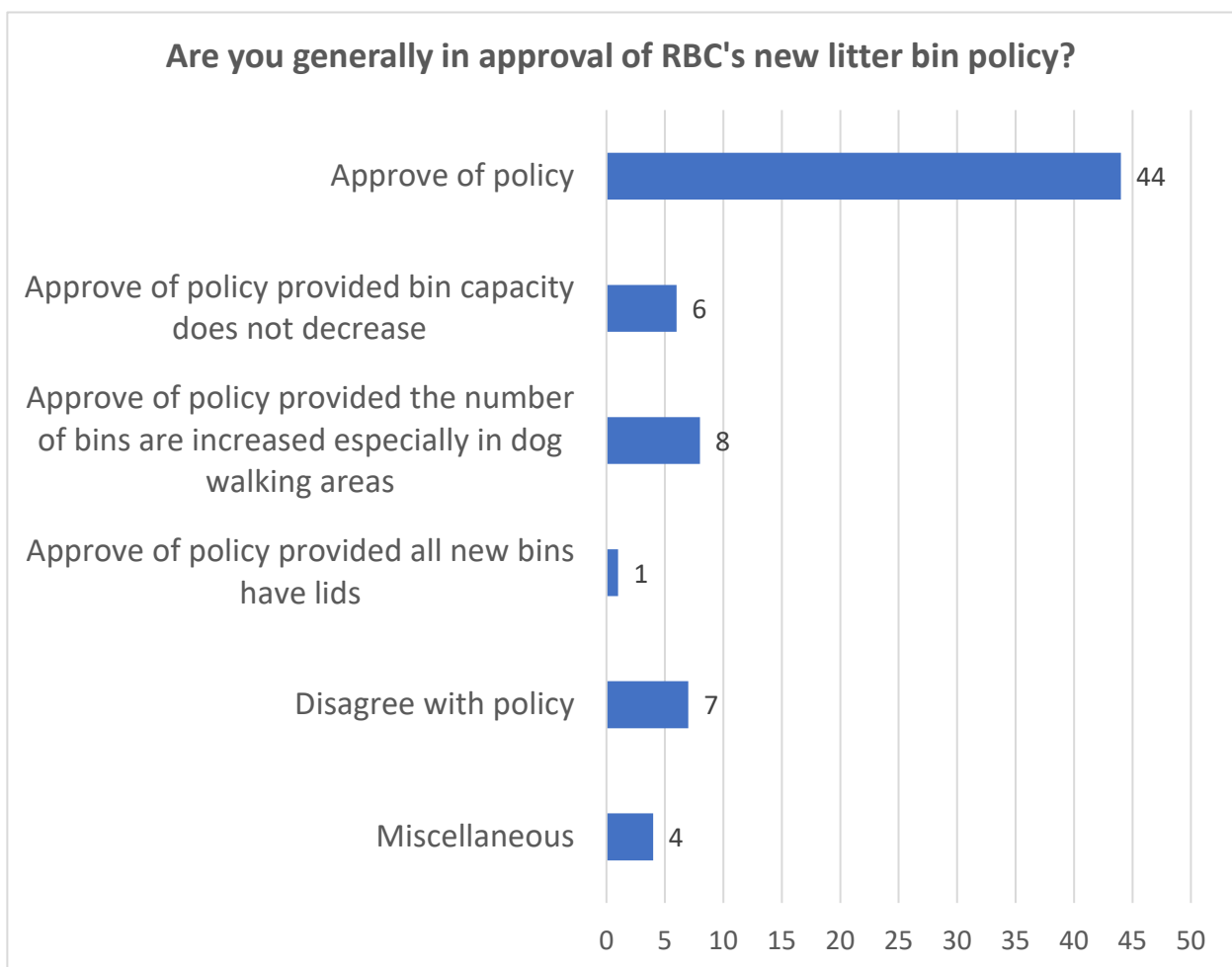
Further, 8 other respondents approved of the new policy, but these respondents stated that more bins should be implemented, especially in popular dog walking areas, because the current capacity is insufficient. One other respondent also approved of the policy, but only if all the new bins have lids due to the concern about the odour of dog waste.

For this final question of the survey only 7 respondents stated that they were not in approval of the new policy to phase out dog waste bins in Runnymede's streets, open spaces and parks. Some of these respondents cited that their reason for their disagreement was due to hygiene concerns, others believed that separate dog waste

bins provide a better visual for dog owners and reminds them to pick up their dogs' waste, and the rest did not cite a reason for their disagreement.

Finally, 4 respondents did not state whether they approved or disagreed with the proposal and used the open text box to write an answer unrelated to the question, so these have been grouped as 'miscellaneous' responses.

Action: The consultation has provided RBC with valuable feedback from residents and has shown that overall, most of the residents are in favour of replacing dog waste bins with general waste bins in Runnymede's streets, open spaces and parks. The consultation highlighted that there is a need for the comms team to work on spreading awareness of the policy change and the useful features that are available to residents on RBC's website. This consultation has shown that if RBC begins to replace dog waste bins which are at the end of their shelf life with general waste bins that have lids, are emptied regularly, with clear signage, and are in accessible locations for dog walkers, then we will likely have the full support of Runnymede residents.



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