



Caru Cymru Guidance: Binrastructure Summary 2023



Caru Cymru is a collaboration between all 22 local authorities in Wales and Cardiff University to reach our shared vision of a beautiful Wales, cared for and enjoyed by all. Building on our many years of experience working in communities and schools and our expertise in behaviour change, Keep Wales Tidy has developed a unique approach to tackling local environmental quality issues at the local, regional, and national level.

Locally, we are working with partners to develop solutions in their areas, engaging with volunteer groups, schools, and businesses to foster pride and ownership of the spaces on their doorstep. Nationally, we are hoping to address some of the barriers to collaboration on the most persistent issues through the development of standardised messaging and interventions, based on positive and informative information, from litter to fly-tipping to plastic reduction. We aim to support our partners in creating an enabling environment across Wales to encourage people nationwide to 'do the right thing'.

*** This guidance is designed to support the project materials and provide advice to authorities to achieve a more cohesive approach to litter bins and other infrastructure so that it is more accessible and transparent for public dissemination.**

The bullet points below summarise the key findings of the report in relation to good bin design.

Caru Cymru – Right Bin, Right Place

1. Bins alone do not reduce litter
2. However, a lack of bins is a common excuse used by offenders for littering
3. All public spaces of high footfall to have bins and recycling provision where possible (for example, high streets or shopping centres)
4. But we would caution against installing bins everywhere for every occasion – not least because this is onerous and costly for local authorities to manage
5. There is some evidence that bins in laybys do attract litter and many local authorities have removed bins in these locations, but studies are inconclusive, and this is highly context dependent and should not be applied as a blanket rule.
6. Removal of bins to prevent misuse may disperse or exacerbate the problem.
7. Local authorities should make efforts to get to know their bins and get a good understanding of how (or if) they are used through regular bin audits and a common bin strategy and decision-making framework.
8. These policies should be developed and shared with Council members who are often the source of bin requests.
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10. Increasing the visibility of bins increases their use. They should not be designed to ‘blend in’ their environment but to stand out as much as possible.
11. As well as providing a means of disposing of waste, bins also provide good opportunities for messaging and awareness raising.
12. Many novelty bins exist and whilst they are successful in reducing littering, in order for this to be maintained, they need to refresh regularly to maintain the novelty element. Possibly as frequently as every two weeks in the case of, for example, ballot bins.
13. Innovation in bin design is increasing and becoming more commonplace. Whilst the capital costs of these can be expensive, they may increase efficiency costs over the long term.