

# A warm welcome to all our new neighbours...

## *...and a little word about the bin system.*

Dear New Neighbours,

On behalf of "Avenues & Alleyways" the local residents' association, we would like to welcome you to this warm and friendly part of Moss Side, and say how much we all hope you enjoy living here and soon feel at home. We would also like to take the opportunity to explain the bin system; this information has not always reached tenants through their landlords, which has led to confusion and a build-up of rubbish. Where terraced houses are so close together, vermin can rapidly spread, so please do take a moment to read through the following information, and ask a long-term neighbour if you have any questions.

### **What bins should you have?**

On arrival, your landlord should ensure that you have 4 bins and with your door number clearly visible on them:

**Blue:** for paper/carboard/cartons (tetra paks)

**Brown:** for tins/cans/glass/**plastic bottles only** (no other plastics, such as plastic bags, yogurt pots, margarine tubs, packaging.)

**Small Green bin:** for food waste which is collected weekly; system includes small grey kitchen caddy.

**Black/Grey:** non-recyclable waste (one bin per 5 people)

**(Optional Large Green:** for gardening waste, can also take food in composting bags)

If you are missing any, you can order them from the council by phoning 0161 2345004. The green and recycling bins are free. However, there is a £27 charge for the black ones. Please note that if ever your recycling bins are filled with the "wrong" rubbish (eg, plastic bags,) it will not get emptied ever until you remove the "wrong" item(s).

### **How do I dispose of food waste?**

The council provides free biodegradable/composting bags. These fit inside the grey kitchen caddy. You can put any food into these bags, including meat, fish and bones, whether cooked or raw. When the bag is full, store in the green bin until collection day. It is best to use this system as the black bin is emptied only once every 2 weeks and will smell if food is left in it for that long. When you are about to run out of bags, just put a note on your green bin asking for more, or tie a bag round the handle and the recycling crew will leave you a new pack of bags with your emptied bin.

### **What goes out when?**

There is a 2 week cycle, except for food waste (green bin) which is weekly. Collection day is Friday. The council is sending out timetables soon but has currently run out, so this should do in the meantime:

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept., 20<sup>th</sup> Sept., 4<sup>th</sup> Oct., etc :** *brown and green bins only*

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept., 27<sup>th</sup> Sept., 11<sup>th</sup> Oct., etc,:** *blue, black and green bins only*

Collections are from 7:30am, so you can put your bin out on the Thursday night before, but not any earlier.

### **Where should I leave my bins for collection?**

Bin men will not come onto your property to fetch your bins.

Black bins (non-recyclable waste) are always collected from the nearest alley entrance. The large collection lorries do not go down Ruskin or Haydn Avenue, so these will not be collected near your door.

All the other bins (green/ blue/brown) can be collected from the kerbside near your house or the nearest alley entrance (except for Great Western Street, and Ruskin Avenue numbers 47 -76 which will only be collected at the alley entrance.) As with black bins, just put them out on Thursday night and take them back in on Friday.

### **Where do I keep the bins?**

Anywhere that is on your property. Please return them as soon as possible after collection. **Do not leave them out on the pavement or in the alleyway entrance.** Some people choose to leave their bins at their back yard gates, in the alleyway, so that they can enjoy more space in their yard. If you choose to do this, you risk your bin being stolen or filled with other people's rubbish so it is advisable to bring it in.

### **What if we run out of space before the 2 weeks is up?**

If you tend to run out of space for recycling, but do not wish to take up more space in your yard with an extra bin, you can order recycling bags for free from 0161 2345004.

Recycle as much as possible to prevent the black bin from filling early. If however, your bin is full before Friday, please double bag your rubbish and keep it on your property, and bring it down to the alley entrance early on the Friday morning of the black bin waste collection (before 7.30am). Manchester City Council currently collects extra bags. **Please do not store these in the alleyway or pavement before collection morning** as they are likely to get ripped open by cats and the mess will blow around the neighbourhood. There are also people who visit these alleyways daily looking for things to sell. They usually scatter the contents of the bags and it makes a huge mess.

### **Our bin has been stolen. What now?**

If you get your bin in as soon as possible, and it is clearly numbered, this is rare, but some residents have come home to find their bin has been taken. Unfortunately the council will charge you £27 for a new grey one even if it is not your fault. If you find yourself in this situation, speak to a friendly long-term resident who will put the word out and lots of us will keep an eye out for the missing bin, and do our best to help you. Bins that have gone walkabout often resurface after 2 weeks when the "thief" puts it out for collection.

*We hope this information has been of use, and we wish you all the very best from many of your neighbours in Haydn Avenue, Ruskin Avenue, Acomb Street, Maine Road, Great Western Street & Playfair Street.*