

1 March 2021

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Dear Resident

### **New opt in, paid-for, garden waste service – from July 2021**

This letter is about important changes to your garden waste collection service if you live in a house or flat where we currently collect your garden waste.

The Council is introducing charges for all garden waste collections from Monday 5 July 2021.

Most other councils in England charge for this service and, with a large budget gap to fill, sadly we can no longer continue to offer it free of charge.

We know lots of residents value this service, so we want to keep on providing it. But we think it's fairer to offer a paid for service for those who want it, rather than add it onto the Council Tax for everyone to pay whether they use it or not.

Our last free garden waste collection will be on Friday 2 July 2021.

### **I want to subscribe and continue to have my garden waste collected**

From Monday 5 July 2021 your garden waste collection service will cost:

- £45 per bin per year
- £35 per bin per year (if you are in receipt of certain benefits)

You can choose to have multiple bins emptied. Details of the costs of additional bins can be found on the Council's website.

## What do I need to do?

### STEP 1

If you have not already done so, sign-up now for your MyStAlbans District Account at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/do-it-online](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/do-it-online). Make sure we have your correct email address.

If you are unable to sign up online you will be able to call our dedicated garden waste subscription helpline from mid-May on **01727 819322**.

### STEP 2

In May, we will send you an email with a link to the sign-up and pay service.

### STEP 3

Once you have signed up and paid, we will send you a confirmation letter with subscription stickers to put on your bin(s) (or, in some conservation areas, your bags). Be sure to give us at least two weeks' notice so we can get your stickers to you in good time.

Your property will be added to the electronic database so that crews know who to collect from. Only bins (or bags) displaying the sticker will be emptied. The stickers will change each year.

We will collect your garden waste every fortnight, throughout the whole year, as we do with the current garden waste service.

Your subscription year will run from 1 July to 30 June.

Some residents may choose to share a green bin subscription with a neighbour.

## Don't want to subscribe?

That's fine – there are still lots of ways you can recycle your garden waste:

- Compost it in a home composting bin and turn it into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden. Subsidised home composters are available through Waste Aware Hertfordshire at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/recycling-and-waste/wasteaware-campaigns](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/recycling-and-waste/wasteaware-campaigns).
- Take it to your local household waste and recycling centre [www.stalbans.gov.uk/local-recycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/local-recycling). Save it up so you don't make unnecessary car journeys, or share trips with your neighbours.

Further information can be found at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/garden-waste-subscription-service](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/garden-waste-subscription-service).

If you don't wish to subscribe to the Council's new garden waste subscription service, you should make alternative arrangements for recycling your garden waste.

Placing your garden waste in any of the other bins, containers or bags provided as part of the Council's waste and recycling collection service is not permitted.

That's why any recycling boxes, or the residual waste bin, containing garden waste will not be emptied until it has been removed.

As always, fly-tippers will be prosecuted.

Yours faithfully



Joe Tavernier  
Head of Community Services