



Peter Taylor - Liberal Democrat Elected Mayor of Watford

Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

T: 01923 278371

themayor@watford.gov.uk

watford.gov.uk/electedmayor

[f](https://www.facebook.com/petertaylorwatford) petertaylorwatford [t](https://twitter.com/WatfordMayor) @WatfordMayor



Ros Daniels

Director (South-east)

Canal & River Trust

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port

South Pier Road

Ellesmere Port

Cheshire

CH65 4FW

Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Dear Ros,

Re: Removal of bins

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent announcement of the Canals and Rivers Trust's plan to remove most towpath bins in many parts of the country, including Watford. While we understand the financial challenges that the Trust is facing, we cannot support this decision as it will have severe environmental impacts on our town.

As you are aware, Watford like many places across the country, faces significant issues with litter and fly-tipping. The cost of dealing with this litter and fly-tipping across the town is significant and the proposed removal of bins will only exacerbate these problems. The lack of bins will lead to litter being left by the canal, which will not only be unsightly but also have serious environmental implications. Furthermore, the excess waste could spill over into our parks and open spaces, causing a significant impact on our local ecosystem.

We believe that the areas around Iron Bridge Lock and Grove Mill Lane, which are heavily frequented by walkers, residents, and canal boat dwellers, will be significantly impacted by the removal of bins. These areas are a showcase for the great work that the Canal & River Trust does, but the removal of bins and the resulting increase in litter will undermine this good work.

We of course support the "take it home" policy on litter, but we are concerned that this alone will not deal fully with the problem of litter around our waterways. In our view, the take it home policy can only be successful alongside proper waste management services.

As the land around canals do not fall within the area covered by us as a litter authority we are not in a position to take on the responsibility ourselves. Officers at



Watford Council have offered to put you in contact with our waste services provider, Veolia, with the hope that they will be able to assist you.

We would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss this issue and what mitigations and solutions may be possible should you continue with your plans. A meeting would be a good place to discuss any progress that has been made with Veolia and it would also be useful to understand the solutions which have been proposed and implemented in other sites affected by the removal of bins.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that together we can find a solution that works for everyone.

Sincerely,

Peter Taylor
Elected Mayor of Watford

Cllr Tim Williams
Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services