

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

12 November, 2020

### **Get ready for next year's gardening duties! New 2021/22 garden waste subscriptions now available**

Love gardening, but dislike the time, mess and cost of taking waste to the tip? Save yourself the hassle and sign-up for Fenland District Council's garden waste service!

More than 22,500 residents across the district are now benefitting from the clean and cost-effective way to dispose of their garden waste, with easy, fortnightly brown bin collections throughout the year.

New Direct Debit subscriptions for the 2021/22 service go on sale on December 1, 2020, with card and cash payment subscriptions going live on January 4, 2021.

Existing Direct Debit customers will have their subscriptions automatically renewed in February 2021, ready for the garden waste service to start in April 2021.

Next year the cost of the service will rise for the first time in five years to ensure it continues to be self-funding and available for those who want to use it.

The £40 annual fee first introduced in 2017/18 will increase to £45, which remains one of the lowest priced authority garden waste services in the East.

However, the discount offered to all new and existing customers paying for the fortnightly service by Direct Debit has been increased from 10% to over 15% - making the Direct Debit cost just £38 for the coming season.

Councillor Peter Murphy, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for the Environment, said: "I'm delighted that we continue to provide an excellent service for residents to dispose of their garden waste, easily, correctly and effectively. It has been a challenging six months, but the hardworking garden waste team ensured that the unprecedented levels of garden waste generated was collected and that brown bin collections operated as normal.

"We are sorry that at this time we are unable to avoid an increase in the fee in this the fifth year of the service, but as costs rise we find ourselves with no option if we are to keep to our original commitment of the service covering its costs each year."

Councillor Steve Tierney, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Transformation, added: "Despite the increase in the cost of the service, Fenland District Council remains one of the cheapest authority garden waste collection services in the county.

"People can, of course, still take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centres for no charge, but our garden waste service means residents do not have to move dirty waste in their own vehicles or pay someone else to take it away for them."

For more information on the garden waste service and to sign up, visit [www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or call 01354 654321.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226**