

**Full Council**  
**15 July 2021**  
**Questions from Councillors**

**Question submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland**

Following yet another recycling collection failure in Crossways Ward, we see again that we don't have sufficient resilience in the service and moreover that *"unfortunately we currently only have one restricted access vehicle with a split body which can collect dry recycling and glass at the same time; a second vehicle was lost in the fire at Crookhill last year and so far we have been unable to source a replacement."*

Why eight months later hasn't a replacement been sourced and will the portfolio holder give a date when this will be rectified in order to restore to our council tax paying residents the service level they both expect and deserve?

**Response by Cllr Jill Haynes**

I am sure all councillors are aware that Dorset Council lost 20 vehicles in the devastating Crookhill depot fire last November. Most of these vehicles have been replaced, but we've only been able to replace one of the two specialist vehicles used for collecting recycling at restricted access properties, despite constant contact with vehicle suppliers.

This means we don't currently have an appropriate alternative vehicle to collect glass on these difficult to access routes when the one vehicle is off the road, such as for inspections or repair work. This was the case with the recent missed glass collections in Crossways.

The vehicle we use is now back in service and the glass will be collected at the same time as the recycling. Officers are continuing to look at all options including short term lease, if suitable vehicles are available, whilst procurement options are evaluated for new replacement vehicles.

In the meantime, we apologise for any inconvenience caused and would kindly remind everyone that we will always collect extra household glass during regular recycling collections if presented in a sturdy container.