

Meeting:	Full Council
Date:	23 rd September 2025
Report Title:	Proposal to Review and Improve Management of Abandoned Shopping Trolleys in the Parish
Proposer:	Councillor S Heyes
Seconded:	Councillor V Manro

Motion:

That this council resolves to:

- Write to all supermarkets operating within or bordering the parish to:
 - Confirm whether they use a trolley retrieval service (e.g. Trolleywise, Collex, Wanzl)
 - Request their public reporting process and contact details
 - Seek cooperation in preventing trolley abandonment
- Write to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to:
 - Request a copy of their current policy on abandoned shopping trolleys
 - Confirm whether SBC has adopted powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to charge for recovery and storage
 - Ask whether SBC would consider:
 - Delegating such enforcement powers to the parish council; or
 - Providing budget support for local collection efforts
- Review current parish processes for dealing with abandoned trolleys and consider:
 - Direct public reporting to contracted retrieval companies where appropriate
 - Developing a cost recovery or enforcement model if powers or funding are granted
- Report findings and recommendations back to Full Council within [X weeks] to consider further action, including cost recovery options or public awareness campaigns.

Background

The Parks & Open Spaces Team has seen an increase in abandoned shopping trollies locally. 90% of these are ASDA trolleys. Residents have been seen pushing these to properties in Abbey Meads carrying the shopping and the Team has made them aware that this isn't permitted. On average, there are 6 shopping trolleys per week being collected across both bin rounds. The Team collect on the bin rounds and drop to Waterside prior to disposing the bin waste.

Also see Appendix 1 for the draft Amended Transfer of Services Deed. This is a document that was presented to SBC's previous Chief Operating Officer and now Chief Executive Officer in 2022. The Parish Council never received any clarification on the income for the collection of the shopping trolleys nor confirmation that they would adopt the Parish's amendments.



DRAFT LETTER TO SUPERMARKETS

To: Store Manager / Trolley Operations Lead

Subject: Abandoned Shopping Trolleys – Partnership Request

Dear [Store Name / Manager],

We are writing on behalf of Haydon Wick Parish Council regarding the ongoing issue of abandoned shopping trolleys across our area.

Our parks, open spaces, and residential streets are increasingly affected by trolleys left behind or dumped in inappropriate places — including footpaths, watercourses, and green spaces. As you will appreciate, this creates hazards for residents and requires council resources to clear.

We are currently reviewing our approach to this problem and would appreciate your cooperation in the following:

1. Do you currently use a shopping trolley retrieval contractor (e.g. Trolleywise, Collex, Wanzl)?
2. If so, what is the public process for reporting abandoned trolleys for collection?
3. Would you be willing to share relevant contact details or signage to help raise awareness locally?
4. If not contracted, what alternative arrangements do you have in place for retrieval?

We are keen to work with all local supermarkets to improve how abandoned trolleys are reported and recovered — and to ensure public spaces remain clean, safe, and accessible to all.

We look forward to your reply and would welcome a contact person for follow-up, if appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

Chairman, [Parish Name] Parish Council

DRAFT LETTER TO SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: Environmental Services / Legal & Enforcement Team

Subject: Request for Policy and Devolved Powers – Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Dear [Name or Service Team],

We are writing on behalf of [Parish Name] Parish Council to request clarification regarding Swindon Borough Council's policy and powers on abandoned shopping trolleys.

This is a regular issue in our area, particularly near key retail sites. Abandoned trolleys damage our parks and green spaces, obstruct footways, and generate significant clean-up costs — often at the parish's expense.

We ask that SBC confirm the following:

1. Does Swindon Borough Council hold powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Schedule 4) to seize and charge for the recovery and storage of abandoned trolleys?



2. If so, has SBC adopted these powers formally, and are they currently in use?
3. Would SBC consider:
 - Delegating such enforcement powers to parish councils (where there is capacity to act); or
 - Providing budgetary support or a shared-cost scheme for parishes undertaking local recovery work?

We are keen to find a practical solution — either through direct authority or cooperative funding — that allows us to better respond to this problem locally.

We would be grateful for a written response, along with any current policy documents, to assist with our review and future decision-making.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]
Chairman, [Parish Name] Parish Council

PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE

Tackling Abandoned Shopping Trolleys – Action Underway

We know abandoned shopping trolleys are a growing problem — left in parks, streams, footpaths, and across open spaces.

This week, Haydon Wick Parish Council has begun formal steps to tackle the issue. We are:

- Writing to local supermarkets to ask what trolley retrieval systems they use (e.g. Trolleywise or Collex), and how residents can report dumped trolleys.
- Writing to Swindon Borough Council to ask whether powers or funding can be delegated to help us recover trolleys and reclaim costs.
- Reviewing our own reporting and clean-up process to ensure we respond quickly and fairly.

Supermarkets must take responsibility for their trolleys. Residents deserve clean, safe public spaces — and we're working to make sure that happens.

 If you spot a dumped trolley, please continue to report it to us at:

<https://haydonwick.gov.uk/maintenance-schedule/>

We'll keep you updated as we get responses and next steps are agreed.



Appendix 1: Amended Transfer of Services Deed

The Appendix is the Parish Council's Amended Transfer of Services Deed that was presented to SBC's previous Chief Operating Officer and now Chief Executive Officer in 2022. The Parish Council never received any clarification on the income for the collection of the shopping trolleys nor confirmation that they would adopt the Parish's amendments.

Minute summary for discussion at Full Council on 25th January 2022.

FC 181 PARISH TRANSFER OF SERVICES DEED

Members noted, discussed, and agreed the amendments to Schedule 1 A (Functions and Services) revised proposal amendments recommended by Parks and Open Spaces Committee on 11th January 2022 subject to clarification from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) that item 2.12 on the agreement that Swindon Borough Council does not receive income for the collection of shopping trolleys.
Action: Chief Officer to report back following meeting with Swindon Borough Council.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the amendments to Schedule 1 A (Functions and Services) revised proposal amendments recommended by Parks and Open Spaces Committee on 11th January 2022 subject to clarification from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) on item 2.12; income from the collection of abandoned shopping trolleys.