

Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the proposals for house to house collections: - Reasons

I have been involved in house to house and street collections for over 40 years.

I agree with all of the proposals, especially to upgrade regulations for newer methods eg direct debit and commercial collectors.

Regarding the proposals to restrict house to house collections to 9:00am to 7:00pm:

From my personal experience this could be improved and clarified for the benefit of householders and collectors alike.

Firstly, I think 9am is unnecessarily early - many would find being knocked up at 9am unnecessarily intrusive - I think 10am would be better.

Secondly, I think 7pm is too early - in spring or summer continuing in daylight to 8pm would be better and acceptable. However I think collecting in the hours of darkness is NOT. That is likely to be perceived to be an intrusion and nuisance to residents.

So I would propose an amended hours formulation based on 10am until 8pm or dusk (whichever is earlier) would be better.

Regarding the proposal that no collections will be permitted where a "no cold calling" or similar notice is displayed.

Again from my experience this is too vague and open to interpretation. Many residents make up their own signs and these vary in wording leaving collectors unclear of the position.

This could be improved by making the wording more specific stating that no collections will be permitted where an official Trading Standards notice is displayed citing the "Consumer Protection from unfair trading regulations 2008". It will be clearer for residents and collectors alike to know precisely what form of notice will prevent callers, and the introduction of the new policy could be used as an opportunity for the Council to promote its trading standards consumer protection cold calling stickers.

As a house owner it is more difficult to refuse a collector on the door step, particularly when they are a neighbour.

ne collection a day is excessive - I do realize it is unlikely to happen.

The possibility of a charity collecting 4 times a year is excessive - once a year is enough

Training should be part of the criteria , we have a huge amount of vulnerable people in the community and these could be exploited so need qualified collectors , in some vulnerability training .

I don't want any licenses to be issued to charities who will bother me at my home address. If a charity wants to collect clothing or items they can post me a bag through my door but I don't want to receive any cold calls from charity representatives on my doorstep at all, whatsoever. They are a nuisance, persistent when you say you don't wish to partake and take advantage of vulnerable people. Please don't allow licenses for door to door collection of direct debit information at all.

Rotary has been house to house collecting in the Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts area in the month of December for over 30 years. After direct costs, such as vehicle hire, all the proceeds are given to recognised local and national charities.

The collections take place between 6pm and 8pm on weekdays and 5pm to 8pm at weekends.

All the collectors are volunteers and the Christmas float collections are enormously popular with residents

7 00 pm seems a bit too early as a cut off time, particularly in the summer months when evenings are light. Many working people won't be home at that time. There seems a risk that the elderly and unwaged will be disproportionately targeted for house to house collections. Would it be possible to make it sunset if later?

The proposals appear sensible and in the public interest

once a quarter is too frequent
utterly pointless to get a declaration, set a high minimum percentage

Too many supposed charities come to the door. Most are not local so the likes of Great Ormond Street should stay away

I doubt that most charities would know the ward boundaries to the exact house number.
In addition a well organised charity could cover two wards easily and some may have bonafide projects in other wards for which they wish to raise awareness.

Too many other firms knocking on doors already in Hazlemere. Also the pressure is not nice when you answer the door and don't give

Why public liability insurance? Time limits too restrictive for face to face collections

There has been concern expressed locally about the validity of people going door to door seeking money donations and/or direct debit sign ups and so better regulation is required.

I don't want any pressurized 'selling' tactics, and calling at one's door is pressurized. Any charity I donate to must supply a statement with clear information about what the charity aims to do, and also what proportion of money collected goes to support their aims.

I don't agree with House to House collections as they can be intimidating especially for older residents .

These proposals are an absolute invasion of private people's homes and should not be allowed. Most people that want to give to charity do so without these "chuggers" calling round at generally inconvenient times collecting sensitive information. A large percentage of the money collected is then paid to these professional fundraisers. This practice is outrageous and should be banned. Next you will be giving licences to the numerous so called ex-prisoners who are bussed into the area selling highly inflated cleaning materials. Please re-think this ridiculous idea!

I don't think this method of charity collection should be allowed at all.
It is an invasion of people's homes and there are far too many people that feel intimidated by what are normally professional fund raisers working to scripts designed to extract the maximum amount.

I do not wish to have house to house collections at all.

Personally I would never give direct debit information to someone calling at the door and even with these safeguards I would consider it unwise.

Per the suggested policy, house to house collections are to be allowed from 9:00am to 7:00pm.
The first aim of the draft policy is ensure that the interests of public donors and beneficiaries are safeguarded.
I would suggest that allowing cold calling as late as 7pm in winter when it is dark is not conducive to safeguarding.
The closing time should be 7pm or sunset, whichever is earlier.

Charities should not be able to knock at doors and ask for cash donations. This is intrusive and makes people feel obliged. They should be restricted to putting leaflets through doors and picking up donated items.

I don't believe this activity requires regulation

9am to 7pm is too long in the winter as it is dark before 6pm. Therefore winter collections should be shorter. to allow one charity on house to house per quarter seem as bit mean. Perhaps every two quarters.

Many Rotary Clubs, Round Tables etc have a long history of collecting door to door at Christmas with a Santa Claus Sleigh or similar. My Rotary Club (Great Missenden & District) covers Great Missenden, Prestwood, the Kingshills and South Heath. We also conduct a couple of Saturday morning static sessions in village centres. There is no street lighting on our patch, so the arrival of a brightly lit Santa with reindeer and sleigh, accompanied by recorded carols has a great impact, and is eagerly anticipated by excited children. We start each evening in December at around 5.00 p.m. and aim to finish around 7.30 p.m. Any earlier and people are not at home, any later can annoy parents because young children are in bed. We ask local charities to supply teams of collectors, and share the collections with them. Our portion of the collection is shared between the Rotary International Foundation (a US based charity) and our own local charity projects (we are a Registered Charity) . I see no need for a layer of bureaucracy, and suggest an exemption for established Rotary Club Christmas Collections.

Finishing at 7pm is too limiting. It would disallow people who work all day to collect for causes close to their heart. Also, many people aren't home by 7pm, so charities would be unable to maximise their income. Can I suggest a trial year for ending by 8pm, or later at the discretion of the charity / collectors, the key determinant being whether they are known in the area they are collecting and would be welcomed at any time?

Our Santa Carol float is beloved by parents and children. These new regulations would prohibit us (and other Clubs) from operating it at a time when parents and children would be able to see it. That will result in great disappointment and the loss of a favourite Christmas fixture. It would also, of course, reduce the amount we are able to collect and use to do our work.

These changes seem very sensible and proportionate.

Rotary Clubs in Bucks including my own, Buckingham, have a special push to collect money for charities every Christmas and have done so, without problem, for over 50 years. We respect people's privacy and the need to let children get to sleep so don't collect after 9 pm - but to finish by 7 pm is too early.

Likewise, the restriction on the number of days for collections is tight for us. We usually go out with our Santa sleigh over a three week period.

During the Christmas period Rotary clubs throughout the UK have Santa Floats that travel in towns and villages collecting house to house starting at 5.30 and finishing approx 8.30.

The local communities would be very upset if we did not visit them, particularly the children.

I've put strongly disagree as to how this proposal will affect the Rotary Santa Sleigh house to house collections during December - whilst I understand in principle what the proposal is trying to do there needs to be an exception policy that will still allow the Rotary Santa Sleigh house to house collections to continue (as per the official Rotary Club of Chesham) response to this consultation

These inflexible proposals will adversely affect Rotary Club of Chesham which uses a Christmas sleigh during December in Chesham and surrounding villages. It is impossible to continue with the collections if the fixed time limit of 19:00 is imposed.

These proposals severely limit the charitable collection carried out at Christmas time such as Santa's Sleigh

While I fully recognise the objective of the restrictions in the proposed policy it will have unintended side effects. My response addresses the Rotary Santa Sleigh Christmas collections which all towns and villages in Buckinghamshire benefit from in the evenings over typically 3 weeks leading up to Christmas. The purpose is to entertain mainly the children and some adults with the festive spirit of Santa and seasonal music and light displays. Money is collected for the Rotary charities by Rotarians. The proposed 7pm cut off severely limits how much of an estate or village can be covered. Our club's routes cover at least 3 wards so your proposal will require separate applications for each. I note you identify Santa sleigh as an exception in parts of your policy. I suggest you also exclude Santa sleigh collections (by recognised charities) for the following policy items:

- 7pm cut off (suggest 8pm would be more reasonable);

- 14 day limit on the licence - (suggest 21 days in December);

- Single licence per ward - (suggest to apply to multiple wards together for licence.)

In Buckingham we also have Table running a float so we need to allow more than one licence per ward for this specific activity.

Your current proposals would have a huge impact on some very creditable house to house collections, notably the Christmas Santa's Sleigh collection. These visits are much loved by families throughout Buckinghamshire.

I am a member of Buckingham Rotary Club (a registered charity). This response is mainly associated with our annual Santa Sleigh collection in Buckingham and surrounding villages.

Regarding the limit that house to house collections must finish at 19:00:

To organise, set up and travel to a collection area means that we don't start collecting until between 17:30 and 18:00 pm (we rely on people who work to support the collection - to start earlier is difficult). The need to complete the round by 19:00, rather than our normal target time of 20:00, would necessitate doubling the number of days that we collect. As we alternate round days with Buckingham Table (a separate charitable organisation), to ensure that there is only one Santa collecting each evening, approximately half the collecting area will miss out.

The collection is used for local good causes - reduced collection time, reduces the amount collected, which restricts the causes we can support. The current national financial situation, especially the impact of rising prices and high inflation, means that disadvantaged residents are impacted.

Additionally there is the social impact for children in the area who will miss out on 'seeing 'Santa'. This should not be discounted as merely a shame - the complaints received if we miss out a road on a published round attest to the disappointment felt.

The Rotary Club of Chesham is pleased to respond to this consultation on a proposal that could have considerable impact on a hugely important activity in Chesham and in many other towns and villages in the county. The arrival of Santa's Sleigh in the streets, and to the front doors, of thousands of homes brings great pleasure to families and particularly children, enhancing the 'magic' of Christmas.

Any Rotarian who is a member of one of the many clubs organising a 'Santa's Sleigh' activity will tell you of the importance of this event. It gathers considerable funding for local causes. In Chesham this money (over £10,000 each year) is split with schools and various charitable organisations in the town who help with the collections. But the thanks we get is warmest from the parents witnessing the faces of their children as Santa arrives on his sleigh in their street. The experience is never forgotten and many parents tell us not only of the pleasure it brings to their children but also brought to them many years ago when they were children.

We cannot over emphasise the importance of this activity. That it raises such big sums of money for use in our towns is significant but equally important is the joy it has brought to many over the years.

It has been suggested that there might be specific exemption managed by many different Rotary Clubs for this pre-Christmas activity and the following notes help to explain why this is so important.

House to House Collections

Dealing with house-to-house collections. The proposal is to restrict these so that they finish by 7.00pm and to grant licences for a maximum of 14 days. The current house-to-house licence allows us to travel to almost every street in Chesham and call on houses to collect money for local charities but more importantly it enables hundreds of children to see Father Christmas in his Sleigh in their street. They also of course receive a sweet from Santa.

We have a minimum of 16 different routes in and around Chesham so the proposed 14 days is not enough for us to cover all of Chesham. When we take the Sleigh out, we have a different local charity providing the collectors who knock on the doors and collect money. The vast majority of the collectors work full time and as soon as they finish work on their day with the Sleigh we meet up and out we go. That means that we cannot start until 5.30 - 6.00pm. We aim to finish by 8.30pm but the current licence allows us to be out until 9.00pm. If the proposal for ending at 7.00pm is implemented it would not be possible to be out for more than one hour when most routes take two and half to three hours.

If there was no exemption the money raised for our local schools and charities, such as Scouts and the Toy Bank, through the deployment of the Sleigh wouldn't just be reduced but, more likely, completely eliminated as, what is now being proposed, will so severely limit future 'Sleigh activity' as to make it uneconomic to construct and manage. The major detrimental effect will be on money raised for local organisations and will kill off much loved and greatly appreciated regular Sleigh activity (which has been operating in Chesham for around 40 years at least) in the weeks running up to Christmas.

Since moving to Buckingham 27 years ago, our family and neighbours have been delighted to see Santa and his helper elves light up the street at Christmas music and good wishes, while raising money for many different local charities as the Santa float passes through our community. These proposals will end what is a wonderful local tradition, loved by children (young and old). There is no call from residents to stop this tradition, quite the contrary. It will deprive small local charities of much needed funding and place a greater burden on charity organisers to seek out new funding options or restrict or close down their operations. This will rob Buckingham of a valued and loved tradition.

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the Rotary Club of Great Missenden and District

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on the Draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy.

Our Rotary Club, like many Clubs the length and breadth of the country, operate a Santa Sleigh during the month of December every year. These events bring much joy to members of our communities, young and old, and we are concerned that a number of the provisions in the draft policy would have a negative effect on our operations. This, as I shall explain in my response, will in turn effect what we are trying to achieve.

I must stress that we are in favour of the aims and objectives that are set out in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of your proposal. We are simply wanting to outline where our operations, which benefit the community, may not match the exact requirements laid out in your Draft Policy.

Our concerns lie in 4 areas of the Policy

[1] section 2.8: “.....licences will not be granted for periods of longer than 14 days”.

It is not practical for our Rotary Club [and I would guess most others] to complete all its activities within 14 days. We would like to see the facility for a licence to be granted for “28 days up to and including 24 December”. Having to curtail our activities by not starting until 10 December will mean that some of our routes may not be covered, thus depriving the residents of the opportunity to see our Sleigh and donate to our chosen local charities.

[2] section 2.10: “....In order to prevent nuisance to residents, no collection shall take place outside the hours of 09:00 and 19:00”

Whilst we are in accordance with the principle of not causing nuisance to residents, we would like the facility to be able to collect until 2000. Although it is clearly in our interest not to be collecting too late in the evening [children are in bed, elderly rightly will not come to the door], there are on occasions where our operations do extend past 1900. Often this is caused by the numbers of residents who come out to visit Santa and his Sleigh, thereby delaying our progress. All our routes are advertised in advance in the local press/ websites so residents know when we will be ‘on our way’ in their vicinity.

[3] section 2.11: “....Applications for a house to house collection licence will be dealt with on a “first come, first served” and case by case basis”.

Whilst we note the comment in 2.8, our Rotary Club, along with others, will be disappointed if our pre-Christmas sleigh collections cannot take place because we have been 'beaten to it' by, for example, a national charity. Rotary Clubs ensure, amongst themselves, that there will be no conflict or clashing over routes. Your map in Appendix 2 is very helpful in that respect – it shows clearly the definition of the 'Missendens' area which is the area where our Club will carry out its Santa Sleigh activities.

[4] section 3.12: "In order to ensure that all charities are given equal opportunities, no more than one street collection permit will generally be issued to any charity in each calendar quarter".

As well as our house-to-house collections we traditionally locate our float stationary in a number of areas within the Missendens area during the weeks up to Christmas. If permits are intended to be issued on 'one permit, one day, one location' basis for each calendar quarter, then this would cause Rotary Clubs a serious problem as they would only be allowed to hold one street collection prior to Christmas. We would like to see this section amended to cover our requirement for more than one street collection [in one area eg Missendens] permit in the 28 days before 24 December.

On behalf of our Rotary Club, I hope you will be able to give due consideration to the 4 areas described above; I am more than happy to be contacted if you require any further clarification. In conclusion I must add that whilst a main aim of our Santa Sleigh is fundraising [last Christmas 10 local charities benefitted from distributions from our Trust Fund], there is also a definite community benefit in what we do. Santa is invariably welcomed wherever he appears and we often hear comments such as parents saying 'I remember your float coming round when I was a child' and 'Christmas has not really started until Santa has been down our street'.

I do hope consideration will be given to the points I have raised which will enable our very successful Santa Sleigh to continue providing the 'community service' it has done for many years.

Our Rotary Club operates many charitable collections throughout the year which will be impacted by the proposals but, like many Clubs (not just Rotary Clubs but Lions, Scouts etc) the length and breadth of the country, operate a Santa Sleigh during the month of December every year. For those not familiar with this, we tow a sleigh complete with one of our members acting as Father Christmas, around the streets of

the area, covering a different area each evening. These events bring a lot of happiness to members of our communities, young and old, and we are very concerned that a number of the provisions in the draft policy would have a serious impact on our operations both curtailing the number of areas we visit and reducing the donations that we receive.

In 2022, our Sleigh collection raised in excess of £4,500 for local causes. We split this money between a number of small, local charities and it makes a massive difference to their finances. It is also notable that even at a time when many people are struggling financially, they still made an effort to contribute to the worthwhile work we do in supporting local charities. Indeed we often get elderly residents who save their loose change all year for us or others who run after us to make a donation because they were slow getting to the door. We even managed to take Santa out during the pandemic although with no door to door collection, and people donated online or literally threw money to our team. People saw it as a sign of 'normality' that we were out and were incredibly grateful.

As a Rotary member, I have helped collect significant donations for the local charities which we support. The proposals are not in the interests of fundraising for these charities nor indeed for the welfare of the beneficiaries of these charities.

it would be impossible to have a rota for our Christmas float that finishes at 19.00. A 20.30 is more practicable. .Only one house to house collection may curtail charity collections

I am thinking particularly about the sleigh that goes round in the weeks leading up to Christmas and would not want this to be restricted to the times and days that your are suggesting. The faces on the children when they see it have to be seen to be believed.

It is agreed that collections should be licensed and held responsible for their actions.

Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the proposals for street collections: - Reasons

Regarding restricting collection to town and village centres, and regarding the associated hours.

Consideration should be given to allowing street collections outside the approaches to train stations - which may not be located in the town or village centres. Collections in the vicinity of train stations could be permitted to start at 7am or even 6am.

Regarding the proposed declaration by charities regarding the amount donated, this seems too loose. Consideration should be given to requiring the charity to confirm the % of the amount collected that they receive from the commercial collector or the % of 'commission' charged by the commercial collector for their services.

I wasn't aware that street collection permits existed in Aylesbury and Wycombe. I also wasn't aware that such licenses were not required in surrounding towns and villages.

Does that mean that The Big Issue Lady who sits on Princes Risborough High Street every week for the past 10 years at least is doing so without a license? If so, then I believe that street collection permits should also be required for surrounding towns and villages, not just limited to Aylesbury and Wycombe.

I used to be involved in licensing of street collections in HW and one of the problems was the big national collections tied to a particular date (eg Red Cross Day, Poppy Appeal) which could push out smaller local collections. I can see that the one collection per quarter policy might address this but it may be difficult to manage in practice.

The proposal appear to be in the public interest

Get a bit fed up when get stopped by charities trying to extort money when get I am just trying to do my shopping. Most of them are not local so should leave available slots for local charities

Some Wycombe charities are not based in Wycombe Town.

Some Wycombe Town charities have projects in several wards so are now prevented from street collection in several locations. Looking at the Charity Commission website some charities cover the old Wycombe District so are disadvantaged by this new rule where for example

they cannot collect in Wycombe Marlow and Risborough on the same day. This could cause disadvantage if Wycombe charities cannot go to Marlow for example.

Doesn't matter what day they do street collections

Should send public survey.

We did wonder if The Big Issue salespeople needed some form of regulation as it is basically a form of street collection

this is a badly worded survey, if you disagree, are you saying that 4 days is not enough, 4 days is too any, or you disagree with the whole concept of street collections - which is my situation.

I do not want to be approached by "chuggers" whilst on a shopping expedition. Their salaries are paid as a percentage of the monies they raise and do not go to the charity they are collecting for. Most people who want to give to charity make their own arrangements and do not appreciate these tactics.

I think the hours collection is permitted should end much earlier, 4.00pm for example.

I think collectors should have to disclose how much of the money given in for example a year will end up going to the charity, and how much will be kept by the collection organisation.

Per the suggested policy, street collections are to be allowed from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

The first aim of the draft policy is ensure that the interests of public donors and beneficiaries are safeguarded.

I would suggest that street collections as late as 8pm in winter when it is dark is not conducive to safeguarding.

The closing time should be 8pm or sunset, whichever is earlier.

This activity does not cause any problems and does not require regulation

Not too concerned about street collections, we have always followed the existing rules for our limited Christmas static events in our villages.

If an area isn't suitable as a collection point then the charity won't want to waste resources there. Please respect the judgement of people and not micro-manage charities out of existence.

As with our Santa Float, our static collections are a Christmas fixture in different locations during the season. These restrictions would severely limit the fundraising which is vital to the community work we do.

These all seem sensible and proportionate proposals; my only reservation is whether at certain times of year, Christmas in particular, they might require some variation to allow for the larger outdoor gatherings that often take place in the evenings e.g. town centre lighting up celebrations.

At Christmas, we normally collect outside supermarkets, on private land, with their permission. To restrict us to one per calendar month in December would kibosh our main charitable season. And to limit it to just one charity at that time, seems a bit restrictive, since Christmas is a big time for charitable giving. It will just making collecting more difficult when, as I believe, there is no evidence of any problem.

Rotary clubs throughout the UK collect during the Christmas period mostly at supermarkets from 10.00 am to 17.00 hrs, which are on supermarket property.

I've put strongly disagree as to how this proposal will affect the Rotary Santa Sleigh static street collections during the Christmas in Chesham event and during December on the Broadway on a Wednesday and Saturday during December - whilst I understand in principle what the proposal is trying to do there needs to be an exception policy that will still allow the Rotary Santa Sleigh street collections (and similar events) to continue (as per the official Rotary Club of Chesham) response to this consultation

Rotary Club of Chesham provide a Christmas sleigh in the centre of Chesham with a Santa Claus on five or six market days in December. This provide a festive atmosphere and encourages families with young children to visit the town. At the same time there are collectors and the proceeds are used for many local and international charities. The proposals would mean that the sleigh would only visit on one occasion.

Suggest you add some dflexibility for Santa sleigh collections which may not be in a town centre

Too restrictive.

I think that permits should allow collection for more than one day (perhaps valid for one week or 3 days?). Given the lengths they are going to go to get this permit, which they rightly should have to go through, that one day they have to collect donations the weather may be very bad or other reasons prevent them from gaining many donations.

Our street collections take place at supermarket locations outside the town/village centre locations - if this is treated as on private property and licensing rules do not apply, I have no issue with the constraint.

However, limiting a single charity to only one day per quarter, does mean that we would lose collection opportunities at weekends in December when, typically, we would have Santa's sleigh on display for three to four days.

The Rotary Club of Chesham is pleased to respond to this consultation on a proposal that could have considerable impact on a hugely important activity in Chesham and in many other towns and villages in the county. The arrival of Santa's Sleigh in the streets, and to the front doors, of thousands of homes brings great pleasure to families and particularly children, enhancing the 'magic' of Christmas.

Any Rotarian who is a member of one of the many clubs organising a 'Santa's Sleigh' activity will tell you of the importance of this event. It gathers considerable funding for local causes. In Chesham this money (over £10,000 each year) is split with schools and various charitable organisations in the town who help with the collections. But the thanks we get is warmest from the parents witnessing the faces of their children as Santa arrives on his sleigh in their street. The experience is never forgotten and many parents tell us not only of the pleasure it brings to their children but also brought to them many years ago when they were children.

We cannot over emphasise the importance of this activity. That it raises such big sums of money for use in our towns is significant but equally important is the joy it has brought to many over the years.

It has been suggested that there might be specific exemption managed by many different Rotary Clubs for this pre-Christmas activity and the following notes help to explain why this is so important.

Street Collections.

The proposal is to allow one street collection permit per charity for one day per calendar period. That period relating to Christmas events is October, November and December. In recent years we have had the Sleigh in a static location in the Market Square Chesham for the Christmas in Chesham event which is always towards the end of November. In addition, from early December we have the Sleigh in a static location in The Broadway Chesham on market days, every Wednesday and on Saturdays from 9.00am until 3.00pm. Father Christmas is in his Sleigh during all of that time and children can get up in the Sleigh, sit next to Santa, have their photo taken and chat to him. That totals 6 or 7 occasions currently. The proposal would restrict that to once only.

If there was no exemption the money raised for our local schools and charities, such as Scouts and the Toy Bank, through the deployment of the Sleigh wouldn't just be reduced but, more likely, completely eliminated as, what is now being proposed, will so severely limit future 'Sleigh activity' as to make it uneconomic to construct and manage. The major detrimental effect will be on money raised for local organisations and will kill off much loved and greatly appreciated regular Sleigh activity (which has been operating in Chesham for around 40 years at least) in the weeks running up to Christmas.

Christmas street collections can be concentrated during a particular period, such as Christmas and restricting to 1 per quarter does not recognise this. Would prefer it was limited to 4 per year, so charities can collect during set periods, such as the lead up to Christmas.

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the Rotary Club of Great Missenden and District

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on the Draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy. My response below is that given in response to the house-to-house collection and item 4 below [regarding section 3.12] is pertinent to our response regarding street collections.

Our Rotary Club, like many Clubs the length and breadth of the country, operate a Santa Sleigh during the month of December every year. These events bring much joy to members of our communities, young and old, and we are concerned that a number of the provisions in the draft policy would have a negative effect on our operations. This, as I shall explain in my response, will in turn effect what we are trying to achieve.

I must stress that we are in favour of the aims and objectives that are set out in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of your proposal. We are simply wanting to outline where our operations, which benefit the community, may not match the exact requirements laid out in your Draft Policy.

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facility for a licence to be granted for “28 days up to and including 24 December”. Having to curtail our activities by not starting until 10 December will mean that some of our routes may not be covered, thus depriving the residents of the opportunity to see our Sleigh and donate to our chosen local charities.

[2] section 2.10: “In order to prevent nuisance to residents, no collection shall take place outside the hours of 09:00 and 19:00”

Whilst we are in accordance with the principle of not causing nuisance to residents, we would like the facility to be able to collect until 2000. Although it is clearly in our interest not to be collecting too late in the evening [children are in bed, elderly rightly will not come to the door], there are on occasions where our operations do extend past 1900. Often this is caused by the numbers of residents who come out to visit Santa and his Sleigh, thereby delaying our progress. All our routes are advertised in advance in the local press/ websites so residents know when we will be ‘on our way’ in their vicinity.

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[4] section 3.12: “In order to ensure that all charities are given equal opportunities, no more than one street collection permit will generally be issued to any charity in each calendar quarter”.

As well as our house-to-house collections we traditionally locate our float stationary in a number of areas within the Missendens area during the weeks up to Christmas. If permits are intended to be issued on ‘one permit, one day, one location’ basis for each calendar quarter, then this would cause Rotary Clubs a serious problem as they would only be allowed to hold one street collection prior to Christmas. We would like to see this section amended to cover our requirement for more than one street collection [in one area eg Missendens] permit in the 28 days before 24 December.

On behalf of our Rotary Club, I hope you will be able to give due consideration to the 4 areas described above; I am more than happy to be contacted if you require any further clarification. In conclusion I must add that whilst a main aim of our Santa Sleigh is fundraising [last Christmas 10 local charities benefitted from distributions from our Trust Fund], there is also a definite community benefit in what we do. Santa is invariably welcomed wherever he appears and we often hear comments such as parents saying 'I remember your float coming round when I was a child' and 'Christmas has not really started until Santa has been down our street'.

I do hope consideration will be given to the points I have raised which will enable our very successful Santa Sleigh to continue providing the 'community service' it has done for many years.

Only allowing one street collection permit per charity for one day, per calendar quarter will severely impact the Rotary Club (of which I am a member) collections. As well as our house-to-house collections we traditionally locate our float stationary in a number of areas within the Missendens area during the weeks up to Christmas. If permits are intended to be issued on 'one permit, one day, one location' basis for each calendar quarter, then this would cause Rotary Clubs a serious problem as they would only be allowed to hold one street collection prior to Christmas. We would like to see this section amended to cover our requirement for more than one street collection.

The proposed changes are too restrictive and some requirements would be unworkable.

All collections should be licensed. All requirements of the licensing body should be adhered to.

How easy is the draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy to understand?

Explain why these policies are in place have a guide to reference, what protection is required to support the community and vulnerable people in the community.

Not really, my overall opinion is that house collections will fade out personally.

Abandon it it's a completely crazy idea and will not be appreciated by the majority of Bucks County Council residents. Use the money elsewhere!

Take a stronger line and ban this intrusion on our lives.

I spend between 5 and 15 hours a week working pro-bono for a charity so please do not interpret my answers as anti charity, they are anti intimidation, which is how many people interpret the approach by charities collection methods.

An option of do you want this at all to stop all the other questions. Eg. I have strongly agreed against the timings of the collections but that does not clarify that I don't want any timings for collections.

too complicated

It would have been easier to outline what the exact changes from existing situation to proposed situation are for example in a table - keep it simple!

Perhaps create a summary document with easier language and clear step by step guidance for those wanting to obtain a charitable collections license. I understand the technical language is necessary to create a legal document but there could be a way to communicate the main points in a more user friendly manner.

If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy, please tell us here: - Other comments

I think an assessment of each household should be undertaken by the door to door representative of that charity and a understanding when to not take money from a person who could be vulnerable.

Please don't allow door to door cold calls from charity representatives asking for direct debit details on the spot. They use pressure selling and are an unacceptable threat particularly to elderly or vulnerable residents. I'm not elderly or vulnerable and I consider them a pest. They can be very persistent and I don't agree that Buckinghamshire Council should be encouraging such cold calling of their residents. You should be protecting us from such nuisance.

Wycombe Town is disadvantaged by this.

Needs applications to be efficiently processed in a timely manner

The questions are badly weighted, if you disagree with the policy, are you saying that there should not be a policy, or it should be more draconian - ie not allow any street or doorstep collections, Or you think the at proposed policy is too restrictive ?

Use the money elsewhere a suggestion would be to make the Planning Department more user friendly.

Unfortunately I misread draft as daft, which probably sums up my views rather well!

The time allowed for collections etc needs to be carefully balanced with the safety of the collectors and collectees.

There may be a need to tighten the initial issuing of licences, but that can be done without restricting the options available to charities after a licence has been issued.

I understand that this is aimed at rationalising policies held by the former District Councils which I do appreciate (being chair of another countywide body). As I understand it though, there have been complaints about charitable collections especially by the likes of Rotary which is a valued, worldwide organisation with lots of clubs across the county. These proposals if enacted would drive a coach and horses through our main charitable giving season. Please do take note of our concerns and act! Many thanks.

There has not been prior consultation with local charities which would show the proposal are not practical. House to house collections have taking place for many years without any problems, and any time restrictions would greatly affect the amount of money collected for local charities.

I am worried that many smaller charities and those like Rotary who raise funds that are 100% dispersed to charity - either local, national or international - will have their fund raising ability severely curtailed by some of these proposals. Whilst I understand that there is a desire to stop any nuisance caused by charities making collections such as the "chuggers", this proposal will curtail the genuine charity collectors who do not pester. I have been volunteering with Rotary International for a number of years and we have door to door collections with Santa's Sleigh throughout December every year, raising thousands for small local charities who would really miss the funds. In all the time I have done this I have not heard a single complaint from a resident, in fact the reverse as most say how much they look forward to us appearing.

My Rotary Club, like many Clubs the length and breadth of the country, operates a Santa Sleigh during the month of December every year. These events bring much joy to members of our communities, young and old, and there is a concern that a number of the provisions in the draft policy would have a detrimental impact on the Buckinghamshire Rotary Clubs' operations. In 2022, my Rotary Club's Sleigh collection raised in excess of £4,500 for local causes. This at a time when many people are struggling financially but they still felt able to contribute to

the worthwhile work we do in supporting local charities. In turn, a reduction in our fundraising operations will mean that our supported charities will suffer and be less able to help the less fortunate members of the local community. Whilst I accept there is a need for regulation, I would like to point out that such operations, which benefit the local community, may not match the exact requirements laid out in your Draft Policy. My Club members have always been warmly received and there has never been any issue or nuisance arising from the collections.

I hope my Club can continue to do this worthwhile work in its existing efficient framework.

Ok as it is.