

Council crack down on holiday-let "commercial" waste - starting in Port Isaac

By [cg_graham](#) | Posted: June 07, 2016

Self-catering enterprises across Cornwall will be watching closely an attempt by Cornwall Council to make businesses in Port Isaac bear the full **cost** of collecting their waste.

A pilot scheme targeted at the Doc Martin **seaside** village, first reported in the Cornish Guardian in April, is due to get underway in a few weeks. The council this week started writing to known self-catering businesses to let them know they have until July 4 to comply with rules which say the dustbins and black bin bags dumped outside holiday properties will in future be treated as commercial waste.

Port Isaac has been chosen because of the high percentage of second and holiday homes, many of which are run as commercial businesses.

At the moment the council's contractor collects waste from these properties for no additional charge, unclear as to whether it is "commercial" or "household." The new crack-down on holiday-let operators could add hundreds of pounds a year to the costs of running their businesses, even though the legislative framework has existed since 2012.

Joyce Duffin, the council cabinet member responsible for waste collection and disposal, said that once evidence from Port Isaac had been assessed, the scheme could be extended to the rest of Cornwall – with major implications for areas with high numbers of self-catering **businesses**.

"It is important that we are fair and consistent in our approach and that all properties producing commercial waste pay for its collection and disposal, rather than the costs falling on council tax payers," she said. "We are aware that, while a number of self-catering properties and **holiday** lets are already making their own arrangements for disposing of their waste, others are leaving their waste out in black bags for the council to collect and dispose of.

"This is illegal and we will be working with St Endellion parish council and waste contractor Cory Environmental to ensure that they are making the arrangements to dispose of their waste appropriately."

Port Isaac councillor Andy Penny welcomed the initiative. "I support the efforts to untangle domestic and commercial waste in our area and to reinforce business responsibility for their waste," he said.

Cornwall's tourism industry said it would encourage its members to obey the law. Malcolm Bell, of Visit Cornwall, said it was important that the industry was not "demonised" by the initiative.

"It will be very interesting to see how this develops," he said, "because many people will not know about the regulations. We need an educational process.

"It might be that self-catering businesses can reduce their costs by working together and realising some economies of scale. Possibly Visit Cornwall might be able to help with that."

The council aims to evaluation the Port Isaac scheme in September and make a decision about extending it to other parts of Cornwall before the end of the year.

