

Question	Answer
<p>Why is a ballot being held?</p>	<p>The location of the North Kessock bottle banks has been subject of dispute over a number of years.</p> <p>Views are divided over whether the bottle banks should be retained in their temporary location in Ferry Brae or returned to the main Car Park.</p> <p>During the creation of the Seaside Garden, the bottle banks were relocated temporarily. However, the Council has been frustrated on a number of occasions from returning the bottle banks to their original location in the North Kessock Car Park.</p> <p>Views on their location remain divided within the community. Two separate petitions have been received – one requesting they remain at Ferry Brae and the other that the bottle banks are returned to the North Kessock Car Park.</p> <p>Members of the Council’s Communities and Place Committee agreed on 25 November 2020 that a community ballot was the only conclusive and democratic way to resolve the situation. This would provide community assurance that the final decision will be the majority view of the community.</p>
<p>What are the possible locations for the bottle banks to reside?</p>	<p>Option A (red dot) - Ferry Brae Option B (blue dot) - North Kessock main Car Park</p>



<p>Is a ballot really necessary?</p>	<p>A ballot was identified as a final solution. Mediation between a number of key parties within the community has been held in an attempt to find a solution and compromise. However, this was unsuccessful.</p> <p>There appears to be no other way of bringing these matters to a conclusion.</p> <p>No other suitable alternative site for a glass recycling point has been found.</p>
<p>What will be the impact?</p>	<p>The bottle banks will either be retained in their current location at Ferry Brae or returned to the Car Park location next to the seaside garden.</p>
<p>What about the visual impact next to the seaside garden?</p>	<p>It has already been agreed that the bottle banks next to the seaside garden will be screened to minimise the visual impact.</p>
<p>Who gets a vote in the ballot?</p>	<p>The geography identified for the ballot is the catchment area for the Primary School. All individuals 16 or over are eligible to vote.</p>
<p>How will you ensure this is a fair and transparent ballot?</p>	<p>The ballot is being administered by the Council's Elections Team who run all elections across the area. They are experienced in ensuring ballots are undertaken fairly and transparently.</p> <p>All ballot papers will be uniquely numbered to ensure all voters have an equal voice in determining the result.</p>
<p>What is the impact for recycling?</p>	<p>Recycling will continue to be provided for North Kessock.</p>
<p>Do we need bottle banks in North Kessock?</p>	<p>The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 requires the Council to provide a recycling service to households for certain recyclable material including glass. The Council achieves statutory compliance by providing a network of glass recycling points. The North Kessock community is of size that justifies provision of a Glass Recycling point.</p>
<p>What is the cost to the Council to hold this ballot?</p>	<p>There will be resource implications of undertaking this ballot, mainly printing and postal costs and officer time to administer. However, this is balanced against the time and resources that have already been lost trying to implement the original decision to return the bottle banks to the main Car Park. A ballot is considered essential to achieve a definitive community view.</p>
<p>Can the ballot count be viewed?</p>	<p>The count administered by The Highland Council election team will take place on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 and further information will be made available on the council's website.</p>