

additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been provided in line with risk assessment reviews carried out at regular stages throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staffing levels have allowed normal service levels to be retained and core services delivered. The team has operated with a relatively low number of absences due to COVID-19 and where necessary they have redeployed staff from grounds maintenance to cover refuse collection. In addition, on specific days they have provided some crews with an additional loader in order to cope with additional waste being produced due to residents being at home. Currently, all wastes tonnages are showing increases of approximately:

- 27% on Dry Mixed Recyclables (DMR);
- 80% on Garden waste
- 13% on Rubbish
- 5% on Food waste

Tables 1 and 2 below show the changes in garden waste domestic waste/DMR in recent months.

The increase in uptake of garden waste subscriptions has almost depleted the Council’s stock of garden waste bins and has put pressure on the NS Team’s bin delivery service. New bin stocks are on order but new customer orders may need to be delayed until such time as the delivery arrives later in May 2020.

Table 1- Garden waste tonnages February to May 2020

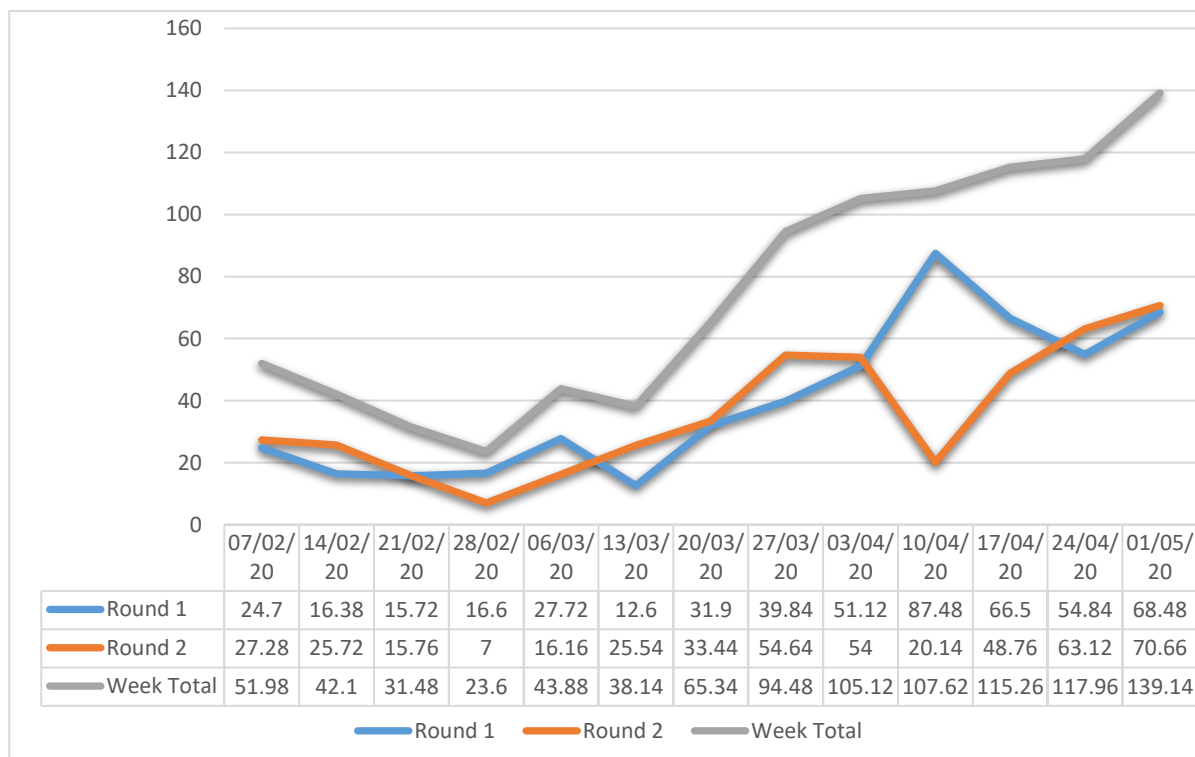
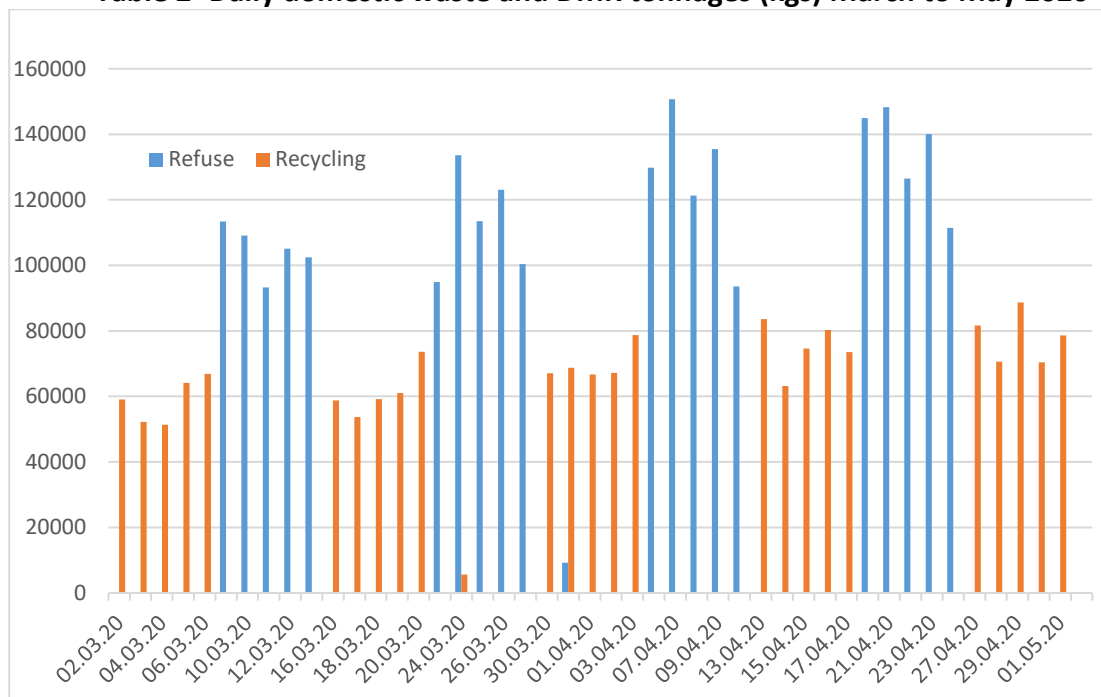


Table 2- Daily domestic waste and DMR tonnages (kgs) March to May 2020



Social distancing

Staff have been informed to maintain social distancing where possible. Where this cannot be undertaken measures have been put in place to ensure cleansing is a top priority. This includes provision of vehicle wipes, sanitizing gel, disposable gloves, and frequent changes of nitrile gloves. Regular communication and engagement with staff has been undertaken to help them understand that we have and will continue to work within Public Health England and Government guidelines and that there are strict criteria for self-isolation. This will be an ongoing pressure when restrictions are relaxed and staff are required to return to normal working practices.

We have created a lot of new business which has generated extra income as part of the very popular green waste collection service. However we also have significant losses of income due to cancellation of services such as bulky waste collections, skips and waste collection from schools, which remain closed.

Grounds and verge maintenance

Government guidelines required parks to be left open and all play facilities closed. Managing the closures of the facilities within the open spaces has been challenging as residents have continually chosen to create damage to access the closed-off facilities; a national issue as well as a local one. The Walled Garden in Sunbury, which is one of the borough’s most visited destinations, was also closed in the early stages of the outbreak for a number of reasons including anti-social behaviour (ASB) and social gatherings.