Welcome to Cotham Vale!

This is a small friendly residential street and we hope you will enjoy your time here. The Vale is home to the full range of city dwellers of all ages, from babies to the elderly, including people who work unsocial hours – and university staff! – as well as students. Please introduce yourself to your neighbours; it benefits you and them, as we are all living here together.

Here is some local information and advice to supplement your University Student Handbook(s) and Accommodation Office literature, which you can access online.

### NOISE

Cotham Vale is a street of (mainly) Victorian terraced houses with small gardens and low garden walls. As a consequence you are closer to your neighbours than you might be used to, and so is any noise you make.

Please be considerate when socialising. Give neighbours plenty of notice if planning a party (a few days not hours). Noise in gardens carries to adjacent streets. The University advises that parties should be contained indoors after 11pm. Also keep your front door shut to keep in the noise, and for obvious security reasons. Encourage your guests to arrive/leave quietly, and avoid shouting down the street. There are venues in town which may be more appropriate for holding parties.

Problem noise and mess will be reported to the Council, the University and your landlord. Repeat complaints may be reported to your academic department.

### NEIGHBOURLINESS

We hope we can all be good neighbours together, despite inevitable differences in lifestyles.

Please remember to park responsibly and not on corners. If you park over the dropped kerb you will get a ticket. Please keep the pavements as clear as possible for pedestrians, pushchairs, and those with walking or vision impairments.

If you have maintenance issues please let your landlords know quickly, for security and health and safety reasons (it is in their interests to respond promptly).

Cotham is a great place to live: do support local trade by using the excellent local shops on Cotham Hill and Abbotsford Road.

If you need advice or information, there are lots of people in Cotham Vale who have lived and worked here for years and will be happy to help.
**RUBBISH & RECYCLING**

Our collection day is Friday: recycling every week, and rubbish (black wheelie bin) every fortnight. Everything needs to be out on the pavement for collection by 7am. The Council website gives details on collections (www.bristol.gov.uk) and can provide leaflets if your household does not already have one.

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| Put into bin bags and into your wheelie bin(s), which must be stored off the pavement except when put out for the binmen (then you have to put it on the pavement or they won’t empty it). They won’t take bags which are not in the wheelie bin, which is why it is a good idea to recycle as much as possible. | **In black box:** glass bottles & jars; paper (not tissue paper); shoes (in pairs); old clothes (in bag); batteries (in a bag)  
**In green box:** cardboard (folded flat), tetrapak cartons, plastic bottles & trays (not black), cans, foil, aerosols (empty)  
**In brown bin:** kitchen waste (cooked food, old food, veg peelings, eggshells, teabags etc) |

If your wheelie bin does not hold enough for your household, talk to your landlord – the Council may be able to provide more bins/boxes.

Wrap kitchen waste in newspaper or use corn starch or degradable bags (available from Cotham Hardware & Earthbound). This keeps the waste tidier and less smelly/slimy. Rinse out cans/bottles, and wash your bins periodically. Make sure your steps and front gardens are kept litter-free.

**Broken glass:** wrap in newspaper and put in rubbish bag in wheelie bin.

**If you do not recycle you will:**
- Find you have too much rubbish to fit in your wheelie bin;
- Have smelly rubbish;
- Attract flies, maggots, rats, pigeons, cats and foxes (which rip open the bin bags and then poo on your doorstep).

Nor will you be doing your bit for the environment – everyone’s responsibility.

Please ask a neighbour if you need help to keep going! Binmen can be fussy: if e.g. you put black box items in the green box they may leave the whole lot.