# Crocheted ‘King of rats’ postbox mocks Birmingham council amid bin strike chaos



A whimsical yet striking addition to the streets of Moseley has emerged amidst the ongoing Birmingham bin strikes, with a comical "King of rats" postbox attracting attention at the junction of Alcester Road and Chantry Road. The postbox, topped with a crocheted rat adorned with a crown and sceptre, stands in stark contrast to the heaps of rubbish bags and pizza boxes littering the area, highlighting the absurdity of a council that seems unable to manage basic civic responsibilities.

This amusing sight arrives during a challenging period for Birmingham residents, who are grappling with an ongoing rat crisis spawned from nine weeks of uncollected waste—resulting from a disastrous strike by bin workers that began on March 11. This situation is a glaring indictment of a council failing its constituents, allowing refuse to accumulate unchecked, while the local leadership seems oblivious to the chaos unfolding on their watch.

The bin workers' strike stems from proposed pay cuts for about 200 drivers of large refuse wagons, tied to a questionable job evaluation process tied to equal pay legislation. Unite the union has called attention to the unjustified nature of these cuts, which could amount to a staggering £8,000 loss per affected worker. The representatives have made it clear that such drastic income reductions will not be tolerated.

In a feeble attempt to justify its actions, the council claims that the job evaluation process is necessary for aligning with equal pay laws, asserting that it was conducted with trade union involvement. However, this so-called commitment to fairness rings hollow when placed against the backdrop of increasing rubbish and mounting discontent among the city's residents.

As negotiations drag on, bin workers remain determined. Many express a willingness to return to work but are prepared to keep their strike going "all summer" if their pay and conditions are not adequately addressed. Adding to the council's mismanagement, the previous elimination of the Waste Recycling and Collection Officer role has left approximately 170 staff members in limbo, exacerbating an already dire situation.

With rubbish piling up in areas like Balsall Heath, the pressure on both the council and striking workers intensifies. The council's spokesperson has reiterated a commitment to discussions aimed at reaching a resolution, but given the ongoing leadership failures, residents are left to wonder if their city will suffer through this summer of discontent without any real change.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/21/as-rubbish-piles-up-tempers-fray-amid-birmingham-bin-strike> - This piece discusses the escalating tensions in Birmingham due to the accumulation of uncollected rubbish amid the bin strike. It provides insights into residents' frustrations and the broader implications of the strike on the community.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/rats-and-other-rodents-posing-huge-public-health-risk-amid-birmingham-bin-strikes-13328936> - This article addresses the public health risks posed by the accumulation of waste during the Birmingham bin strikes, emphasizing the increase in rodent activity and the associated dangers to residents.
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