

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**  
met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on **10 June 2008**

Present:

**North Warwickshire Borough Council**

Councillor Peter Fowler

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

Councillor Jeff Clark

Officer

Peter Benham

**Rugby Borough Council**

Councillor Heather Timms (Vice Chair)

Officer

Sean Lawson

**Stratford-on-Avon District Council**

Councillor Simon Jackson

**Warwick District Council**

Councillor Michael Kinson

Officer

Jackie Webb

**Warwickshire County Council**

Councillor Ken Browne

Councillor Jose Compton

Councillor Eithne Goode

Councillor Martin Heatley (Chair)

Councillor Ray Sweet

Officers

Roy Burton

Glenn Fleet

Ian Marriott

Martin Stott

John Wright

**1. Appointment of Chair**

Councillor Martin Heatley was appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

## 2. **Appointment of Vice Chair**

Councillor Heather Timms was appointed as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

## 3. **Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

## 4. **Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

## 5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

### **(a) Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 be approved and be signed by the Chair.

### **(b) Matters Arising**

#### Minute 3 (b) The Future of Biowaste Treatment in Warwickshire

Councillor Jeff Clark asked about progress on this matter and was informed that a lack of available staff had prevented progress being made. It was hoped that work could start fully in the autumn.

**Resolved** that a meeting be held as soon as possible to progress the issue. The meeting to be held at the Depot, Nuneaton and Bedworth.

## 6. **Take Up on Home Composting Scheme 2007/8**

The Strategic Director for Environment and Economy submitted a report on progress made with the Home Composting Scheme.

In March 2008 the County Council conducted market research amongst residents who had purchased a Wrap compost bin to establish how many were still using the bins, how satisfied they were with the bins the problems encountered and the levels of interest in other forms of waste minimisation. The responses included

- 93% of respondents stated that they were still using their compost bin.
- 57% of respondents stated they were 'very satisfied' with their compost bin and 28% said they were 'fairly satisfied'.
- Of those respondents still using their bin, 38% said they were 'very successful' in producing compost, 46% said that they were 'fairly successful'

- 75% of respondents compost because it is good garden practice and 73% compost for environmental reasons.
- Of the respondents who had been 'very successful' or 'fairly successful' in producing compost, 47% had seen a big reduction in the amount of waste that they put out for collection, 42% noticed a small reduction, whilst 10% had not noticed any real change.
- 24% of respondents had encountered problems when using their compost bin
- 26% of respondents did not think that there was a need for any further encouragement or support. Of the respondents who did want further support, 10% thought that literature would be useful, 28% thought that a web page would be important, 11% thought that a telephone help-line would be helpful.
- 96% of respondents would recommend composting to others.
- 38% of respondents already had a second compost bin, 31% would consider a second compost bin, whilst 28% would not consider a second compost bin.

During the discussion the following points were noted

- The new price of compost bins had an effect on the number of bins sold
- The extension of the green waste collection scheme operated by Warwick DC had impacted on the amount of material that was composted
- Home composting should be encouraged rather than council collection of green waste
- Despite the introduction of a charge for the shredding service it was still popular, to the extent that three new machines have been purchased to replace two present units, so expanding to service. The service provided good value for money.

### **Resolved**

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted to the September meeting of the Partnership.

## **7. Heads of Terms for the Joint Waste Committee**

Ian Marriott reported on progress made on the drafting of the heads of terms for the Joint Waste Committee. He had drafted a document which had then been circulated to the District/Borough Councils for comments. He reported the following points:

- It had been agreed that in the heads of terms certain types of decision would require a unanimous decision, however legislation stated such decisions only required a majority vote. It was noted that this could be dealt with by way of a memorandum of understanding.
- The budget and the business plan required unanimous approval. Failure to approve both documents would have a significant effect on the work of the committee

- Nuneaton and Bedworth had set out four issues which they considered important. The heads of terms either already covered or had been amended to cover three of those issues but the fourth, required more discussion on the ability of individual authorities to block joint decisions.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth had also suggested that the proposed scrutiny arrangements were vague and needed to be set out more clearly. A 5 day "call in" period could be very problematic and it was debatable as to whether that level of safeguard was required for this level of Committee. Similarly it would be inappropriate for the County Council to take on sole responsibility for scrutiny. Warwick DC had suggested that whatever joint scrutiny arrangements were put in place should be subject to a post implementation review.
- Concern was expressed that as the lead partner could afford commission consultants they could do so without consulting other partners. There was therefore a need to ensure that the appointment of consultants was a joint decision.
- Provision was needed to allow for flexibility in the handling of grant applications as such applications could lead to financial liabilities
- Details of delegation to officers had been agreed in principle but need to be agreed in detail

The next step was for officers to meet within the next month to discuss and agree the revised heads of terms. The final version of the document would be agreed over the summer and would be submitted to the Partnership and other relevant meetings for formal agreement by all partners in the autumn.

## **8. Targets For LAA**

The Strategic Director for Environment and Economy submitted a report on negotiations currently taking place with the Government Office for West Midlands concerning the proposed targets to be included in the new Local Area Agreement. The national indicator agreed for Waste Management for the LAA is NI191 which is the number of kilograms of residual waste per household. A second indicator, NI192, related to the percentage of household waste composted and recycled.

The proposed targets were slightly more challenging than those in the County Council's Corporate Plan but the latter had been prepared before the likely out-turn performance for 2007/8 was known. The out-turn performance had been better than expected and it was therefore considered appropriate to further adjust future targets.

Members asked why the total waste had reduced by 4% and were informed that the closure of Hunters Lane recycling centre for part of the year had some effect but overall the amount of refuse had dropped by 1-2% across the County. Members enquired whether this was a short term issue or whether it was linked to increasing amounts of recycling and were informed that it was too early to make an assessment.

Members also asked what was being done to improve recycling opportunities to residents who live in flats and were informed that this was the responsibility of individual District/Borough Councils. There was also a need for councils to positively market the benefits of alternative weekly collections in order to ease public concerns.

**Resolved** that the proposed LAA targets, as detailed in the report submitted, be endorsed.

## **9. County's Response to the Consultation on Proposals for Joint Waste Authorities in England**

Members noted that DEFRA had put out to consultation proposals for the creation of joint waste authorities. The County Council's Cabinet had considered the matter at its May meeting. A draft response had been circulated to partner authorities including Coventry and Solihull but to date no responses had been received. DEFRA had recently sought expressions of interest in joint working

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## **10. Progress With Residual Waste Treatment Projects**

The Strategic Director for Environment and Economy submitted a report on progress with the development of projects to provide long-term residual waste treatment facilities.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Partnership a report was presented outlining Warwickshire's plans for diverting waste away from landfill by working on two key projects, incorporating partnership working with neighbouring authorities. The two main projects Project W2R(waste to resources) , working with Staffordshire County Council and Project Transform working with Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Project W2R was six months ahead of Project Transform.

Members raised the issue of the disposal of both household and green waste to landfill by Stratford on Avon DC. It was explained that this was part of an on going issue which was the subject of discussions to resolve it. Following a question it was acknowledged that the disposal of green waste to land fill was not in accordance with the joint waste strategy and doing so was costing the County Council approx £175,000.

Members also asked what could be done to encourage a greater amount of trade waste to be recycled. It was noted that both Rugby and North Warwickshire councils were exploring the issue. Following a general discussion it was agreed that it should be the subject of a presentation to the next meeting.

**Resolved that**

- (1) The consultants working on both Project W2R and Project Transform be invited to give presentations to the next meeting of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership; and
- (2) A presentation be made to the next meeting of the Partnership on the recycling of trade waste.

**11. Agenda of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership Conference 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**

It was noted that the director of Local Government at WRAP had been confirmed as a speaker and other speakers were being identified. Members requested that the invitations to attend the conference be made more widely available than last year.

**12. Any Other Business**

A "Say no to Plastic bags" had been launched recently in rugby sponsored by both Rugby BC and Warwickshire CC and supported by Rugby BID. The launch had attracted a lot of positive press and public interest. 20,000 canvas bags and 30,000 paper bags had been produced and were being distributed. Work was ongoing with local retailers to get them to think about using sustainable bags rather than plastic bags.

**13. Future Meeting Dates (2:00 p.m. Shire Hall) –**

Future meeting dates were noted as follows-

Tuesday 30 September 2008  
Tuesday 9 December 2008  
Tuesday 31 March 2009

.....  
Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.