

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**  
met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on **21 September 2010**

Present:

**North Warwickshire Borough Council**

Councillor Tilly May  
Officer Bernard Woodhall

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

Councillor Bill Sheppard  
Officer Brent Davis

**Rugby Borough Council**

Councillor Dr Mark Williams  
Officer Sean Lawson

**Stratford-on-Avon District Council**

Officer Olly Scholefield

**Warwick District Council**

Councillor Dave Shilton  
Officer Graham Folkes-Skinner

**Warwickshire County Council**

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)  
Councillor Penny Bould  
Councillor John Whitehouse

**Officers**

Ruth Dixon  
Kitran Eastman  
Glenn Fleet  
Karen Hall  
Jean Hardwick  
Stephen Lewington  
Ian Marriott  
Martin Stott  
Laura Vesty

**1. Election of Chair**

Councillor Dave Shilton moved, seconded by Dr. Mark Williams, that Councillor Alan Cockburn be elected as Chair.

Resolved that Councillor Alan Cockburn be elected as Chair.

## **2. Election of Vice Chair**

Councillor Alan Cockburn moved, seconded by Dr. Mark Williams, that Councillor Dave Shilton be elected as Vice Chair.

Resolved that Councillor Dave Shilton be elected as Vice Chair.

## **3. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Simon Jackson.

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

Members declared personal interests as follows -

- (1) Councillor Penny Bould declared personal interests as a Member of Friends of the Earth and Warwick District Tree Warden Network
- (2) Councillor John Whitehouse declared a personal interest having made a charitable donation to Friends of the Earth.

## **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2010**

### **(a) Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 15 June 2010 be approved and be signed by the Chair.

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

#### **(a) Recycling Collection – Colleges**

In reply to a question from Councillor Penny Bould, Ruth Dixon reported that Barbara Golding, Environmental Management Officer – Education, had written to all the Warwickshire Colleges asking for details of their recycling collections and enquiring whether they would be interested in entering into a dialogue about their trade collection. North Warwickshire College had responded to say that it was happy with its existing contractual arrangements but no other responses had been received. Ruth Dixon undertook to make further contact with the Colleges who had not replied and to provide Councillor Bould with a hard copy of the email that had been sent to her offering her a briefing on the work that was being done with regard to encouraging recycling by Warwickshire's Colleges.

#### **(b) Minute 7 Warwickshire's Waste Management Statistics 2009/10 (Estimates)**

In reply to a question Glenn Fleet said that the figures for overall waste performance in Warwickshire were not yet available.

(b) Minute 6 Project Transform

The Chair reported that Coventry City Council had indicated that it would be withdrawing from this project and that the County Council was seeking reimbursement for the cost of the abortive work. Meanwhile Coventry City Council was refurbishing its Energy from Waste Plant.

## **6. Sub-Regional Working Project**

Sean Lawson reported on the Sub-Regional Working Project and circulated details of a business case for potential joint working within the sub-region (Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (CW&S)) for waste disposal and treatment and a proposed timescale for implementation. He said that the CW&S Leaders had been successful in obtaining regional funding for this work. The aim of the project was to generate efficiency savings. The potential areas for savings had been separated into three Phases, those that could be achieved in year one, between year one and the third year and the longer term, three years plus.

The Leaders were keen that this project could be developed without creating a new project group. He explained that this was not new work but work that had been done previously but was being progressed with sub-regional co-operation. He was happy to update the Partnership regular on progress of this sub-regional project.

During discussion Members questioned how the work of the sub-regional working project fitted in with the proposals for a Joint Waste Committee. Sean Lawson suggested that this could formalise and strengthened what was the Partnership was already doing.

Ian Marriott said that this discussion was timely as it was coincidental that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had raised the question of the purpose of a Joint Committee. He had responded to this question but the decision to set up a Joint Committee was three years old and the reasons for that decision now needed to be reviewed to assess whether the reasons were still appropriate. He proposed that Members should defer their discussion about the appropriateness of establishing a Joint Committee when considering item 9 below.

In reply to a question Sean Lawson said that this Working Project could be a national pilot project for Total Environment.

The Chair thanked Sean Lawson for his presentation outlining the Project Group's work.

## **7. Business Waste Recycling.**

Stephen Lewington presented the report and explained that funding had been received from Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) to enable the County and District to facilitate the recycling of trade waste.

In reply to questions Glenn Fleet explained that businesses were required to offer collection of old white goods but that this would be at a cost to the customer. Additionally the County Council was working with the district/borough councils to offer free collection of these goods by contractors and this should reduce the number of goods being placed into waste disposal bins. Reference was made to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEE) which covered the disposal of white goods.

Officers of the districts/boroughs commented that fly-tipping was not an issue in their areas but when there was an incident they were required to report this to the Environment Agency with whom they worked very closely. The Chair commented that generally the public was aware that fly-tipping was illegal and an irresponsible act.

The Chair –

- (1) thanked Stephen Lewington for presenting the report;
- (2) asked for a report to the next meeting detailing the level of fly-tipping experienced by each district/borough council. Graham Folkes-Skinner undertook to organise this work.

## **8. Project to Increase the Number of Households Participating in Recycling in the Boroughs of North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth**

Ruth Dixon presented the report.

The Chair commended the report and invited the district council representatives to comment on the project.

Councillor Bill Sheppard said that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was pleased with the improved results for recycling and welcomed the support given by the County Council. He said that the previously poor recycling levels related directly to the lack of resources and urged the County Council to continue funding the temporary support post.

Councillor Tilly May said that North Warwickshire Borough Council was very appreciative of the County Council's support to help increase recycling rates.

The Partnership thanked Ruth Dixon for the report and asked for an update at the next meeting.

## **9. Waste Joint Committee**

Ian Marriott circulated a draft report which could be used by each district and borough council as a model for reporting to their Executives the

proposal for setting up a Joint Waste Committee. Referring to the discussion in minute 6 above, he highlighted the original reasons for setting up a Joint Committee, listed in page 2 , paragraph 2.4 of the report, to paragraph 2.6 which outlined the Audit Commission's recommendation for Warwickshire authorities to work together and to the last page which contained the budget and business plan . He added that over the past three years the momentum for a Joint Committee had slowed down following concerns expressed by partner bodies relating to costs. In addition the programme of work to justify a Joint Committee had disappeared and it now made sense to approach this on a sub-regional level. The question that partners needed to consider was whether a Joint Committee was still needed as originally planned or whether it needed to be revised bearing in mind that the joint scrutiny arrangements had changed. He suggested that the officers should be asked to re-appraise and review the situation and report back.

In reply to questions Ian Marriott said that :

- (1) The benefits of a Joint Committee, made up of the relevant portfolio holders from each partner organisation, would expedite decision making (decisions could be made without referral back to each Executive Committee), provide a single voice for Warwickshire when responding to consultations and strengthening bonds between partners which would be encouraging for external funding;
- (2) The original set of tasks behind the establishment of a Joint Committee had dropped away but there was the potential for other work which he suggested were listed in the Sub-Regional Working Project business plan;
- (3) The original decision to appoint a Partnership Manager, whose job would be to drive forward the work programme, had fallen by the wayside mainly because of costs. Some grant approved schemes had run their course and the Waste Minimisation Unit which was put at the disposal of the Joint Waste Committee was no longer in existence.

During discussion the following comments were noted:

- (1) That a Joint Committee could be the enabler of sub-regional working;
- (2) That there was a need to look at what the Partnership was currently doing and what benefits would be gained by a Joint Committee;
- (3) That the Waste Partnership had changed and improved overtime and everyone was working well together.

The Partnership asked Ian Marriott and Glenn Fleet to prepare a report for the next meeting setting out the advantages and disadvantages of proceeding with establishing a Joint Waste Committee.

**10. Annual Waste Conference – 11 November 2010**

Glenn Fleet reported that the Annual Waste Conference would be held on Thursday 11 November 2010 in Northgate House Conference Centre, Warwick. The programme of events would include a series of presentations in the morning with round table discussions/working groups in the afternoon to take forward how the 60% recycling can be achieved agreed at the workshop held in Nuneaton earlier in the month where everyone present had signed up to 60% recycling by 2015. The outcomes of the Annual Conference would be reported to the Partnership's December meeting.

**11. Any Other Business**

(a) Provisional Waste Management Date

Kitran Eastman circulated the Provisional Waste Management Data for Quarter 1, 2010/11 and said that the figures for 2009/10 had yet been finalised but would be brought to the Partnership's December meeting.

(b) Green Waste Collection – Stratford-on-Avon-District Council

In reply to concern expressed by Councillor John Whitehouse about the impact on Stratford-on Avon-District Council's proposal to charge for its green waste collection on other Councils in Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council's existing contracts, Olly Scholefield stated that a report was presented to the Council's Cabinet but that any decision had been deferred by Members until the end of 2010 so that the results of the current public exercise, could be considered. The Chair said he shared Councillor Whitehouse's concerns.

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

The Partnership noted the future meeting dates as follows-

7 December 2010  
8 March 2011

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Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.