

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**
met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on 8 **March 2011**

Present:

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Officer Richard Dobbs

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Bill Sheppard

Officer Brent Davis

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Carolyn Robbins

Officer Sean Lawson

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Mike Brain

Officer Olly Scholefield

Warwick District Council

Councillor Dave Shilton (in the Chair)

Officer Becky Davies

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Penny Bould

Councillor John Whitehouse

Officers

Kitran Eastman

Glenn Fleet

Jean Hardwick

Ian Marriott

Martin Stott

Laura Vesty

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Cockburn, Tilly May and Dr. Mark Williams.

In the absence of the Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair), Councillor Dave Shilton chaired the meeting.

Welcome and thanks

The Chair welcomed Councillor Mike Brain to his first meeting of the Partnership and asked him to convey to Councillor Simon Jackson Members' thanks for his contribution to the work of the Partnership and to wish him well in his future portfolio role.

Update on Partner Representatives

At the invitation of the Chair each district/borough confirmed their current Membership as follows:

North Warwickshire – Councillor Tilly May (substitute - Council S Swann)

Nuneaton and Bedworth – Councillor Bill Sheppard (substitute – none)

Rugby – Dr. Mark Williams (substitute – Councillor Carolyn Robbins)

Stratford – Councillor Mike Brain (substitute – none)

Warwick - Councillor Dave Shilton (Councillor N Vincett – substitute)

County Council – Penny Bould, Alan Cockburn (Chair), Michael Doody, John Whitehouse and a vacancy.

The Chair proposed that Councillor Jeff Clarke should fill the County Council vacancy and the Partnership confirmed their agreement to this proposal. (Note for the minutes: The filling of this vacancy will need to be agreed by the County Council).

2. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

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

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2010

(a) Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 21 September 2010 be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters Arising

None.

4. Presentation on the results of the Waste Study conducted in 2010

Kitran Eastman, with the aid of a power point presentation (copy circulated at the meeting) reported on the results from the waste composition analysis carried out in July.

She highlighted that, in percentage terms, each district produced similar waste but, for each waste stream, Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire overall produced larger amounts of waste than the other districts. Richard Dobbs commented that it was difficult to understand why North Warwickshire produced more waste when it was a predominantly rural area. Kitran responded by saying that more work could be done on assessing what waste might come from outside the county and suggested that there might be more non-combustible construction and demolition work being undertaken in the north of the county.

During discussion the following comments were noted:

- (1) That the results of the Study were very interesting and a question was asked about the cost of the Study if it were to be repeated;
- (2) That a publicity campaign was needed, appropriately directed for each district, to encourage green and food waste collection;
- (3) A question was asked about the availability of information about the cost per household of food thrown away and Warwickshire compared with other authorities;
- (4) Concern was expressed about the amount of plastics going into landfill and the need to reduce packaging;
- (5) Concern was expressed about the impact of Defra Regulations and whether this had an impact on food waste collection.

In reply to the above Kitran Eastman, Glenn Fleet and Martin Stott said that –

- (1) the cost of the Study was not known but this could be established in order to assess whether it was worth repeating the exercise. In this connection Kitran reported on a letter received by the County Council from Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State, discouraging this type of exercise.
- (2) The national data was available to compare the results;
- (3) A cross district officer group was currently considering how to improve green waste separation and collection and could be asked to report their findings to the next meeting;
- (4) WRAP estimated that each household threw away approximately £500 to £600 per year of waste or excess food. It was also estimated that if this excess was reduced then it could save each household up to £100 per year in Council Tax.

With regard to plastic recycling the Chair said that Warwick District Council collected clear bottles only but a new contract was being negotiated and co-mingling might be the way forward.

The Partnership-

- (1) thanked Kitran Eastman for her presentation;

- (2) asked the countywide officer group to report to the next meeting on proposals for a campaign to reduce food waste;
- (3) Asked that a copy of the letter from the Secretary of State be circulated to Members of the Partnership.

5. Waste Initiative Update February 2011 – Update from each authority

The Partnership considered the attached report of the Officers Group which gave an update from each partner authority.

With regard to each authority area the following additional comments were made:

Stratford District Council

Olli Schofield reported that, with the help of the County Council, recycling on the go litter bins had been rolled out across Stratford District with 16 bins being provided in the major towns. He reported a good capture and collection system and hoped to continue this initiative by increasing the number of bins.

He said that this material was being processed through the new MRF Plant at Ettington, which would be officially opened next week, and a press release published shortly. (Sean Lawson to arrange a visit by the Partnership – see minute 9, future agenda items.)

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Richard Dobbs reported that the recycling scheme was going well and a tied bag system for plastics introduced (to overcome problems because of the recent windy weather) and was supporting the Love Food Hate Waste Campaign.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Brent Davies reported that kerbside collection was being rolled out to flats where recycling facilities had been requested by the occupiers. The most important issue was that the Council had made a firm decision to move to an alternate week collection system but was not sure whether it would be co-mingled or dual-stream collection. Councillor Bill Sheppard said that the big concern for Nuneaton and Bedworth was food waste.

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Carolyn Robbins reported that the round review should save money and would be a big issue for Rugby over the coming months.

Warwick District Council

Becky Davies referred to a trial to separate clear glass from the mixed glass collection they currently provide. There would be no change for residents, they would continue to present their glass bottles and jars mixed in the red box. The collection crews would separate the colours as they collected the glass. Clear glass could be sold for a much higher price (approx. £25 per tonne) when separated and since the price for mixed glass had drastically dropped to £2 a tonne this might be a worthwhile exercise. WDC was just awaiting the results of the trial to see whether it could be rolled out across all collection crews. In response to a Member's previous comment about educating the public on waste disposal, Becky reported that the team of Community Recycling Officers at WDC had recently written to all schools in the district offering to provide assemblies and/or classroom sessions about recycling. So far, the team had been into approx. 10 schools and had bookings for other schools and community groups also.

Warwickshire County Council

Laura Vesty reported on the County Council activities.

With regard to the consultation on the proposed reduction in opening days and times at the Household Waste Recycling Centre the Chair asked that consideration be given to the days on which refuse collections took place in Kenilworth. For example Kenilworth had its collections on Mondays and so this might be a more appropriate day to close Cherry Orchard HWRC as people would be more likely to make full use of the collection service. In response Laura Vesty said that the pre-consultation event would provide the opportunity to explain how the public consultation exercise would be undertaken and to take on board Members' comments. Following this process a number of options would be produced. Details of the event, which would take place on the 21 March 2011, would be circulated to Members.

The Launch of the "Love Food Hate Waste" campaign was taking place that day and involved 33 councils across the region over the next 12 month period. A number of campaigns would be carried out across the districts and boroughs and publicity material had been made available which officers were distributing to Partnership members.

Members noted the update report.

6. Q 3 Waste Data Update

Laura Vesty presented the provisional waste management data for quarter 3 2010/11 and in reply to a Member's suggestion said that future reports could include waste data per household.

7. 2011/12 Warwickshire Waste Partnership Business Plan – Update

Kitran Eastman said that the Business Plan was still being finalised and would have 5 key targets. Each of these targets would have a lead officer supported by a Member “Champion” and she hoped to have names allocated to each of these lead and support roles by the next meeting

8. Any other business

Surplus Charity Collection Goods

The Chair asked whether charities were allowed to take furniture collected from the kerbside and surplus to requirement, to the household waste disposal sites free of charge. He was enquiring particularly about the Kenilworth Lions charity collection.

In response Glenn Fleet said that charities could make application to his office for permission to dispose of surplus goods once a month and that each application would be considered on its merits. He said that charities should be urged not to collect goods that were unsuitable for reuse.

9. Future Agenda items

The Chair invited suggestions for items for future meetings:

Councillor Penny Bould expressed her concern about the amount of rubbish deposited on the verges of the roads around the county and enquired whether there was any aspect of this issue that the Partnership should discuss. The Chair said that councils were frequently criticised in the press about litter but this was a Highways Agency issue. Richard Dobbs said that North Warwickshire did not have the funds to clear up litter and had previously written to the Highways Agency without success on this matter. He said that whereas the Highways Agency was responsible for cleaning and maintaining dual carriageways this did not cover clearing up litter and was an ongoing problem with gaining safe access to the major roads.

The Partnership agreed to ask the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee that this might be an issue it could investigate. Councillor John Whitehouse (Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee) said he would ask the Labour spokesperson on that Committee to raise this issue.

The Partnership agreed the items for the next meeting as follows:

1. Visit to the MRF site at Ettington (Sean Lawson to arranged)
2. Future Disposal Plan post “Project Transform”
3. Waste Initiative from Each Authority (to be a standing future agenda item.)

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

The Partnership noted the future meeting dates as follows-

14 June 2011
27 September 2011
6 December 2011
6 March 2012

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Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.