

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 6 December 2011, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members of the Partnership

Councillor Mike Brain
Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)
Councillor Michael Doody
Councillor Hayden Phillips
Councillor Bill Sheppard
Councillor Dave Shilton (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ray Sweet
Councillor John Whitehouse
Councillor Dr. Mark Williams

Officers

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Becky Davies | Tony Perks |
| Olivia Davies | Olly Scholefield |
| Brent Davis | Andy Smith |
| Caroline Faulkner | Louise Wall |
| Glenn Fleet | David Whitehouse |
| Sean Lawson | |
| Ian Marriot | |
| Richard Maybey | |
| Ruth Payne | |

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor Jeff Clarke.

2. Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests

Councillor John Whitehouse declared a personal interest as a financial contributor to Friends of the Earth.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2011

(a) Minutes

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters arising

Municipal waste data

Glenn Fleet stated that the analysis of municipal waste per head data would begin in the new year, and apologised for the delay in moving this forward.

Sharing best practice

Councillor Dave Shilton confirmed the willingness of Warwick District Council to assist North Warwickshire Borough Council's Task & Finish Group in identifying best recycling practices.

Dates of meetings

Councillor John Whitehouse asked if consideration had been given to moving meeting dates to allow members more time to review the quarterly waste data reports. Glenn Fleet explained that today's agenda did not include a quarterly report as the responsible officer had been promoted. A new statistics officer will be in post shortly and the date of future meetings will be looked at.

Incentives to recycle

Tony Perks stated that Stratford District Council is successfully reducing its overall waste volumes (both residual and recyclable), but this was having a negative financial impact on the recycling credits it receives from the County

Council. Given that reduced waste volumes provide financial benefit to the County in lower landfill tax liabilities, Tony asked if the County had any financial mechanism to incentivise the collection authorities to continue reducing overall waste volumes. Glenn Fleet responded that the Council was unable to subsidise the collection authorities for reduced waste volumes and that it was in the interests of all partner authorities to reduce waste volumes.

4. Chair's Announcements

None

5. Update on Warwickshire Partners' Current and Forthcoming Waste Initiatives

Each partner authority provided an update on the waste initiatives in their region.

North Warwickshire

- Recycling volumes continue to increase, and the recycling rate should reach 33% by year end
- A Task & Finish Group has been established to look at options for increasing recycling performance
- Route optimisation work is underway, including route models that incorporate Lower House Farm
- The recycling officer is working closely with schools and community groups to promote recycling

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

- The alternate collection scheme began on 25 October and is currently yielding 210 tonnes of recycling per week
- The dry recycling rate is around 30%, which rises to 45% with the inclusion of green waste
- The success of the scheme has led to the number of residual waste collection rounds being reduced by two
- The next step is to roll the scheme out to blocks of flats, which will lift the rate up towards 50%
- The roll-out has been very successful and well-received, thanks both to the preliminary work done by officers (such as roadshows, communication campaigns and telephone helplines) and the support and advice from colleagues in Rugby
- The only problem was an under-estimation of the number of bins needed, caused by the misclassification of maisonettes as flats by the GIS mapping. However, this was remedied prior to roll-out
- Residents and elected members would now like a food waste scheme to be introduced to complement the alternative collections. Glenn Fleet explained that a biowaste contract was recently tendered, but the bids received were double the cost of the current In-Vessel Composting contract used by Rugby, Stratford and Warwick. Officers are investigating the reasons for this and will undertake more soft-market testing. The intention is for a scheme to be in operation by November 2012 to service both Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire

Rugby BC

- Education work in schools is continuing
- Stickers have been put on green bins to encourage residents to include their food waste
- The bin-exchange scheme will be promoted after the Christmas period, encouraging residents to switch to a slimmer residual bin
- Improved locks have been fitted to WEEE banks to prevent their contents being stolen

Warwick

- Results from the Warwick Gates project have not been as good as expected, so more work is needed to educate residents about recycling
- A trial roll of compostable food waste bags, including usage information, has been delivered to all households with a green bin
- The Guide Dogs project is successfully raising awareness of textile recycling. The adopted puppy "Warwick" is settling well in his new home, and will be participating in more public promotions as it gets older
- Cllr Shilton stated that a combined effort was needed by all partner authorities to tackle the problem of rogue textile collections

Stratford

- Information has been published on the District Council website to inform residents about what happens to their recycling after collection, including a video of the Ettington MRF facility
- Arrangements are in place between the District, County Council and Biffa to redeploy workforce resources in order to tackle adverse weather conditions
- Progress has been made to reduce the contamination of recycling by plastic bags and other non-recyclable materials. Last month, the contamination rate was very low at 0.04%, but work needs to continue

WCC

- The Lower House Farm design-and-build work should commence in January 2012 and be complete by late 2012. Initial discussions with the contractor have been positive, and this looks to be a good-value deal for the County
- Six Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) have come in-house successfully. All staff who wanted to transfer have done so. The revised opening hours should come into effect by mid-January 2012
- Development of the new HWRC in Nuneaton & Bedworth should be complete within 2 years
- Portable modular buildings are being put in place at all sites that don't have a permanent re-use shop. The arrangement with the third sector to run these re-use shops is mutually beneficial and working well

6. Proposed New Waste Management Targets to Support Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Glenn Fleet introduced the report, stating that members of both the Waste Partnership and the County Council's Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee had asked for Warwickshire's waste targets to be stretched to reflect good recent performance.

The proposed recycling targets (higher is better) have been set against the context of new schemes in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire and the new contract for recycling street sweepings, which will increase overall recycling volumes.

The proposed landfill targets (smaller is better) show a steady fall until 2013/14, at which point there is a large expected decrease. This reflects the ambition to begin diversion of waste from landfill to the new W2R facility at Four Ashes.

Councillor Dave Shilton asked for confirmation of the expected landfill tax increases and the economic benefit of diverting waste to W2R. Glenn Fleet stated that landfill tax would rise by £8 per tonne each year for the next 3 years (from £56 to £80). The contract arrangement with W2R will provide great value for money, especially as the haulage contract has also been agreed.

Councillor John Whitehouse suggested that a reduction target should be included for all waste, not just residual waste. He also stated that it is difficult to judge the stretched targets without the current half-year data. Glenn Fleet stated that the half-year figures could be circulated to members in early January 2012.

Resolved: the Waste Partnership noted the achievements made over the past few years and approved the new stretched targets up to 2013/14

7. Recycling of Street Sweepings and Gully Emptyings – presentation

David Whitehouse outlined the new contract for the recycling of street sweepings and gully emptyings, which will begin on 3 January 2012.

Warwickshire is the lead authority for the contract, working in partnership with Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Leicestershire county councils.

A new facility located between Walsall and Wolverhampton will use state-of-the-art technology to process around 30,000 tonnes of waste per year into sand, aggregate, filter cake and organics. The contractor expects to deliver a 90% recycling rate.

Warwickshire and Coventry expect to achieve annual savings of £420,000 as a result of diverting this waste from landfill (at today's disposal costs).

The solution has been recognised as a model of best practice, and the West Midlands Waste Alliance has asked Warwickshire to lead on a re-tendering exercise on behalf of those authorities not included.

8. Love Food Hate Waste – presentation

Caroline Faulkner and Ruth Payne provided an overview of an upcoming Love Food Hate Waste campaign, which is being managed by an advertising agency. Feedback and ideas were invited from members of the Partnership.

Key elements of the campaign will include:

- Information about minimising food waste and increasing food composting
- A target to reduce food waste by 681g per household per month, which would divert 1814 tonnes from landfill each year, saving the Council around £129,000 in landfill costs
- A Waste Not Want Not radio competition to raise awareness of food waste minimisation and the potential annual savings of £680 per household
- A Love Food Hate Waste Challenge involving two local households from each district/borough, culminating in a live radio quiz
- A Love Food Hate Waste Week, in March 2012, airing a series of pre-recorded features across local radio stations
- Outdoor billboards, supermarket advertising, bus streetliners and newspaper wraps
- The one-off cost of the campaign will be £69,501

Brent Davis suggested that the new Tesco supermarket in Bedworth should be invited to participate in the advertising campaign. Councillor Dave Shilton questioned why only certain supermarket stores were included, and suggested the roll-out should be extended to cover more. Officers agreed to consult with the advertising agency about the cost implications.

There was general agreement with Councillor John Whitehouse, who suggested that the campaign should emphasise the economic benefit of reducing food waste, as the potential annual saving of £680 will be a powerful message.

9. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

- Regular update on waste initiatives from each authority
- Update on the operation of in-house HWRCs

10. Confirmation of future meeting dates

- 6 March 2012

11. Any urgent items

- None

.....
Chair

The meeting closed at 15:25