

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

The **Warwickshire Waste Partnership** met at the **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **TUESDAY the 27^h September 2011 at 2:00pm**

Present:

Members of the Partnership

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)
Councillor Hayden Phillips
Councillor Bill Sheppard
Councillor Dave Shilton (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ray Sweet
Councillor John Whitehouse

Other Councillors

Councillor Clare Hopkinson
Councillor Barry Lobbett

Officers

Becky Davies
Brent Davis
Kitran Eastman
Glenn Fleet
Sean Lawson
Ian Marriot
Richard Maybey
Olly Scholefield
Martin Stott
Laura Vesty
Louise Wall

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Alan Cockburn was elected Chair of the Partnership
(nominated by Cllr Shilton, seconded by Cllr Sweet)

Cllr Dave Shilton was elected Vice Chair of the Partnership
(nominated by Cllr Cockburn, seconded by Cllr Sweet)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for:

- Cllr Mike Brain, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Cllr Dr. Mark Williams, Rugby Borough Council
- Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council
- Cllr Michael Doody, Warwickshire County Council

2. Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests

Cllr John Whitehouse declared a personal interest having made a charitable donation to Friends of the Earth.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011

(a) Minutes

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters Arising

Regarding the clearing of roadside litter, particularly in relation to the A46, Glenn Fleet confirmed that discussions are underway with the Highways Agency to develop a collaborative system that prevents duplication of work. It was agreed that progress should be monitored by the Partnership at this stage, rather than the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Regarding the Partnership's Business Plan objectives, it was confirmed that:

- Resources are now in place to assess the best way to monitor the sustainability of the municipal waste strategy
- Figures are now available to analyse the reduction of municipal waste per head, and this work will be led by Kitran Eastman (WCC), Becky Davies (WDC) and Cllr Whitehouse

Sean Lawson updated the Partnership on developments at the Material Recycling Facility, Ettington:

- Permission has been granted for 24x7 operation
- Plans have been submitted for the development of an education facility

4. Chair's Announcements

Cllr Cockburn informed the Partnership that this was Martin Stott's last meeting of the County Council, and offered thanks to Martin for all his good work over the years. Martin thanked the Partnership for the positive relationships that had developed between the authorities and wished everyone well for the future.

5. 2010/11 Waste Statistics

Laura Vesty introduced the report, containing overall figures for Warwickshire, a comparison with other waste disposal authorities and a breakdown by partner authority. The following points were highlighted:

- Positive reduction in municipal waste
- Positive increase in recycling and composting rates
- Recycling performance has fallen slightly compared to other authorities
- However, this should improve as new schemes launch, such as the imminent switch to alternate collections in Nuneaton & Bedworth
- The districts with alternate collections have the lowest residual waste totals
- This is the first year in which Warwickshire County Council has sold any LATs

It was noted that street sweepings are currently included within the landfill figures, but this will change when the new recycling contract starts in January 2012. Officers anticipate a 3.5% increase in the recycling rate from street sweepings, plus a further increase as Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire move to alternate collections.

While Members noted the positive increase in rates for Warwickshire, they also noted the relative fall compared to other authorities. Officers were asked to look at the possible reasons for this, such as the balance between recycling, re-use and composting and if other authorities were focusing their efforts differently.

Cllr Hayden Phillips stated that the new facility at Dordon will help improve the recycling rate in North Warwickshire. Cllr Ray Sweet added that the Borough Council is also setting up a Task & Finish Group to identify best practices from around the County. Cllr Dave Shilton stated that Warwick District Council would be happy to participate in this, and there was consensus from the Partnership that sharing best practice would be beneficial to all.

The Partnership noted the report and approved the new format for presenting the end-of-year figures.

6. 2011/12 Q1 Waste Data

Laura Vesty circulated the report, offering the latest available waste and recycling figures from April - June 2011. The following points were highlighted:

- The data is provisional and not yet approved
- There is a slight increase in recycling compared to the previous quarter, which may be due to less composting in winter months
- Overall waste volumes are down compared to 2010/11 Q1, and there are positive trends for all types of waste
- Stratford and Warwick have the lowest residual waste per head
- Population figures are taken from the Waste Data Flow, which uses data from the Office of National Statistics that might not always be accurate

It was noted that the release of the quarterly data often coincides with the date of the Partnership's meetings, so members do not have opportunity to review the data prior to the meeting. To resolve this, consideration will be given to moving future meeting dates back by one week.

7. Waste Initiatives – update from each authority

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

North Warwickshire

- The kerbside recycling scheme has yielded improvements in the recycling rate
- Route optimisation work has improved the efficiency of collections

- A Task & Finish Group is being established to look at best recycling practices from around the county

Nuneaton & Bedworth

- The switch to alternate collections is imminent, but there are still many households not participating in recycling
- Awareness of the scheme has been achieved via leafleting and promotions, but further work will be required when the scheme is in progress
- The main objection from residents has been the absence of food waste collection
- Targeted programmes to minimise food waste are therefore being considered

Rugby

- The textile recycling scheme has been delayed
- Delivery of slim-line bins is anticipated soon
- Residents can request a voluntary swap to a slim bin
- Slim bins are now the standard for new properties and replacements
- Districts and boroughs are welcome to trade bins with each other if needed

Warwick

- Progress continues with textile recycling schemes, including a link-up with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and collaboration with trading standards to combat illegal collection vans
- A campaign is underway on the Warwick Gates estate to increase recycling participation. Progress is being monitored and, where rates are low, staff have been knocking on doors to understand the barriers to recycling
- The district has been working with the County's Education department with a view to increasing awareness of recycling within schools

Stratford

- Biffa has been helping to divert food waste from landfill by placing stickers on bins. The council is now awaiting feedback on the level of food waste in green bins
- An education campaign has been launched to educate residents about how plastic bags can contaminate recycling
- This led to enquiries from residents about what happens to their recycling after collection, prompting an awareness article to be published in the Council magazine

Warwickshire

- Most recent work has centred on the contract arrangements outlined in the report
- The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Nuneaton does not yet have planning permission, but officers are as certain as they can be that this will be approved

During general discussion, the following points were raised:

- Rugby and Stratford (and soon Nuneaton & Bedworth) offer TetraPak collections, which is something that other authorities may wish to monitor and consider
- The collection of disposable nappies could also be an area for consideration
- The distribution of sample food-caddy liners was very well received in Warwick
- More clarity is needed for residents about which food liners are acceptable

8. Government Waste Review

Laura Vesty introduced the key points from the Government's Waste Review:

- The rumoured financial incentives for councils to return to weekly residual collections were not forthcoming
- There is strong support for food waste recycling through Anaerobic Digestion
- Councils will be prevented from inspecting waste and imposing fines. Enforcement will be limited to residents who conduct irresponsible behaviour
- The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme will be scrapped, but the Waste Data Flow will continue
- There will be no new recycling targets imposed on councils
- There will be more support for businesses to recycle
- There may be future landfill restrictions on wood-based and biodegradable waste
- Businesses working with waste will have a duty to comply with the waste hierarchy

Members were encouraged by the support to businesses, which will also benefit the local community and bring additional income to the authority.

Officers confirmed that the County Council is about to commence a review of the services it can offer to businesses, and will be contacting the districts/boroughs to develop a policy that all authorities can work towards.

9. Household Waste Recycling Centres

Kitran Eastman presented the results of a public consultation on the transfer of HWRCs in-house. The following points were noted:

- A consultation period of 1 month was deemed most appropriate
- Despite wide advertisement of the consultation, there was limited interest from the press, resulting in just 218 responses (214 electronic, 4 paper)
- There were useful responses about what residents would find helpful, such as clearer information on what can and can't be recycled
- Feedback on the Re-use Shops was also useful, showing customer preference for DIY/gardening products. This will help inform future business models
- Profits from Re-use Shops are used to fund operational costs, with any surplus donated to local charities
- Beneficiaries are chosen by the voluntary agency running the Re-use Shop, but the County Council is seeking ways to involve local Members in the selection

10. Future Waste Disposal

Cllr John Whitehouse updated the Partnership on the findings of a Task & Finish Group that was established to consider the County Council's procurement of its future residual waste contract. In summary:

- Members attended an Industry Day to understand Warwickshire's waste requirements and potential solutions from market providers
- A 'select committee' type event was held to question experts and stakeholders
- A report containing seven recommendations was approved by the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee and will be considered by Cabinet in October

- The recommendations cover 4 main themes:
 - Flexibility - so capacity can be adjusted in line with decreasing waste volumes
 - Contract length - so the Council is not tied in for more than 15 years
 - Using a mix of technologies - so the Council is not tied to any outdated or unaffordable solutions
 - Adopting the 'Competitive Dialogue' procurement - so tenderers have greatest flexibility in their bids

Cllr Clare Hopkinson, a member of the Task & Finish Group, added that the review also focussed on the need to obtain value for money for the Council.

Cllr Alan Cockburn thanked members for the update and was in general support of the group's findings, stating that it was important not to be tied into long-term contracts at such an interesting and changing time for the waste industry.

Glenn Fleet thanked members of the Partnership who contributed to the select committee day. Richard Maybey agreed to circulate the report electronically.

11. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

- Feedback from Nuneaton & Bedworth on their switch to alternate collections
- Feedback from Warwick on efforts to stop rogue collection companies
- Review of services that can be offered to businesses at HWRC sites

12. Confirmation of future meeting dates (Tuesdays, 2:00pm, Shire Hall)

- 6 December 2011
- 6 March 2012

Consideration to be given to moving these dates back as per agenda item 6

13. Any urgent items

None

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Chair

The meeting closed at 15:40