

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 6 March 2012, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members

Councillor Jeff Clarke
Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)
Councillor Michael Doody
Councillor Hayden Phillips
Councillor Carolyn Robbins
Councillor Bill Sheppard
Councillor Dave Shilton (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ray Sweet

Officers

Becky Davies	Ian Marriot
Olivia Davies	Richard Maybey
Brent Davis	Olly Scholefield
Glenn Fleet	Louise Wall
Sean Lawson	Bernard Woodhall

Others

Councillor Barry Lobbett

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor Dr. Mark Williams, who was replaced by Councillor Carolyn Robbins, Councillor Mike Brain and Tony Perks

2. Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair

4. Chair's announcements

The Chair invited feedback from any members who attended the recent Waste Partnership Conference. Cllr Shilton, who chaired the conference, stated that feedback from delegates was very positive and there were many new ideas discussed that would be taken forward in partnership.

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

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

5.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council

- (i) A Task & Finish Group has been considering options for increasing recycling performance and will report its findings in the next few weeks, including a recommendation to move to alternative collections. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council were thanked for their contributions
- (ii) Vehicles have been equipped with improved systems to provide drivers with better information
- (iii) The recycling officer has been appointed for a further 12 months and will continue to promote awareness and education of recycling, particularly within schools

5.2 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

- (i) The alternate collection scheme, which began in October, is progressing well, with positive feedback received from residents

- (ii) The focus for 2012 will be to expand the scheme into flats, which will increase recycling volumes further
- (iii) The recycling officer has been appointed for a further 12 months
- (iv) A food waste collection scheme is anticipated to start in November 2012

5.3 Rugby Borough Council

- (i) Green bins are being rebranded to inform residents that they accept food waste
- (ii) A textile recycling scheme is starting imminently
- (iii) Mini recycling sites in the Borough are being misused by fly-tippers, which may lead to a review of their future viability
- (iv) Work is underway with schools to educate them that they can recycle more than just paper and cardboard

5.4 Warwick District Council

- (i) Alternate collections are being rolled out to more households in the District, thanks to smaller collection vehicles that can access narrower lanes
- (ii) The distribution of free caddy liners resulted in an increase in the amount of food waste being recycled
- (iii) Feedback on the project to increase recycling at Warwick Gates indicated that a lack of containers was the main barrier for residents
- (iv) A trial of co-mingled recycling for flat residents was well received, and is to be rolled out to other flats

5.5 Stratford District Council

- (i) There is a continued focus on reducing the level of contamination in co-mingled recycling. Information has been included alongside residents' council tax leaflet
- (ii) Officers are seeking to gain more accurate information on recycling levels from PURE, which directly affects the amount of recycling credits the District receives
- (iii) The future viability of mini-recycling centres may be reviewed, given the level of recycling capacity that residents have on their doorstep

5.6 Warwickshire County Council

- (i) WEEE – tenders are undergoing final evaluation
- (ii) Digital Waste Data System – tenders have been submitted for a new system, which will reduce administration and improve accuracy of information
- (iii) Recyclables Framework – soft-market-testing is being undertaken on the optimum tender length
- (iv) Long-term residual waste – awaiting the outcome of a bid to partner with Coventry. If unsuccessful, the procurement process for a new contract will begin in April 2012 with a view to completion in 2013. Contingency exists within current contracts beyond 2013, which negates any risk of delay in procurement

5.7 Cllr Clarke asked how the authority was measuring the success of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign in terms of reducing overall residual waste volumes.

Glenn Fleet responded that residents were asked to complete a survey at the start and end of the campaign, which would identify any changing behaviours. Plus, any increase in the volume of food waste arriving at the In-Vessel Composter (IVC) facility at Ufton would provide a statistical measure.

5.8 Cllr Shilton asked if the partner authorities were being informed about the new Digital Waste Data System. Glenn stated that this system will initially only be used by disposal contractors, so there has been no need to liaise with the collection authorities as yet.

5.9 Cllr Shilton asked if the transfer of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in-house to WCC would yield information on the level of recyclables received, thereby enabling collection authorities to promote better use of kerbside collections by residents. Glenn replied that this type of data is already recorded via the Waste Data Flow and is available to the collection authorities.

6.0 Household Waste Recycling Centre Direct Service Project

Glenn Fleet introduced the report, highlighting that contracts have been renegotiated with staff, heavy plant has been purchased using previous underspends, two vehicles and drivers have been taken on to reduce expenditure with contractors, and new signage has been deployed at the sites displaying the new opening hours. Only 5 official complaints have been received since the new opening hours began.

6.1 Cllr Robbins questioned if there would be later opening hours during the summer months. Glenn confirmed that later opening hours would operate on a Wednesday until 6.15pm and the weekend until 5.45pm from April to September.

6.2 Cllr Clarke asked if recycling volumes at the sites had changed as a result of the new opening hours. Glenn stated that this data was not yet available, but it would be useful to bring to members in the future.

6.3 Cllr Doody asked if the intention was to move away from using agency staff at the sites. Cllr Shilton asked if the authority had considered offering apprenticeships instead. Glenn stated that the use of agency staff had been necessary during the transition phase, but the intention is for all staff to be full-time WCC employees. An apprentice-style position has been created as part of the reorganisation of the waste management team.

6.4 Cllr Shilton asked what the monitoring and auditing arrangements were for the community-run shops at the sites. Glenn replied that the authority oversees the running of the shops. The operators receive money on the sale of goods, from which they pay the lease on the shop. Any surplus money is then used to establish and fund community projects.

7.0 Quarterly Waste and Recycling Data Update

Glenn Fleet introduced the report, highlighting an overall reduction in waste volumes, despite negative performance in some areas.

- 7.1 Glenn stated that the current Refuse Derived Fuel contract does not provide particularly good value, therefore it will be terminated this year and the waste will be taken to landfill until an alternative contract is secured for next year.
- 7.2 Glenn also confirmed that a senior compliance officer is now in place to ensure the authority knows the destination of its waste streams.
- 7.3 Brent Davis questioned the accuracy of the composting rate for Nuneaton & Bedworth stated in section 6 of the report. Glenn agreed to seek clarification.

8.0 Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

None

9.0 Confirmation of future meeting dates

Agreed:

- 26 June 2012
- 18 September 2012
- 4 December 2012

10.0 Any urgent items

Bernard Woodhall stated that there had been recent thefts of textile recycling in North Warwickshire, which will be investigated and reported to the police. Sean Lawson added that there had been some partnership work between the Borough Council, the Police and Trading Standards to address similar problems in Rugby. Cllr Shilton suggested that a multi-agency, county-wide meeting be convened to consider strategies for combating this serious issue.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.15pm