

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 4th December 2012, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members

Councillor Martyn Ashford
Councillor Hayden Phillips
Councillor Neil Phillips
Councillor Dave Shilton
Councillor Ray Sweet
Councillor Jeff Clarke
Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)

Officers

Brent Davis	Martyn Harris
Richard Dobbs	Kerry Moore
Glenn Fleet	Olly Scholefield
Sean Lawson	Sarah Elliott
Graham Folkes-Skinner	

Others

Councillor Barry Lobbett

1.0 Apologies

Received from Councillor John Whitehouse, Councillor Dr. Mark Williams, Councillor Lynda Organ and Louise Wall.

2.0 Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

Minute 7.5 – Cllr Shilton asked for clarification about the inclusion of students from Warwick University in the recycling statistics reported. Glenn Fleet confirmed that the statistics included June, and therefore students would still be in accommodation at this time and included in the statistics.

Cllr Ashford asked whether new student accommodation near to Leamington train station would be included in recycling collections. Graham Folkes-Skinner confirmed that the 300 students residing there would have a co-mingled collection, and that he had worked with the University of Warwick to encourage recycling. It was suggested that Cllr Dr Mark Williams, as a lecturer at the University could provide a link between the Partnership and the University.

The Partnership discussed the public access to its meetings and access to reports and minutes following meetings. There was a consensus that the meeting should remain in private, to retain the informal nature of discussions, but that reports and minutes of meetings would continue to be made available after the meeting on the County Council's website.

Resolved: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4.0 Household Waste Recycling Centre Annual Update

- 4.1 Glenn Fleet updated the Partnership on changes to household waste recycling centres (HWRC) in the County, and the following points were noted:
- a. A number of centres that were to be brought in house were now managed by WCAVA, using volunteers. The money raised in recycling and reuse

- pays for the salaries of a small number of staff, and all sites are open 7 days a week, albeit with slightly reduced hours.
- b. There had been a small number of formal complaints, but overall the changes could be seen as a success. Lessons had been learned about how to best communicate with residents through banners, leaflets and press releases.
 - c. A new HWRC in Nuneaton and Bedworth should be operational in January 2014, pending planning approval in January 2013.
 - d. A HWRC at Lower House Farm has been delayed due to the need to grant a wayleave to lay cables on site.
 - e. There was a discussion on whether reduced access to HWRC could lead to an increase in fly-tipping in the County. Officers stated that this wasn't their experience, and that there were a number of reasons behind fly-tipping. Officers would follow up Members concerns re: fly tipping in other forums.

5.0 Waste Data Overview for Q2 2012/13

- 5.1 Glenn Fleet introduced the report, providing data on waste volumes for the quarter 2 of 2012/13. The Partnership noted that:
 - 5.2 The amount of reused/recycled waste had increased by 3,000 tonnes, not including waste reused at the reuse shops.
 - 5.3 Windrow composting had increased by 7,000 tonnes, partly due to the high water volume due to wet weather during the period.
 - 5.3 The Partnership noted that some figures were provisional estimates at this point, and figures were reported a quarter in arrears.

Resolved: The figures for Q2 2012/13 were noted.

6.0 Waste Partners Update

- 6.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council
 - a. Tender notices will be issued soon as part of the move to award a new contract. The contract is to be awarded in February 2013, with an anticipated start date in October 2013.
 - b. The Council was consulting with WRAP over the details of the new contract, to ensure flexibility to comply with new regulations.
- 6.2 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
 - a. Food waste had been accepted in green bins from October, and there had been a few teething problems. Green waste was now being collected 52 weeks of the year. Officers would be looking at how habits changed following the change, including over the Christmas period.
 - b. A partnership arrangement with Coventry City Council regarding collection of commercial waste had been agreed, which was a good example of sub-regional working, and would provide lessons for future partnership arrangements.
- 6.3 Rugby Borough Council

- a. The Council was still awaiting a decision on their bid to WRAP for a textile survivor bag scheme.
- b. The Council was continuing its work with Schools and DHL on WEEE recycling, and had recently displayed at Rugby Art Gallery to promote recycling. This resource could also be used for education in schools.

6.4 Warwick District Council

- a. The results of the tender for street cleansing, waste collection and other services have been announced
- b. Kerbside plastic pots, tubs and trays collection would be available from April
- c. Officers would be working with new contractors on hard to reach areas, with smaller vehicles, enabling an additional 500 households to move from weekly bag collection to alternate weekly collection.
- d. The Council had recently been awarded a “Keep Britain Tidy Award” and a partnership award for work improving Leamington Station with the community payback scheme.
- e. Cllr Shilton suggested that a letter from the Partnership be sent to the Prime Minister’s office regarding recent announcements by Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, demonising Councils who do not operate a weekly residual waste collection. The Partnership agreed that pronouncements such as this were unhelpful, as Councils had been working together over a long period to increase recycling rates and move to alternate weekly collections.

Resolved: That the Chair write to the Prime Minister on this issue on behalf of the Partnership outlining their concerns.

6.5 Stratford District Council

- a. The Council were exploring the options available as part of a possible 7-year extension to the current waste contracts, which may include kerbside WEEE and textile collections
- b. The Council were awaiting the results of a bid to WRAP for the Survivor Bag textile recycling scheme.
- c. The Council was reviewing their bring recycling sites, as only 3 existed in the District.. The Council would be going out to consultation on this in the New Year.
- d. The Council was working with the Shakespeare Hospice to look at reusing large household items, with a facility at an existing depot.

6.6 Warwickshire County Council

- a. The recyclables framework contract and asbestos disposal contract are currently being worked upon.
- b. A digital waste management system “ReStat” is being devised. This will digitise waste data from contractors and include electronic invoicing. The system would make waste data flow for the District and Borough Councils easier.

- c. The EA are yet to sign off the recycling of certain organic fractions of street sweepings. Fractions have EA sign off, and the contractor is stockpiling them until this is received.

Resolved: Further partner updates to be provided at the next meeting.

7.0 Sub-regional Working

7.1 Sean Lawson updated the Partnership on sub-regional working. A reconfigured structure had been drawn up:

- **A strategic group** – which would look at strategic issues, including the increase in population and new housing requirements, meeting in the new year
- **An operational group** – working on operational issues, which had already met on a few occasions, problem solving and escalating issues to the strategic group where necessary.

Cllr Shilton raised the issue of developers making a contribution for the increase in costs arising from new housing developments, including additional bins, longer routes, and additional vehicles in some cases. Stratford District Council allocates a charge for new housing developments to cover this cost.

There was some discussion about whether the new Community Infrastructure Levy would cover these costs.

Resolved: that the strategic group consider the issue of charging for waste costs associated with new housing developments.

8.0 Waste Strategy Update

8.1 Kerry Moore introduced the report, outlining the proposed approach for updating Warwickshire's joint waste strategy. It was not proposed to write a new strategy, but update the existing strategy with updated targets through to the end of the strategy in 2020. A statement had been completed explaining the rationale behind updating rather than reviewing.

The County Council had commissioned a consultant to assist with the screening process, and to act as a 'critical friend' for the document.

The Annual Conference was still to be arranged, but was likely to be in early March, and would include a number of workshops looking at target setting and prioritisation for the strategy. This would be followed by public consultation, with the final strategy to be agreed by September 2013.

The importance of forward planning to ensure a report to the relevant Cabinet/Council meetings at the District/Borough Councils and County Council was enforced.

The Partnership discussed the current level of putrescible waste which was not recycled, and efforts to reduce this, given that the infrastructure to collect this "additional" waste was in place; it merely needed transferring to a recycling bin. There were questions surrounding the volume of waste which

could be transferred, and whether current 240 litre bins could accommodate this.

9.0 Dates of future meetings

Cllr Cockburn confirmed the following dates of future meetings (Tuesdays, 2pm):

- 5 March 2013
- 25 June 2013
- 10 September 2013
- 3 December 2013
- 11 March 2014

10.0 Agenda item suggestions for future meetings

Olly Scholefield explained that he had recently attended an Oxfordshire Waste Partnership meeting, and suggested that a representative from their partnership make a presentation at the next meeting of the Partnership.

Resolved: that Democratic Services invite a representative from the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to attend a future meeting of the Partnership.

11.0 Any other business

There were no other items of business.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.