

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 18 September 2012, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Members

Councillor Martyn Ashford
Councillor Hayden Phillips
Councillor Neil Phillips
Councillor Carolyn Robbins
Councillor Dave Shilton (Chair)
Councillor Ray Sweet
Councillor John Vereker
Councillor John Whitehouse

Officers

Brent Davis
Richard Dobbs
Glenn Fleet
Graham Folkes-Skinner
Sean Lawson
Richard Maybey
Kerry Moore
Olly Scholefield
Louise Wall

Others

Councillor Barry Lobbett

1.0 Apologies

Received from Councillor Alan Cockburn, Councillor Lynda Organ, Councillor Jeff Clarke (replaced by Councillor John Vereker), Councillor Dr Mark Williams (replaced by Councillor Carolyn Robbins) and Tony Perks.

2.0 Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

Minute 6.3 – Councillor Shilton asked if there had been any increase in the opening hours of the re-use shop at Cherry Orchard and if the Portfolio Holder would consider removing the restriction around bank holiday opening. Glenn Fleet explained that there has been a big increase in the opening hours and the re-use shop was proving very successful. Glenn agreed to forward the request for bank holiday opening to the Portfolio Holder for consideration, and to re-check if there are any planning restrictions that prevent opening on these days.

Minute 7.4(v) – Graham Folkes-Skinner stated that further roll-out of co-mingled recycling to flats had only recently received approval.

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

4.0 Update on National Waste Policy

- 4.1 Kerry Moore introduced the report highlighting some of the key factors.
- Para 3.1 – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council stated that it made a bid for DEFRA/DCLG funding to support weekly collections
 - Para 3.5 – None of the partner authorities have applied for funding under the Household Reward and Recognition Scheme
 - Para 3.6(iii) – Warwickshire County Council is assessing if/how it should use a new legislative power to charge for waste disposal from a wider range of non-domestic premises. Kerry explained that it can now charge for disposal of “Schedule 2” waste, produced at sites of commercial activity – such as nursing homes, self-catering accommodation, new schools,

caravan sites etc. Officers from the partner authorities are exploring what the impact would be on local communities should this power be invoked

Resolved: Officers should continue to investigate the implications of implementing the new power, and bring a report to the Warwickshire Waste Partnership with a recommendation when appropriate.

5.0 The Waste Framework Directive and Co-mingled Collections

- 5.1 Glenn Fleet explained that a judicial review is currently underway with regard to the classification of co-mingled materials, the outcome of which could lead to an obligation for Local Authorities to introduce separate collections for paper, glass, metal and plastic.
- 5.2 Guidance from both the European Commission and DEFRA states that co-mingled collections are acceptable. However, the judicial review will determine if authorities employing such a system may be open to legal challenge.
- 5.3 Richard Dobbs stated that North Warwickshire Borough Council wants to issue a tender for a co-mingled service, but has been advised by WRAP that it may be open to legal challenge if it does not pursue an open tender.
- 5.3 During discussion, the following points were noted:
- a. The judicial review is driven by parties that may have a vested interest, e.g., reprocessing firms that could profit more from separate collections
 - b. The arguments in favour of co-mingled, combined with continued market demand for its materials, suggest it is a viable and sustainable system
 - c. Further guidance from DEFRA to supplement the legislation should be available in the new year, following the judicial review
 - d. In the future, glass may no longer be defined as recycling if used for road aggregate. This would make it unaffordable for authorities to run a separate glass collection service
 - e. Warwick District Council successfully runs separate recycling collections, rather than co-mingled, so there is still debate as to which system is best

Resolved: Officers to report back as and when further guidance is issued by DEFRA.

6.0 Waste Partners Update

- 6.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council
- a. Tender notices will be issued soon as part of the move to alternate weekly collections. Contract to be awarded in February 2013, with an anticipated start date in October 2013
 - b. Thanks to the assistance of the County's Waste Management team, food waste can now be accepted in green bins and will be collected weekly
- 6.2 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- a. Food waste will be accepted in green bins from October 2012 and will be collected 52 weeks a year (from 44). Residents have been issued with food caddies and 10 free biodegradable liners

- b. Cllr Whitehouse stated that it was important to remove any barriers to food waste recycling, such as the availability of different sizes of liner rolls – i.e., those on low income may not be able to afford rolls of 50
 - c. Trade waste services are being reviewed to see if they may be better delivered by a partner, such as Coventry
- 6.3 Rugby Borough Council
- a. Stickers have been put on green bins informing residents they now accept food waste. Officers are awaiting compositional analysis to indicate how much take-up there has been
 - b. There are still issues with textile recycling. In addition to rogue traders collecting donations intended for the local authority, residents can now easily sell their textiles to merchants
- 6.4 Warwick District Council
- a. Letters have been issued to bidders with results of the new waste contract tender
 - b. Residents will need to be informed about the new plastic collection service which will take all plastics, not just bottles
 - c. A trial is underway using drawstring collection bags, and officers are exploring whether additional containers may be needed
 - d. Communication is underway with student unions and landlords to minimise the dumping of furniture and household items at the start of the new term
 - e. Following the Health and Safety Executive inspection, preventative work has been targeted around trips and falls and manual handling
- 6.5 Stratford District Council
- a. Exploring the options available as part of an extension to the current waste contracts, which may include kerbside WEEE and textile collections
 - a. Kerry Moore suggested that they investigate the WRAP trial, which Rugby has expressed an interest in
 - b. Nuneaton & Bedworth advised that WEEE banks have been more effective than WEEE collections in their Borough
 - b. Work is still underway with PURE to improve analysis of the materials processed at the MRF in Ettington
- 6.6 Warwickshire County Council
- a. Various tenders are underway, as detailed in the report
 - b. The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Lower House Farm is due to open in January 2013
 - c. The results of the consultation on changes to the HWRCs will be available at the next Waste Partnership meeting

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

7.0 Waste Management Statistics for 2011/12

- 7.1 Glenn Fleet introduced the report, showing the final figures for 2011/12, approved by DEFRA.

- a. Recycling and composting volumes are down 0.6% overall on the previous year, due to a reduction in green waste arising from the dry summer weather
 - b. Total waste volumes are reducing – more is being collected at kerbside, but far less is being taken to the HWRCs
- 7.2 Cllr Ashford asked why there has been a reduction in waste volumes at the HWRCs. Glenn responded that there is now more enforcement at the HWRCs, particularly around inert waste, which has seen tonnages drop. The economic conditions may also be a factor, with fewer people renovating or buying new household goods.
- 7.3 Cllr Shilton asked why commercial waste volumes have increased by 41.1%, and why asbestos volumes have decreased. Kerry Moore explained that the Council charges for commercial waste disposal and the increase is a positive reflection on the additional services now offered to businesses. Regarding asbestos, Glenn stated that there is more enforcement over asbestos allowances. Brent Davis added that regulations around asbestos removal have become tighter, so residents are increasingly using licenced contractors.
- 7.4 Cllr Whitehouse questioned why Warwickshire’s ranking is so low compared to other County Councils for “kg of waste per household” and “kg of waste per head” (Appendix D). Sean Lawson suggested the data may not take account of recent population growth in some areas. Cllr Shilton asked that confirmation be sought as to whether the data is based on the latest census population.
- 7.5 Brent Davis questioned if Warwick District Council’s comparatively low figure for residual household waste per head (Appendix B) may be slanted by its student population, who are not fully resident in the area. Cllr Shilton asked that confirmation be sought if students were included within this figure.

Resolved: Future reports to contain figures based on latest population data, plus clarification if students are included within household data.

8.0 Waste Data Overview for Q1 2012/13

- 8.1 Glenn Fleet introduced the report, providing data on waste volumes for the first quarter of 2012/13. Notably:
- a. Overall waste is down compared to same period of the previous year
 - b. Green waste is up compared to the same period of the previous year
 - c. Recycling volumes are not as good as hoped for, partly because the materials extracted from street sweepings have not yet been signed off by the Environment Agency as recycling
 - d. Energy from Waste tonnages are down because the Council needs to fulfil its current landfill commitments, and also because the facility was out of order for a period. There are two landfill contracts ending this year, which will result in increased tonnages to the Energy from Waste facility

Resolved: The figures for Q1 2012/13 were noted.

9.0 Dates of future meetings

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

- ~~4 December 2012~~
- ~~26 February 2013~~
- ~~14 May 2013~~
- ~~10 September 2013~~
- ~~19 November 2013~~
- ~~18 February 2014~~

Amended as follows:

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

10.0 Agenda item suggestions for future meetings

Sean Lawson to provide a verbal update on the work of the sub-regional officers group

11.0 Any other business

- a. Kerry Moore stated that the waste collection authorities will be invited to attend a sub-regional demonstration meeting where WRAP will present on the re-use project
- b. Glenn Fleet received a positive response from partners regarding a proposal for the next annual waste conference to be held in North Warwickshire to coincide with the official opening of the new HWRC at Lower House Farm

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.45pm