

**WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 5 March 2013, Shire Hall, Warwick**

**Present:**

**Members**

Councillor Lynda Organ  
Councillor Hayden Phillips  
Councillor Neil Phillips  
Councillor Dave Shilton (Chair)

**Officers**

Brent Davis  
Olivia Davies  
Glenn Fleet  
Graham Folkes-Skinner

Richard Maybey  
Kerry Moore  
Olly Scholefield

**Visitors**

David Beal (Reuse Forum)  
Councillor David Dodd (Oxfordshire Waste Partnership)  
David Garrett (Garden Organic)  
Jane Griffiths (Garden Organic)  
Wayne Lewis (Oxfordshire Waste Partnership)

Councillor Barry Lobbett (WCC)  
Kristie Naimo (Reuse Forum)  
Kate Newman (Garden Organic)  
Philip Turvil (Garden Organic)

**1. Apologies**

Received from Councillors Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Dr. Mark Williams and John Whitehouse; and Sean Lawson.

**2. Disclosures of interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising**

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 4 December 2012.
- 3.2 Cllr Shilton referred to a letter received from Eric Pickles MP, in response to the Partnership's letter to the Prime Minister (6 December 2012) which outlined concern at the Secretary of State's views on weekly waste collections. Cllr Shilton expressed disappointment that Mr Pickles' response was not in keeping with the aims and ambitions of Warwickshire's waste collection authorities, and suggested that the Partnership should pursue this further via the Prime Minister.

**4. Reuse Forum**

- 4.1 David Beal and Kristie Naimo delivered a presentation on the Reuse Forum, highlighting the following points:
- a) Coventry and Solihull have recently joined the Warwickshire Reuse Forum
  - b) The Forum has been successful in promoting re-use, especially of bulky waste (e.g., furniture, fridges and bikes)
  - c) Bulky waste reuse services are popular with the public, and provide a significant income stream to the third sector
  - d) The Forum is working on an implementation plan with WRAP to increase the total amount of bulky waste re-used and recycled across the authority areas
  - e) The Forum will be reviewing the draft implementation plan on 6 March
- 4.2 During the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) The role of Internet sites such as Freecycle and Freegle can be raised as part of the 6 March discussion for possible inclusion in the plan
- b) Promoting reuse of bulky goods has the support of WRAP and the local waste authorities. For example, there is clear signage at the Household Waste Recycling Centres signposting people to reuse facilities
- c) Products that are sold for reuse require the appropriate certification (PAT, fire safety etc)
- d) Rogue traders are still collecting kerbside donations (particularly textiles)
- e) The demographic of customers at the reuse sites is mixed

## **5. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership**

5.1 Cllr David Dodd and Wayne Lewis delivered a presentation on the operation of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP), highlighting the following points:

- a) OWP operates the same structure as Warwickshire, comprising 5 district councils and the county council
- b) It was formed in 2003 on an informal basis
- c) In 2006, the Audit Commission suggested it had a lack of focus and clear purpose
- d) As a result, OWP became a formal joint committee in 2007, with an agreed constitution and terms of reference
- e) Its main function is to agree a Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, and then implement a three-year action plan against the strategic objectives within it
- f) Key services that OWP promote are: composting, food-waste reduction, fashion upselling, community action groups (i.e., swap shops) and waste and energy education
- g) Recycling performance has significantly improved in all districts compared to 5 years ago
- h) Nationally, Oxfordshire has three authorities in the top 10 for recycling and food waste collection
- i) Moving forward, OWP has agreed to stretch its recycling targets to 65% by 2020 and 70% by 2025, which are more ambitious targets than the suggested DEFRA and EU targets

5.2 During the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) The move to weekly food waste collections was driven by a combination of the government's push to Anaerobic Digestion (AD), the wishes of residents and the timing of contract renewals
- b) There were financial incentives from the county council to operate weekly collections, but also financial penalties for not meeting targets
- c) Despite financial incentives being reduced due to austerity measures, the collection authorities are coping and there is no intention to move away from weekly collections
- d) OWP operates an annual revenue budget of £288,000, which is funded 50% from the county council and 50% from the districts (10% each)

## **6. Master Garden Scheme – Philip Turvil, Garden Organics**

6.1 Philip Turvil delivered a presentation on the Master Garden Scheme, highlighting the following points:

- a) Since 2010, the Master Gardener and Master Composter scheme has helped around 40,000 people across the UK to grow their own fruit and vegetables
- b) The volunteer-run scheme encourages behavioural change towards composting and gardening through events and support
- c) It is funded from the Big Lottery Fund and from Warwickshire County Council

6.2 During the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:

- a) In addition to its health and social benefits, growing food also helps waste reduction by reducing the amount of packaging entering the waste stream
- b) Allotments are often too large in size, which can be off-putting or overwhelming for new tenants
- c) New housing developments should be encouraged to build communal green spaces and allotments
- d) Boroughs and districts should include the provision of allotments in their local plans

**7. Dates of future meetings**

These were confirmed as:

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

**8. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting**

- Feedback on the presentations of today's meeting
- Outcomes of the Warwickshire Waste Conference held on 8 March 2013
- Report of the waste compositional analysis
- Update from the waste officers group
- Update from each waste authority

**9. Any urgent items**

None

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Chair

The meeting closed at 16.10