

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Jeff Clarke
Jenny Fradgley
Peter Morson
Wallace Redford

Officers: Glenn Fleet – Group Manager, Waste Management
Kerry Moore – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Mark Ryder – Head of Economic Growth
Paul Spencer – Democratic Services Officer

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Hayden Phillips
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Neil Phillips
Brent Davies – Director of Assets and Street Services

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Dr Mark Williams
Sean Lawson - Head of Environmental Services

Stratford on Avon District Council

Councillor Mike Brain
Chris Dobson – Waste and Recycling Officer

Warwick District Council

Councillor Dave Shilton
Rob Hoof - Head of Neighbourhood Services

In Attendance

Mark Pawsey MP
Councillor Keith Kondakor (WCC)

1. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Dave Shilton proposed that Councillor Jeff Clarke be Chair of the Waste Partnership and was seconded by Councillor Wallace Redford.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor Jeff Clarke is appointed Chair of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Councillor Wallace Redford proposed that Councillor Dave Shilton be Vice-Chair of the Waste Partnership and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor Dave Shilton is appointed Vice-Chair of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Chattaway, replaced by Councillor Peter Morson, Councillor Phillip Johnson and Olly Scholefield, Streetscene Manager (Stratford on Avon District Council). The Chair welcomed Councillors Mike Brain and Neil Phillips and Rob Hoof to the Waste Partnership.

4. Disclosures of interests

None.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. As a matter arising, it was noted that the requested report on trade waste would be provided to the Waste Partnership Meeting in September. Councillor Shilton reminded of the importance of this matter, spoke about fly tipping and the opportunity to increase recycling from trade waste sources. It was questioned whether Warwick District Council would be willing to lead on this initiative, which was confirmed, but support and liaison from the County Council was requested.

6. All Party Parliamentary Group on Packaging

The Chair welcomed Mark Pawsey MP to the Waste Partnership. In addition to being the MP for Rugby, Mr Pawsey is Chair of the Government's All Party Parliamentary Group on Packaging.

Mr Pawsey explained his background in the packaging industry and spoke of the work of the Parliamentary Group and current work areas of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, of which he is also a member.

The Parliamentary Group's role was stated as 'to create a better understanding of UK packaging manufacture; to address issues facing industry from regulation; and to promote the UK as a centre of excellence for packaging manufacture'. Mr Pawsey explained that the Group lobbied Government on issues such as responsible disposal, the inclusion of recycling messages on packaging and the need to encourage behaviour change.

Examples were given of how the packaging industry had responded to lobbying, such as reducing the weight of glass used in bottles. He spoke about the Group's links to campaigns such as 'love food, hate waste'. A key issue was the use of correct packaging to extend the shelf life of food. Currently, there is £6.7 billion of food waste each year.

Mr Pawsey spoke about the implications of over regulation of the packaging industry, the continual improvements in recycling rates across the Country and the recent announcement for a tax on plastic bags.

Questions were invited. There was discussion about controls on imported packaging, the economic and other drivers which had caused packaging companies to relocate abroad, although some were now returning to the UK. A Government incentive to stimulate production of biodegradable bags in the UK was suggested. However, it was noted these were already produced abroad. The rebranding of trade waste companies to become recycling companies was discussed. The difficulties with PRN (Packaging Recovery Note) system were noted and Mr Pawsey recognised the need for further work, especially on the financial transparency of the PRN system. There had been improvements in plastic recycling, but were problems with contamination and more work in this area was needed. The difficulties of processing black plastic products was discussed. Another challenging area for recycling was combined products like crisp packets or tetra packs. This could be an area to discuss with market leaders, to see if alternate packaging could be used, but it was noted that packaging decisions were taken on a commercial basis. Other aspects raised were the close liaison between the Parliamentary Group and the waste minimisation group 'WRAP', endeavours to drive packaging waste up the waste hierarchy and the potential for taxation of certain types of packaging. Mark Pawsey MP was thanked for the presentation.

7. Co-Mingled Collections and Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability

A report was presented by Sean Lawson, Head of Environmental Services at Rugby Borough Council. This sought to provide guidance to the Partnership and enable individual authorities to consider the implications of changes coming into force from January 2015.

Background was provided on the new duties for councils collecting waste paper, metal, plastic or glass. From January 2015, the regulations coming into force expressed a presumption of separate collections for the four streams. However, there were circumstances where it might be permissible to undertake co-mingled collections. Decisions had to be taken by each council applying a necessity and practicability test. The need to ensure compliance with the law and the potential for enforcement through the Environment Agency were noted.

The report included practical guidance on compliance with the Regulations. The first test to be carried out, for each of the recyclable materials, was a 'necessity test' that separate collection was required to ensure that waste underwent recovery operations in accordance with the Regulations. If the authority was undertaking separate collections, no further action would be required. If this wasn't the case, the authority would have to examine the quantity and quality of its recycling, to see if separate collections would facilitate or improve recovery. Dependent on the outcome of this test, a further test might be required to look at the practicality of separate collections, based on technical, environmental and economic grounds. Further detail was provided on each of these areas.

There was discussion about the different processes currently operated by Warwickshire authorities, the benefits of separate collections, implications for those who currently operated a mixed collection scheme, issues of contamination, the quality of resultant recyclable materials and alternate uses for some materials.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership notes the guidance in this report and that individual authorities consider the best way forward in completing this process prior to 1st January 2015.

8. Waste Composition Analysis

A report was submitted on the waste composition analysis completed in the Spring of 2014. This replicated earlier surveys, to provide comparable data, focussing on the weight and composition of kerbside residual waste, the

organic/green recycling containers and residual waste at the four largest household waste recycling centres. The report and accompanying appendices provided detailed data, tables and charts showing the latest information as compared to the analysis in 2012/13.

The residual kerbside analysis showed the two largest areas were putrescibles (mainly food waste) and miscellaneous combustibles. It showed that 57% of all residual waste was potentially recyclable and a key reason was the introduction of alternate weekly collections in North Warwickshire, meaning that food waste could potentially be recycled. A context was provided on the positive data from this survey. Of the 68 categories measured, exactly half had reduced with a further 12 remaining unchanged.

Within the HWRC's there had been a reduction of 7% overall, but an increase in recyclable material that can be recycled at the kerbside from 26.26% to 30.09%, but waste that can be recycled at the HWRC reduce from 29.41% to 18.67%

An area discussed was kerbside textile collections and those for charitable donations. In some cases, the bags were being taken by people other than the councils' contractors. It was confirmed that there was a significant residual value for textiles. Points were made about the food waste resulting from supermarket 'multi buy' promotions, and inadequate sized wheelie bins, which could result in recycleables being placed in the residual waste bin, or residual waste contaminating a recycling bin's contents.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership notes the overview of the recent waste composition analysis.

9. Waste Partners Report

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Richard Dobbs, Assistant Director (Streetscape) provided a verbal report. The Authority had now closed all but a few of its recycling 'bring' sites. An update was given on the increased tonnages of green waste being collected, mainly from the inclusion of food waste and the extra demands this was placing on the service. An issue with contamination of recyclables from flat accommodation was reported. The Council was also to tender for replacement of its refuse fleet and for the dry recyclables contract.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Brent Davies, Director - Assets and Street Services spoke to a circulated report. He highlighted changes to the recycling arrangements for flat accommodation within the Borough. Measures to address an increase in contamination of the mixed recyclables collected and the near completion of

the County Council's recycling initiative, to place stickers on wheelie bins were reported. Other aspects were an additional officer to support their waste strategy, a review of residual waste collection rounds and a review of street cleansing.

Rugby Borough Council

Sean Lawson, Head of Environmental Services explained the Borough's plans for a communication campaign to improve recycling. The target was to get more garden and food waste placed in the recycling bin, rather than the residual waste bin. New signage had been placed on all collection vehicles, focussing on food waste. Arrangements for the recycling of bulky collections were also reported.

Warwick District Council

Rob Hoof, Head of Neighbourhood Services spoke to a circulated report. This covered measures to minimise the impact of students leaving the area, through guidance on disposal of unwanted items. Implementation of the County Council's recycling sticker initiative was reported. Further aspects were the production of waste planning guidance for developers, a communications plan and the research being undertaken to understand the requirements under the Waste England and Wales Regulations.

Stratford District Council

Chris Dobson, Waste and Recycling Officer, referred those present to the circulated report. Updates were provided about the new waste and recycling collection fleet, plans for a joint bulky collection service and a similar scheme for collections from communal premises. Further initiatives were new resident packs, an in-house review, focussing on missed bin collections and the Authority's work with others to meet the requirements of the new recycling regulations.

Warwickshire County Council

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager reported on progress with new County Council tenders. She advised that leaflets would be distributed to users of household waste recycling centres, to seek an increase in recycling rates. Other aspects reported were the waste analysis report, Warwickshire thrift week and the trial scheme for washable nappies.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report and acknowledges the work being undertaken by each partner authority.

10. Waste Data Overview for Quarter 4, 2013/14

The Partnership received the provisional data for the fourth quarter of 2013/14. This included a provisional estimate of waste and recycling figures at both disposal and collection authority level, for the period. Glenn Fleet took the Partnership through the appended data, focussing particularly on the estimated performance, which was very positive. It was noted that whilst performance in neighbouring areas had reduced, in Warwickshire further improvements in recycling had been achieved. Particular issues discussed were the disposal of paint at civic amenity sites and the renewal of tenders, where contractors could bid for some or all aspects of the new contracts.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

It was noted that future meetings of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership were scheduled for 17th September and 17th December 2014 and 18th March 2015.

12. Agenda Item Suggestions

It was confirmed that a report on a policy for the size of wheeled bins would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Any urgent items

None.

The meeting closed at 15:45

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Chair