

## WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

### Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015, Shire Hall, Warwick

#### Present:

##### Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Chris Clark  
Jeff Clarke (Chair)  
Jenny Fradgley  
Philip Johnson  
Wallace Redford

Officers: Glenn Fleet – Group Manager, Waste Management  
Tamalyn Goodwin, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Officer  
Kerry Moore – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager  
Mark Ryder – Head of Economic Growth  
Ben Patel-Sadler – Democratic Services Officer

##### North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Les Smith  
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

##### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Glen McGrandle – Head of Waste and Transport  
Brent Davis – Director - Assets and Street Services

##### Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Lisa Parker  
Sean Lawson - Head of Environmental Services

##### Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Mike Brain  
Chris Dobson – Waste and Recycling Officer

##### Warwick District Council

Councillor David Shilton  
Becky Davis - Recycling Development Officer

##### Also in Attendance

Councillor Keith Kondakor

**1. Apologies**

Councillor Neil Phillips (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council), Tony Perks (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)

**2. Disclosures of interests**

None.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. To note the appointment of an elected representative for North Warwickshire Borough Council**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Les Smith following his appointment to the Waste Partnership as the elected representative for North Warwickshire Borough Council.

**5. To note the appointment of an elected representative for Rugby Borough Council**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Lisa Parker following her appointment to the Waste Partnership as the elected representative for Rugby Borough Council.

**6. Verbal Update on TEEP**

Richard Dobbs, Assistant Director (Streetscape) gave a verbal update. NWBC had completed their TEEP assessment and it had subsequently been approved. NWBC's recycling partners had installed new technology in order to satisfy TEEP requirements. The Council was analysing future reprocessing its waste, including glass, cans and plastic.

Richard Dobbs along with officers representing the rest of the WWP and officers from the sub region recently attended a meeting which had involved several partner organisations, including representatives from WRAP, local MRF providers, private waste contractors and the Glass Recycling Association. At this meeting partners discussed the problems currently facing the recycling industry, particularly the difficulties around the disposal of 'dry

material' and the drop in price of recycled materials. Some key discussion points from this meeting were:

- A recent drop in the price of oil had resulted in a reduction in the value of recycled goods, particularly plastics.
- Because new plastic was now cheaper to produce, there was less demand for recycled plastics.
- Some key reprocessing facilities had closed down i.e Aylesford Newsprint
- It was becoming increasingly difficult and more costly to provide recycled materials which meet the TEEP requirements.
- Partners agreed that recycled materials needed to be of a higher quality – however this can add to the costs.
- Glass was becoming a less economically viable product to recycle.
- China and the Far East no longer required material from the UK to recycle.
- WRAP had recognised these issues at a national level.
- The Environment Agency acknowledged that there was a significant cost to local authorities in recycling their waste.
- Contamination caused by mixing household waste with recyclable materials can be an issue.
- The more 'clean' recyclable material put into the system at the start of the recycling process would result in a cleaner and higher quality end product.
- Flexible, short term contracts between Councils and private contractors were preferable – ideally both the local authority and the provider of recycling services should share any financial risks jointly.
- Partners agreed that a consistent message should be communicated to residents, so that they were educated on the importance of recycling and how they should be sorting their items into the relevant bins and boxes provided.

Richard Dobbs informed members that paper and card was currently more valuable than any other recyclable material. NWBC has placed an order for six split-bodied vehicles. The new vehicles will assist crews in separating recyclable materials at the kerbside.

Members noted that some residents found it confusing when it came to sorting their recycling at home.

Members were informed that mixed glass was difficult to recycle because of colour contamination. Plastic was also difficult to recycle, as there were up to 11 types of plastic (some of which could not be reprocessed).

A discussion took place which acknowledged the need to preserve the environmental balance. Sean Lawson (Head of Environmental Services at Rugby BC) stated that if an authority added to its fleet of vehicles to assist in sorting recycling waste materials at the kerbside, this would have a detrimental impact on the air quality in the area.

The following points were raised during the ensuing debate:

- Each local council has different contracts in place with different providers which had been agreed at different times. The prices paid by local councils to their waste and recycling contractors varied greatly due to the state of the market when contracts were signed – the market can change very quickly.
- Over the next decade, the construction industry may look at recycled materials as an option to assist in their construction projects.
- It was crucial to effectively communicate with residents to ensure that contamination was kept to a minimum.
- The cost of recycling wood had risen by around 400%.

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Chair) expressed the view that all District and Borough Councils and the County should work together for the good of the Partnership.

In future, NWBC would be looking to maximise returns on their recyclable items and would be liaising with recycling providers to discuss future contracts and terms. It was important to stress that recycling was not just the responsibility of District and Borough Councils – recycling contractors and the government also had a role to play.

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager at WCC informed the Waste Partnership that the EU was currently undertaking a consultation exercise in relation to waste policy. It was not anticipated that DEFRA would be publishing official guidance around waste at this early point of the governments' administration.

Members noted that awareness around food waste was being communicated to the public via the utilisation of bin stickers. With regards to waste contamination, Kerry Moore informed the Waste Partnership that at this point in time only civil sanctions could be used where instances of 'harm to local amenity' was proved.

### **Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership notes the verbal updates on TEEP provided by each Partner Authority.

## **7. Waste Composition Analysis**

Glenn Fleet, Group Manager, Waste Management at WCC took the Partnership through the report. He outlined the key findings from the recent kerbside waste composition analysis which were:

- For residual waste there has been an average weight reduction of 1.5kg per bin, per week when comparing 2014 and 2015 data.
- There had been reductions in the amounts of recyclable materials in the residual waste collected, particularly paper, cardboard, plastics and organics/food. These are positive signs, but there is still work to be done to improve these figures further.

The Partnership noted that there had been a drop in the amount of contaminated waste which is an improvement to the quality of recycled material being produced.

### **Resolved**

The Waste Partnership is asked to note the overview of the recent waste composition analysis.

## **8. Waste Partners Report**

Each Partner Authority informed the Partnership of the work currently being undertaken in their area.

Sean Lawson, Head of Environmental Services at Rugby BC informed the Partnership that a Cabinet Working Party had been established to focus solely on waste matters.

Becky Davis (Recycling Development Officer at Warwick DC) informed the meeting that a new park ranger team had been formed, who had responsibility for litter picking, monitoring instances of dog fouling and issuing fixed penalty notices as appropriate. The Council was also actively promoting the benefits of recycling at events such as the recent Peace Festival.

Richard Dobbs, Assistant Director, Streetscape at North Warwickshire BC informed the Partnership that there was due to be some additions to their waste collection fleet and the council was looking at possible alternative ways of collecting their waste as mentioned in item 6. The Council was also looking at ways in which developers of new homes in the area might contribute to the cost of providing bins for the new houses.

Chris Dobson, Waste and Recycling Officer at Stratford-on-Avon DC informed the Partnership that 'belly bins' had been introduced to Bancroft Park. As the waste in the bins increased, a compactor was activated to make more space for additional waste to be deposited.

Brent Davis, Director, Assets and Street Services at Nuneaton and Bedworth BC informed the Partnership that negotiations were ongoing with their waste contractor. Amendments had been made to the Council's recycling service. There was a slight issue with the distribution of the recycling leaflets produced to inform residents of these changes. As part of National Recycling Week, WRAP provided the Council with some funding to communicate key recycling issues to residents i.e. how to avoid contaminating their household recycling.

The crews who collected the Council's waste had been providing useful feedback on the items consistently being placed into the incorrect receptacles.

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager at Warwickshire CC informed the Partnership that the Council had been focusing on producing a new leaflet around food waste. Kerry Moore believed that bin hangers were a good way of communicating with residents based on the recent competition promoted on bin hangers, which had received thousands of entries. The Council is carrying out door to door canvassing and HWRC canvassing over the summer/early autumn.

### **Resolved**

- 1.) The Waste Partnership is asked to acknowledge the work being undertaken in each partner authority.
- 2.) That the Waste Partnership members are informed when the door to door canvassing is taking place in their district/borough by the district/borough waste officers.

## **9. Household Waste Recycling Centre Review 2015**

Glenn Fleet, Group Manager, Waste Management at Warwickshire CC provided the Partnership with a summary of the report noting that:

- In early 2010 the Waste Management Group undertook a fundamental review of its HWRC provision. Key developments as a result of the review included bringing 8 of the HWRCs in-house, reduction of opening hours at all HWRCs, provision of on-site charity re-use shops at all HWRCs (providing a rental income to the County), 2 new HWRCs and capital upgrades at other sites.
- Savings of over £1 million have been achieved within a year of bringing the sites in house and satisfaction levels from the public have increased from 75% in 2010/11 to 97.7% in 2015.
- The Warwickshire Waste Partnership set itself a new HWRC target to 'provide an effective HWRC service aiming to reach re-use, recycling and composting levels of 75% across all sites by 2020, by reducing recyclables being put into the residual waste stream'.
- To support a continuing effective and efficient HWRC service to residents and work towards the 2020 target WCC completed a further HWRC review in 2015.
- The review found that overall, HWRC's were cost effective and provided a good provision of service for all residents across the entire county.
- The HWRCs also provide an optional service for businesses to dispose of their waste for a reasonable charge.

- Some materials are restricted at the HWRCs i.e. Paint, Chemicals, Asbestos, Plasterboard, Soil, Rubble.
- The number of visits to HWRCs has decreased since 2010 possibly due to the increased service provision at the kerbside for recyclable materials.
- An on-line public opinion poll indicated that 77% of HWRC users were happy with the current opening hours. The face to face consultant recorded that 92% of visitors to HWRCs were happy with the current opening hours.
- Population growth across the County has increased by 2.4% since the last HWRC review and it will be vital to adapt in the coming years to maintain an effective service that meets the needs of our customers, but is affordable to the Council.
- The report lays out a range of options and recommends which of these should be taken forward or investigated further now or in the future.

Councillor Dave Shilton agreed with the recommendation in the HWRC review that the HWRC opening hours should not be reduced any further at this time, as any further reductions could result in increased fly tipping and therefore an increased cost to the Waste Collection Authorities. Cllr Shilton praised the provision of re-use shops (operated by Age UK Warwickshire) at all HWRCs.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked why the amount of residual waste at Judkins HWRC was still high following its complete redevelopment. Glenn Fleet, Group Manager, Waste Management at Warwickshire CC reported that as stated in the review the contractor for the Judkins HWRC has advised WCC that they will be rolling out new recycling services over the coming months for example carpet and mattress recycling.

Sean Lawson head of environmental services at Rugby BC reported that the HWRC review was taken to scrutiny at RBC. The committee came back with some key points:

1. Increasing HWRC provision to meet housing demand by expanding Stockton is not acceptable
2. Dis-satisfaction levels higher in Rugby than anywhere else
3. Few people know about the 'late' night opening
4. Work needs to be completed to find out when the housing growth will impact provision

Councillor Jenny Fradgley suggested that more promotion of the opening hours was needed especially the late night opening day in the summer.

Cllr Fradgley also suggested that it would be beneficial to have a HWRC that accepts chemicals in the south of the county, as Princes Drive (the nearest site) is a long way for some people. Cllr Shilton agreed and expressed concern that making it difficult for people to dispose of chemicals could result in people acting incorrectly. Glenn Fleet, Group Manager, Waste Management informed the group that acceptance of chemicals at an additional HWRC in the south would require capital investment (as a purpose

built store and wash down facilities are required), adequate physical space for the extra equipment on site, extra revenue costs for having a trained chemist on site and a specialist site license.

Councillor Phillip Johnson queried whether the daytime opening hours could be shifted to allow members of the public who work during the day to visit the sites after work as the sites are very busy at the weekends. Glenn Fleet reported that the current hours were chosen following evaluation of the car count data at the time, which showed that generally the quietest hours at the HWRCs were the last two hours of the day.

Cllr Johnson agreed with the recommendations to work more strategically and to also work closely with other local authorities.

Brent Davis, Director, Assets and Street Services at Nuneaton and Bedworth BC requested clarity around the amount of restrict materials that can be taken to the HWRCs for example the size of the plasterboard sheet that can be taken.

### **Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report and the comments from the partnership are put to the WCC O&S committee in September.

## **10. CLG Select Committee Inquiry into Litter**

Sean Lawson, Head of Environmental Services at Rugby BC introduced the report and informed the Partnership that no date had yet been set for the government's response to the CLG Select Committee Inquiry into Litter.

The Partnership expressed a view that it would be helpful to invite representatives from the Highways Agency to attend a meeting to discuss how a potential protocol might be developed to share the responsibility of clearing litter from Warwickshire's roads.

Members thanked Sean Lawson for producing the report.

### **Resolved**

- 1.) That the Waste Partnership notes the report; and
- 2.) That an invitation to attend a meeting of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership be extended to The Highways agency.



**11. Waste Statistics from Quarter 4 and the provisional data for 2014/15**

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager at Warwickshire CC introduced the report and informed the Partnership that overall, recycling levels were up across the County

**Resolved**

The Waste Partnership is asked to note the provisional data.

**12. Dates of future meetings**

The Waste Partnership noted the dates of future meetings

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

None.

**14. Any urgent items**

None.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.50pm