

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 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
Ben Patel-Sadler – Democratic Services Officer

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Les Smith
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Neil Phillips
Brent Davis – Director - Assets and Street Services
Richard Shields

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Lisa Parker
Gill Russell
Sean Lawson – Head of Environmental Services

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Angela Lloyd
Councillor Mark Cargill
Chris Dobson

Warwick District Council

Gary Charlton
Councillor David Shilton
Nick Gray

1. Apologies

Councillor Mike Brain (Stratford District Council) and Mark Ryder (Head of Economic Growth, Warwickshire County Council).

2. Disclosures of interests

None.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Signing of the Highway Cleansing Protocol

Sean Lawson (Head of Environmental Services, Rugby Borough Council) introduced the report and informed the Waste Partnership that the Highway Cleansing Protocol was a voluntary agreement that sought to ensure better use of road closures to help clean and maintain highways with limited resources.

Members considered the content of the tabled report and made the following observations:

- The Partnership thanked Sean Lawson for all of his work in relation to the Highway Cleansing Protocol – all partners indicated a willingness to sign the document.
- Members supported the idea of publicising the ‘Clean for the Queen’ scheme within their local areas. This was an anti-litter campaign which hoped to encourage local people to volunteer to clean the streets to help celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday. The scheme was scheduled to take place between the 4th and 6th March 2016.
- Members noted that the County Council could help to dispose of the waste collected by District and Boroughs through its HWRCs.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership collectively signed the Highway Cleansing Protocol and encouraged all District and Borough Councils to support and take part in the ‘Clean for the Queen’ scheme.

5. Door to Door and HWRC Canvassing

Stephen Bates and Mildred Ho (EnviroComms) made a presentation to the Waste Partnership which summarised the recent door to door and HWRC canvassing exercise undertaken by EnviroComms.

The following points were noted by the Waste Partnership during the presentation:

- This was the second project undertaken by EnviroComms in Warwickshire. The EnviroComms team who conducted the canvassing exercise were well resourced and had undertaken work around the county.
- Residents of Warwickshire who had been consulted by EnviroComms had provided positive feedback on the county's waste disposal services – in particular with the quality of the service and the effectiveness of the crews.
- Overall there had been an increase in the number of residents participating in recycling. This was also highlighted by a recorded increase in the amounts of dry mixed recycling and overall recycling tonnage across the county.
- There had also been an increase in the amount of garden waste being recycled.
- Participants in the canvassing exercise also praised the county's HWRCs. However, some residents had stated that they were sometimes restricted by some HWRC opening hours. Also, some residents felt that the bins at their properties were too small which resulted in them having to travel to a HWRC to dispose of materials which did not fit into their household bins.
- The Waste Partnership noted that EnviroComms had been asked to focus on the issues surrounding food waste and black plastic.
- The final report which would summarise the entirety of the EnviroComms canvassing exercise would be available in the near future. Pre and post canvassing data would be included in the final report.
- Recycling rates for garden waste and the figures for food waste in Nuneaton and Bedworth appeared poor, as the first consultation had taken place in June, with the second in the Autumn – seasonality could be an explanation for this.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership noted the presentation from EnviroComms.

6. Waste Data Overview for Q2 2015/16

Glenn Fleet (Group Manager, Waste Management) introduced the report and informed the Partnership that overall there had been a reduction in the total amount of Municipal Waste. Members noted that the greatest reduction had been in the amount of green waste collected which had seen over a 3000 tonne drop when compared with the same quarter from last year.

Glenn Fleet informed the Partnership that the amount of dry recycling had increased which was a positive sign.

Members noted that due to the improvement of the economic climate, the overall amount of waste being produced by households was increasing. Food waste was increasing – Glenn Fleet informed the Partnership that over £1 million per annum could be saved across the county if residents disposed of their food waste via their green bins.

The Partnership expressed a view that the contamination of waste was an issue which required addressing – one possible method of combating this issue would be to provide additional information to residents on how they could best dispose of their household waste to improve recycling rates and keep contamination to a minimum.

Kerry Moore (Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager) introduced a video which had recently been produced by Warwickshire County Council which highlighted the issue of food waste recycling and how residents could effectively recycle and dispose of their food waste. The video was well received by the Partnership and could be viewed at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

Kerry Moore informed members that local companies were sponsoring a food waste recycling promotion which would be running for the whole of March 2016. The artwork and dedicated website for this event were being finalised and advertising for the event would be conducted via the use of bin hangers and leaflets.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership note the provisional data for the second quarter of 2015/16 – July – September 2015.

7. Waste Partners Report

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

North Warwickshire

Richard Dobbs Assistant Director (Streetscape) (North Warwickshire Borough Council) informed members that the fleet of new refuse vehicles were expected to arrive in the next few weeks.

Members noted that North Warwickshire was currently experiencing a growth in its housing stock which would put added pressure onto the waste collection and disposal service in the area as the homes were built. The Waste Partnership noted that the Council was looking at the possibility of implementing charges to new house builders to cover the costs of providing the properties with the new bins which they required. The Partnership noted that local authorities did have the ability to charge for providing new bins – Stratford-on-Avon District Council had been charging developers for bins since 2011. A seminar was hosted by Rugby BC looking at this issue – it was hoped that this would enable this area of work to progress further. North Warwickshire Borough Council had been visited by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who had not identified any issues – the Council had received positive feedback from the HSE. The Council had also finished as runner-up in the refuse and recycling category at the recent Performance Network Awards.

Warwick District Council

Nick Gray reported that SITA had recently appointed a new recycling officer working on the WDC contract. SITA retained all the income generated from the recycling and so improving recycling performance was to their benefit.. There had been issues delivering replacement bags/boxes out to customers as evident in the canvassing project, but this had now hopefully been resolved.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Members noted that Stratford-on-Avon District Council had recently been rated as 10th in the country for recycling performance.

There was nothing further to report from the other authorities in attendance.

Resolved

The Waste Partnership acknowledged the work being undertaken in each partner authority.

8. Verbal Update on the Strategic Group

Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape) (North Warwickshire Borough Council) informed the Partnership that Strategic Group had last met on the 4th December 2015 and had agreed that the priority action area was

food waste and securing outlets for the collection authorities dry recycling material. The Strategic Group had expressed a view that it would be important for more residents to use their green bins for the disposal of additional food waste.

Concerns had been raised at the Strategic Group in relation to providing education and guidance to residents around recycling. It was thought that additional guidance and advice could improve recycling levels, although at the present time there was not enough of a budget to provide the appropriate amount of promotional materials. Members noted that free, online learning around recycling was available for schools to access.

Resolved:

The Waste Partnership noted the verbal update in relation to the work of the Strategic Group.

9. Annual Progress Report for Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Glenn Fleet (Group Manager, Waste Management) introduced the report and thanked Tamalyn Goodwin (Waste Strategy and Commissioning Officer) for all the work she had done in helping to produce the document.

Members noted that the aim of the Municipal Waste Strategy was to reduce the amount of residual waste and to achieve a 65% recycling target. Recycling levels were currently increasing and were above the national average. Members noted that the amount of waste produced by households was increasing by around 1.5% - this figure was manageable at the present time.

Members noted that the Waste Partnership had conducted excellent work around recycling – there had been year on year growth in the amount of material recycled across the county. Glenn Fleet informed the Partnership that 30% of the waste directed to landfill was used in the process of energy recovery.

Glenn Fleet informed members that around 70% of collected food waste could have been recycled - the Partnership noted that more education was required so that recycling rates could be increased, leading to a decrease in the amount of waste being directed to landfill.

Members expressed a view that additional assistance would need to be provided from central government if local authorities were to meet their targets around the amount of food waste being produced and collected.

Glenn Fleet assured the Partnership that the Strategic Group would be looking at the ways in which the amounts of residual waste produced by each District and Borough was recorded. The Partnership expressed a view that the national indicator could result in figures not being representative of the exact position in relation to residual waste in each District/Borough.

Resolved:

The Waste Partnership noted the verbal update in relation to Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Strategy.

10. Courtauld Commitment

The Waste Partnership noted that the original Courtauld Commitment was a voluntary agreement aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing waste within the UK grocery sector. It was launched in 2005 and was currently in its third phase. The latest commitment, Courtauld 2025 is due to be launched in 2016 and is an ambitious 10 year voluntary agreement which aims to bring together a broader range of organisations involved in the food system, including local authorities, to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable.

Resolved:

The Warwickshire Waste Partnership agreed to become a signatory to Courtauld 2025.

11. Dates of future meetings

The Waste Partnership noted the dates of future meetings – the next meeting on 3rd March 2016 was the annual conference and would be held at Northgate House, Warwick.

12. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

Members suggested that Age Concern should be invited to the annual conference in March to conduct a presentation around the operation of the shops at HWRCs

13. Any urgent items

None.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.55pm