

# Warwickshire Waste Partnership

29 September 2021

## Waste Partners Report

### Recommendation(s)

1. The Waste Partnership is asked to acknowledge the updates on the various waste activities taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in June 2021.

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the various waste activities taking place in each authority area.

### 2.0 North Warwickshire Borough Council

- 2.1 Refuse & Recycling Collections are continuing to experience a strain on staffing due to Covid-19.
- 2.2 All waste services are at full operating capacity.
- 2.3 All waste staff are still undertaking regular Lateral Flow Testing (LTF).
- 2.4 We are now experiencing shortages of drivers for our HGV vehicles.
- 2.5 Agency staff providers have indicated that there is very little prospect of attracting HGV drivers in the current climate, due to the national shortage of qualified staff.
- 2.6 The three new 26 tonne single-bodied vehicles are still performing very well and are continuing to deliver additional capacity, with reduced running costs and lower carbon emissions.
- 2.7 We are about to issue specifications for the replacement of a further 8 RCVs of various sizes to be ordered and delivered over the next 3 years.
- 2.8 Garden waste charges commenced in April 2021. Subscriptions have exceeded our year 1 expectations - with almost 17,000 participants, which equates to over 60% of all household having signed up for the service.
- 2.9 Banners are still being displayed on the sides of the RCVs focussed on Covid-19 messages with the continuing aim of reducing rates in the borough and across Warwickshire and encouraging vaccine uptake.

- 2.10 NWBC continue to take a full and active role in the Sub-Regional MRF
- 2.11 NWBC have recently been recognised by APSE as one of the most improved performers in Waste Services throughout the UK
- 2.12 NWBC are working hard to introduce systems that will assist with waste collections and vehicle/fuel efficiency.
- 2.13 NWBC are working hard to tackle the increase in contamination found in recyclables over recent months – we are looking at bin stickers, updated webpages and vehicle banners.

### **3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council**

#### **3.1 COVID-19 Response**

- a) After review and consultation with staff and unions, all covid-19 measures and safeguards maintained at NBBC offices and depot.
- b) Risk assessments being continually updated and issued to all Gresham Road users and visitors.

#### **3.2 Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing**

- a) After significant disruption to garden waste collections due to isolation of driving and collection staff, waste management services now working at full capacity.
- b) Refuse and recycling collection route re-profiling progressing well. Following initial sign off, refuse collection representatives consulted on 'new proposal of changes'. Final decisions deferred whilst full resource analysis is being considered. Full modelling and mapping of rounds, progress on going.
- c) Ongoing Training of staff reviewed with proposed changes to be made to enhance employee safety.
- d) In cab training delivery deferred due to staffing issues however, implementation planned for late September 2021
- e) Garden waste administration services under review with, subscription sign up exceeding projected figures.
- f) River clearance team undertaking targeted environmental training in waste retrieval and debris removal techniques via the Wildlife trust, to maintain awareness of protected species. Works continuing within Nuneaton and Bedworth to keep watercourses flowing and debris free.
- g) Internal and Joint WWP resource and waste consultation responses submitted, awaiting next round of consultations.

- h) Transfer station waste management working to full capacity with tonnage increase. However, currently no stockpiling issues.
- i) Waste and transport working in partnership with WCC and BIFFA to provide driving and vehicle hire to assist with waste management functions at Lower House Farm
- j) Waste and transport officers liaising with Oak Wood secondary school supporting job coaches, to provide placements for students with special educational needs within waste operations to help build necessary skills and confidence within a working environment.

### **3.3 Enforcement**

- a) In preparation for contract end dates, a review of environmental enforcement provision in NBBC now being considered.
- b) Environmental enforcement continuing for all controlled waste and littering offences.
- c) Overt cameras continue to be deployed in Nuneaton and Bedworth, with ongoing commitments to add to the numbers in our fight against waste crime. We will be also trialling one covert camera for the purposes of surveillance to better understand the cost and legal processes

### **3.4 Promotions/Communications**

- a) Campaign material from WRAP being used for recycle week campaign, alongside Borough-relative facts and figures for social media
- b) Truck signage being used for COVID job promotional material
- c) Promotion of 21/22 garden waste services to commence in October 2021
- d) Survey out currently to ask for public feedback on potential comingled service for dry recycling

### **3.5 Climate Change Emergency**

- a) Vehicle procurement analysis continuing for housing services van replacement programme. EV and Hybrid vehicles still being demonstrated with continuing review of charge point locations. An updated report to cabinet earmarked for later in the year.
- b) Climate change officer group set up to analyse NBBC carbon emissions and generate proposals to meet reduction targets.

## **4.0 Rugby Borough Council**

- 4.1 Continuing to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency with regards to all refuse, recycling and cleansing services and safeguarding of key worker staff. Still working to the requirements of Covid secure Risk Assessments, government, and industry guidance.
- 4.2 Green waste subscriptions for 2021/22 are open. In excess of 28,000 households subscribed to the service in 2020-21.
- 4.3 RBC have seen disruption to Garden Waste collections – these have been due to staff shortages, sickness and self-isolation, in particular for drivers. Some rounds have been suspended, some have received late collections and others have been unaffected. We hope that the situation is now improving.
- 4.4 Work is continuing to improve education and information regarding recycling and to consider potential changes required because of the resources and waste strategy.
- 4.5 RBC continue to play an active and proactive role in the sub regional MRF/ Sherbourne Recycling project
- 4.6 RBC continue to work with WWP partners to develop a shared response to the Waste and Resources Strategy consultations.
- 4.7 RBC continue to support numerous volunteer litter groups, capitalising on the community spirit witnessed during the pandemic.
- 4.8 RBC will shortly be assessing opportunities for more sustainable vehicles across the fleet, moving forward.

## **5.0 Warwick District Council**

- 5.1 A joint litter strategy for WDC and SDC has now been drafted. We have continued our ‘Don’t be a Tosser’ and ‘Love Your Park’ campaigns over the summer to raise awareness of litter and ask people to take litter home with them if bins are full.
- 5.2 WDC are currently running a fun competition to name our new street sweeper vehicles to help raise awareness of the new street cleaning contract and the good work done to keep the district clean and clear of litter. It’s generated lots of interest and positive PR and we’ve had well over 100 name suggestions already ranging from Sooty and Sweep to Bruce Springclean. Closing date for name suggestions is 20th September if anyone can think of some fun names. The top 5 names will be printed on our mechanical street sweepers.
- 5.3 WDC Officers had a promotional stand at Ecofest on 4th September in the Pump Room Gardens linked to the work we’re doing on litter reduction. We

were giving away reusable coffee cups in exchange for people signing up to the Refill app. The idea being to reduce the number of disposable coffee cups used and ending up as litter. We were also promoting our 'Name a Street Sweeper' competition and encouraging people to put forward their name suggestions.

- 5.4 Final tenders for the WDC and SDC new joint waste contract are due to be submitted mid-September with the successful bidder being notified early October. Procurement of waste containers required for the new 123+ service is due to start imminently. WRAP and their contractor, Cutting Edge Marketing, are currently working on a communications plan and branding for the new 123+ service.
- 5.5 Refuse, recycling and green waste tonnages remain in line with tonnages from the same time last year. Starting to see a gradual reduction in refuse and recycling tonnages but may be linked to summer holiday season.

## **6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council**

- 6.1 The Pure Materials Recycling Facility in Ettington burnt down in July, which meant that recycling collections were suspended for 8 days whilst we found a new destination for the material. The material is currently be taken to Lower House Farm to be bulked for onward transportation and two loads a day are being delivered directly to the Mercia Waste MRF in Worcestershire.
- 6.2 The number of fly tipping incidents have started to decrease. We actioned 107 incidences in the last months compared to 134 for the same period last year.
- 6.3 The chargeable garden waste service started on 1st April 2021. There are now over 48,000 subscriptions.
- 6.4 The procurement of a new joint SDC/WDC Waste Collection Contract is currently at final tender stage. The new contract will be awarded by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to allow a 10-month mobilisation period with a service commencement date of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- 6.5 The procurement of SDC's new Street Cleansing Contract is currently at initial tender stage, with the deadline for ISIT submissions on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **7.0 Warwickshire County Council**

- 7.1 Covid – 19
  - a) The Partnership has worked together throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the continuation of waste services across the County. Continuity of service was maintained during the summer period, but some green waste services experienced disruption. All services are now up to full operation.
  - b) All the HWRCs are open and continue to operate with a booking system which ensures that visitors and staff are able to maintain space from one another, all

waste streams are available, and queueing has been minimal. There are currently over 19,000 appointments available per week. Reuse shops are open at all sites bar Stockton.

- c) All waste staff are encouraged to take regular Lateral Flow Testing (LTF) either at a test centre or via home testing kits provided.

## 7.2 Communication activities update:

- a) 8,810 subscribers received the June/July edition of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter, which focussed on reducing waste over the Summer. The edition had a 42.4% open rate and a click rate of 7.4%. The articles covered zero waste shops and refill; clothes reuse; battery recycling; home composting and plastic free picnics.  
The Autumn edition will be out in September.
- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,253 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. The module called Slim Your Bin Kids, proved popular over the school holidays, packed with ideas for keeping children entertained with practical activities that bring home the waste minimisation message. A new module for Recycle Week in September has been added. We will be asking elected members from all local authorities to help to promote the scheme.
- c) The YouTube Home Composting Workshop launched last year has been viewed 1700 times and feedback has been very positive. Subsidised cold compost bins are available to purchase from the recycling centres and online. Subsidised hot compost bins, Green Johannas, are available online for home delivery. Sales of composting equipment last financial year were double what they had been for the previous financial year.
- d) We joined WDC at Ecofest in Leamington on 4<sup>th</sup> of September to promote home composting and reducing food waste. We will be joining SDC for some town centre roadshows later in the month to talk about refill and other waste reduction initiatives.
- e) The countywide food waste recycling behaviour change campaign – In to Win, continues across the county. 5,811 households are now signed up.
- f) All waste reduction behaviour change activity is promoted with regular posts on our social media accounts. Facebook followers have increased to 2,334 (Warwickshire Recycles), with 983 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles).

## 7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) Upcoming extensions for consideration in the next few months are recycling of textiles from HWRCs, haulage of kerbside residual waste, promotion of caddy liners, abandoned vehicles, reprocessing and disposal of tyres, leachate removal and disposal, metal recycling from HWRCs, analysis of closed landfill sites.

- c) Upcoming procurements or those currently taking place are purchase of hook loader vehicles, container provision (RoRos), reprocessing of Road Sweeper and Gully Waste so that it is in place by Jan 2022, WEEE, metal recycling and separately collected food waste reprocessing.
- d) Work is also taking place to bring the HWRC haulage provision in house as the contract ends Nov 2021.

## 8.0 Financial Implications

None.

## 9.0 Next steps

- 9.1 Updates on progress to be provided at the December 2021 meeting.

## Background papers

None.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: n/a