

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

8 December 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 September 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 Changes to collections over Christmas and New Year are being communicated to residents using bin tags, social media and the Council website. As with previous years there are no collections for a week. This year this falls as Monday 27th December – Friday 31st December, with no need for a Saturday catch up.
- 2.2 There will be a four week garden waste service break in February 2022. All residents who have opted into the Garden Waste Service will receive two green bin collections after Christmas before the service break.
- 2.3 Garden Waste sign up for the current year (April 2021 to March 2022) has closed and will reopen in January for the 2022-23 year.
- 2.4 NWBC have struggled to find a MRF to process DMR. Since May this has been delivered to a new site but contamination has been reported at very high levels, more than double that reported by previous MRF's. Officers are working on a resolution, including looking at an alternative MRF.
- 2.5 Refuse & Recycling collections are continuing to experience a strain on staffing due to Covid-19. The HGV driver shortage has put further strain on all services, including cesspool and septic tank emptying.
- 2.6 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.

- 2.7 NWBC continue to take a full and active role in the Sub-Regional MRF
- 2.8 NWBC are working on a specification for in-cab technology. It is hope this will be procured through a Crown Commercial Framework Agreement and can be introduced in April 2022.

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) Both vacant HGV and waste management operative recruitment underway to fill gaps within waste management services, with a good turnout experienced.
- 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, with the issuing of training packs planned.
- d) Garden waste administration services now being undertaken by NBBC in house corporate Admin and Graphics team.
- e) Transfer station waste management working to full capacity with tonnage increase. However, currently no stockpiling issues.
- f) Waste and transport continue to work in partnership with WCC and BIFFA to provide driving and vehicle hire to assist with waste management functions at Lower House Farm
- g) Oak Wood secondary school placements going well with students undertaking both office based and town centre cleansing works and continue to be supported by job coaches,

3.3 Enforcement

- a) Environmental enforcement contract tenders received and evaluation started in readiness for a contract state date of January 2022.

- b) Environmental enforcement continuing for all controlled waste and littering offences.

3.4 Promotions/Communications

- a) Campaign material from WRAP being used for the 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 22/23 garden waste services to completed and sign up of customers has now commenced.
- d) Christmas and New Year collection arrangement media messages agreed.

3.5 Climate Change Emergency

- a) 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.
- 4.9 RBC is experiencing issues with drivers due to the national shortage.

5.0 Warwick District Council

- 5.1 Joint waste contract with SDC awarded to Biffa, lots of ongoing work getting ready for contract mobilisation including recycling in flats, changing weekly sack collections where we can to bin collections.
- 5.2 All waste collection services running however we did have to suspend green waste collections for a week over October half term due to a combination of driver shortages, Covid and annual leave.
- 5.3 No change to refuse and recycling collection days over Christmas however we are suspending green waste collections for a 2 week period to ensure resilience in the collection of refuse and recycling.
- 5.4 Supporting - The Myton Hospices and Pass the Smile charities with their doorstep Christmas tree collection service. Volunteers will be out collecting Christmas trees between 8th to 10th January 2022 in return for a donation to the charities. Collections must be pre-booked.
- 5.5 Joint working between WDC and SDC continues, awaiting a departmental restructure to merge the teams.
- 5.6 Name the Street Sweeper competition update – winning names as follows: Little Bo Sweep, Obi-Wan Cleanobi, Sweep Caroline, Sweepersaurus Rex and William Sweepspeare. Design Team have worked on designs for the names which will be stuck onto the street sweeper vehicles imminently.

6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- 6.1 All collected dry recyclables are now being taken to Lower House Farm to be bulked up for onward transportation.
- 6.2 The number of fly tipping incidents have continued to fall. SDC actioned 114 incidences in the last 3 months compared to 151 for the same period last year.
- 6.3 The number of bulky waste requests have started to decrease compared with last year. There were 542 bulky waste requests in September and October compared to 583 for the same period last year
- 6.3 The number of subscriptions for the chargeable garden waste service is now over 49,000 (and still rising!).

- 6.4 The new joint SDC/WDC Waste Collection Contract has been awarded to Biffa Waste Services Ltd with a service commencement date of 1st August 2022.
- 6.5 Negotiations have taken place with selected tenderers as part of the procurement of SDC's new Street Cleansing Contract. Final Tenders are due back in December 2021 with contract award in late January 2022. The service commencement date is 1st August 2022.

7.0 Warwickshire County Council

7.1 Covid 19 and driver shortages

- 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 autumn, excepting that WDC suspended green waste services for one week at half term. All services are currently at full operation.
- b) All the HWRCs are open and continue to operate with a 'live' booking system which ensures that visitors and staff are able to maintain space from one another and prevents queueing. All waste streams are available, There are currently over 18,000 appointments available per week. Trailer appointments have been added for Hunters Lane on a Wednesday. Reuse shops are open at all sites bar Stockton. A customer satisfaction survey is in progress at all sites.
- 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) 9302 subscribers received the October edition of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter, which focussed on reducing waste at Halloween. The edition had a 33.7% open rate and a high click rate of 15.7%. The articles covered reducing food waste; clothes donation; home composting and celebrating a Green Halloween. The Christmas edition will be out at the start of December.
- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,259 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. A new module for Recycle Week 'Step It Up for Recycling' was popular. Repair and reuse were the focus for the autumn and we now move into a Christmas focus. We will be asking elected members from all local authorities to help to promote the scheme.
- c) Schools' waste reduction, composting and recycling activities have resumed this term. So far, 12 schools have been involved, engaging with 2,965 pupils and their families.
- d) 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 so far this year is strong, with sales of Green Jos almost double what they were this time last year.

- 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 2,362 (Warwickshire Recycles), with 992 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles) Articles about Halloween waste reduction were shared widely and stimulated a total reach of over 13,000. Successful techniques from our Pumpkin Rescue campaign will be applied to our Christmas campaigns.

7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) Upcoming extensions for consideration in the next few months are abandoned vehicles, metal recycling from HWRCs, analysis of closed landfill sites, recycling of paper and card.
- b) 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, separately collected food waste reprocessing so that it is in place for August 2022, leachate removal and disposal, glass recycling and WEEE recycling.
- c) Work is also taking place to bring the HWRC haulage provision in house from 1st December, as the current HWRC haulage contract ends.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Next steps

9.1 Updates on progress to be provided at the March 2022 meeting.

Background papers

None.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Tamalyn Goodwin	tamalyngoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director, Communities	Dave Ayton Hill	davidayton-hill@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director for Communities	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture	Heather Timms	cllrimms@warwickshire.gov.uk
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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: n/a