

# Warwickshire Waste Partnership

6 March 2022

## 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 December 2022.

### 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 Christmas and New Year collections and the post-holiday catch-up were delivered with no significant problems.
- 2.2 The four-week garden waste service break commenced the last week of January 2022.
- 2.3 Garden Waste sign up for next year (April 2021 to March 2022) has commenced and has already shown to be as popular as last year's successful service.
- 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. Officers are working on solutions to remedy this.
- 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 NWBC continue to take a full and active role in the Sub-Regional MRF
- 2.7 NWBC are continuing to work towards the introduction of in-cab technology.
- 2.8 NWBC are notifying customers of the forthcoming M.E.L waste survey and are looking forward to the results.

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

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

- a) Review being undertaken with H&S Officers and operations staff and unions, to assess all current covid-19 measures and safeguards at NBBC depot
- b) Risk assessments being continually updated and issued to all Gresham Road users and visitors.

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

- a) Waste management have now added a new Jet wash vehicle to tackle graffiti and chewing gum staining issues and 2 x new RCV's as part of our replacement programme
- b) Waste and Transport are looking to recruit 4 x new HGV driver via its waste management operatives to support waste management operations and driver issues in the future.
- c) Refuse and recycling collection route re-profiling mapping to be completed mid-March 2022.
- d) Tool-box talks / training booked for asbestos and Sharps management awareness following an increase in material being found on highway land and in fly tips
- e) Garden waste administration services now being undertaken by NBBC in house corporate admin and graphics team. Good uptake for the forthcoming season
- f) Transfer station waste management working to full capacity with tonnage increase. However, currently no stockpiling issues.
- g) Working with Coventry City Council on strike action support to ensure residents, schools and commercial premises in NBBC receive regular recycling collections
- h) Meeting arranged to review and hopefully increase commitment to Oak Wood secondary school for additional placements for students within waste management roles and continue to be supported by job coaches.

### **3.3 Enforcement**

- a) Environmental enforcement contract has been awarded to District Enforcement, and we are currently undertaking the mobilisation phase of the contract
- b) Environmental enforcement for fly tipping and duty of care waste offences now being undertaken in house.

- c) Quotes received for covert camera system purchase to target fly tipping hotspots.

### **3.4 Promotions/Communications**

- a) New Truck signage being used to target fly tipping enforcement with promotional material
- b) Promotion of 22/23 garden waste services ongoing to encourage resident sign up of customers.
- c) Preparation started for Christmas and New Year 2022 / 2023 with waste collection and disposal arrangements being discussed and media messages drafted.
- d) Preparations continue for communications plan to promote refuse and recycling collection changes as part of the round reconfiguration exercise.

### **3.5 Climate Change Emergency**

- a) Climate change officer group set up to analyse NBBC carbon emissions and generate proposals to meet reduction targets.
- b) New electric vehicle utilised to support District and NBBC officers on environmental enforcement duties.

## **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 support numerous volunteer litter groups, capitalising on the community spirit witnessed during the pandemic. Plans are developing to link this to the [Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations](#)<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.8 RBC will shortly be assessing opportunities for more sustainable vehicles across the fleet, moving forward.

## **5.0 Warwick District Council**

### **5.1 Household Waste:**

- a) Cabinet have agreed to introduce charges for garden waste collections from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- b) The main focus is on mobilisation of Biffa contract and introduction of 123+ service.
- c) New food caddies and recycling bins are due to be delivered to Warwick District households throughout June and July 2022.

### **5.2 Street Cleaning Waste:**

- a) Working towards digitisation of completed works with Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Contractors.
- b) Working with Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance contractor gearing up for the Commonwealth Games
- c) Restructure is imminent to merge two teams of WDC and SDC.

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

- 6.1 All collected dry recyclables continue to be 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 134 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 411 bulky waste requests in December and January compared to 433 for the same period last year
- 6.3 The number of subscriptions for the 2022/23 chargeable garden waste service. For 2021/22 there were over 49,000 subscriptions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rugby.gov.uk/news/article/1724/residents-invited-to-get-litter-picking-for-platinum-jubilee>

- 6.4 Work is progressing on the mobilisation for the new joint SDC/WDC Waste Collection Contract which commences on 1st August 2022. Food waste caddies in SDC are anticipated to be delivered from April.
- 6.5 The new SDC street cleansing contract has been awarded to Biffa Waste Services Ltd with a service commencement date of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- 6.6 Work is taking place to restructure the Environmental and Operational Services teams at SDC and WDC ahead of the new contract commencement.
- 6.7 Duty of care checks have been carried out at businesses in Henley-in Arden.
- 6.5 SDC are continuing without daily recycling messages on social media platforms, these are advising residents how to save space in the grey bin in advance of going to 3 weekly waste collections.

## 7.0 Warwickshire County Council

### 7.1 Covid 19 and driver issues

- 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 Christmas period, with some planned suspension of green waste services. The Coventry City Council affected recycling collections and other services in NBBC, partners offered support. All services are currently at full operation except bulky waste collections in NBBC.
- 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 Shipston and Stockton.
- c) Staff are encouraged to take regular Lateral Flow Testing (LTF) with home testing kits provided.

### 7.2 Communication activities update:

- a) 8800 subscribers received the recent editions of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter.

Edition	Open rate	Click Rate	Topics
Christmas	47.3%	16.7%	Gifting, wrapping, recycling, Slim Your Bin
Christmas food	38.1%	5.0%	Food waste facts, planning, home habits, composting
Christmas tree recycling	40.0%	8.1%	Composting, charity scheme, HWRC, kerbside

Edition	Open rate	Click Rate	Topics
Food waste and climate change	46.6%	8.0%	Food and carbon facts, planning, home habits, handy apps, composting

- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,278 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. Shakespeare Hospice were delighted to receive the charity donation from the scheme of £650; a press release is planned. The recent focus on Acts of Kindness was popular.
- c) Schools' waste reduction, composting and recycling activities have resumed this academic year. So far, 23 schools have been involved, engaging with 6305 pupils and their families. We are surveying schools this month to find out which schools are active with Eco-Schools.
- d) In-person home composting workshops will resume this spring. The first tranche that have been organised are:
- Kenilworth Library, Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 10.30am
  - Rugby Library, Thursday 31st March 2022 at 10.30am
  - Stratford Council Offices, Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 10.30am
  - Atherstone Council Offices, Wednesday 6th April at 1.30pm
  - Warwick Library, Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 10.15am

The YouTube Home Composting Workshop launched last year has been viewed 1372 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 this year expected to equal the high sales of last year.

- e) All waste reduction behaviour change activity is promoted with regular posts on our social media accounts. Facebook followers have increased to 2,452 (Warwickshire Recycles), with 995 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles) Articles about Christmas waste reduction were shared widely and the best ten posts stimulated a total reach of over 92,000. Successful techniques from our Christmas campaign will be applied to our ongoing social media activity.
- f) MEL are carrying out a waste composition survey the first 3 weeks of March 2022. Results will be presented at the next meeting in June.

### 7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) There has been one recently awarded contract this was the reprocessing of Road Sweeper and Gully Waste, which was awarded to Suez. Recently extended contracts included the abandoned vehicle contract, the leachate disposal contract and the contract for metal recycling from HWRCs.
- b) Upcoming extensions for consideration in the next few months are analysis of closed landfill sites, recycling of paper and card from the HWRCs and reprocessing of wood from the HWRCs.

- c) Procurements currently taking place are separately collected food waste reprocessing (tenders due back 18<sup>th</sup> March) and glass recycling from the HWRCs. Upcoming procurements include WEEE reprocessing from Designated Collection Facilities in Warwickshire, inert waste haulage, residual waste reprocessing.

## 8.0 Financial Implications

None.

## 9.0 Next steps

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

## Background papers

None.

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