

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

Wednesday 15 March 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Heather Timms (Chair)

Councillor Tim Sinclair

Andrew Pau, Waste Management and Partnerships Group Manager

Ruth Dixon, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager

Tamalyn Goodwin, Project Manager (Waste Strategy and Commissioning)

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Margaret Bell

Cath James, Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Sue Markham

Jamie Lewis, Waste Management Contract Support Officer

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Kathryn Lawrence

Anton Cuscito, Interim Transport & Waste Manager

Stratford District Council

Councillor Bill Flemming

Julie Lewis, Head of Environmental and Operational Services

Warwick District Council

Councillor Moira-Anne Grainger

Zoe Court, Contract Services Manager

Steve Partner,

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor Bhagwant Pandher (WCC)

Councillor Andy Wright (WCC)

Claire Preston was substituted by Anton Cuscito (Interim Transport & Waste Manager for RBC)

Glen McCrandle was substituted by Jamie Lewis (NBBC)

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Chair's Announcements

None.

(4) Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Including Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. Waste Management Performance Data for Quarter 3 2022-23 and National Benchmarking 2021-22

In response to Andrew Pau, Ruth Dixon clarified that the national benchmarking figures from DEFRA were not published yet so were unavailable for this meeting.

In response to Councillor Moira-Anne Grainger, Andrew Pau agreed to circulate these figures when they're obtained. The figures will be put into a report that compared Warwickshire's figures with its neighbours. The figures would not show the new 1-2-3 waste collection system in place for Warwick and Stratford. This will be ready for June's meeting and will show the provisional figures for 2022-23.

Andrew Pau highlighted the following points:

- The report showed the first three quarters of this and last financial year
- The total of household waste decreased by 17,000 tonnes since last year
- The reduction in residual waste led to the recycling rates increasing despite tonnage decreasing
- Composting rates were static despite the decrease in tonnage
- Landfill rates had decreased but more energy was being obtained from waste as more was being burnt
- The estimated performance table did not take the new 1-2-3 system in Warwick and Stratford in their statistics
- There was a projected increase in performance to 49.4% this year compared to 47.9% last year. However, this could go over 50% due to increased performance from all authorities
- Residual waste decreased to a projected 466 kilograms per household. Added to recycling and composting rates, this would increase to 921 kilograms per household
- This would be comparable to the top performing authorities nationally
- Recycling at HWRCs were expected to increase to 54.3% from 54.1% but this was a reduction from the 55.6% the previous year due to rates stagnating and a reduction in recycling

In response to the Chair, Andrew Pau confirmed that the reduction in residual waste showed that statistics were returning to pre-Covid levels. People going out meant there was less waste to collect. It was a hot summer and a lack of rainfall in the summer of 2022 so this led to a reduction in garden waste collection and composting rates.

Councillor Grainger noted that it was disappointing their figures were unable to be reported as other members and the public wanted to know what difference the new collection system made. Andrew Pau said that Stratford and Warwick had done some work looking into how the new 1-2-3 system and saw it had reduced tonnages; this will be reported when they have a years' worth of

data. Julie Lewis added that only the figures for August 2022 to now needed to be compared to show the impact it made; she put together a spreadsheet that showed the statistics from April 2022-February 2022.

Ruth Dixon stated that with food waste collections, to procure WCC's anaerobic digestion facility, they needed to make predictions on how much food waste WCC expected to collect. They guessed 10,000 tons which was accurate.

In response Councillor Tim Sinclair, Andrew Pau agreed to circulate the link showing how energy is generated from food waste. He added that as there was no separate line for food waste, the collection tonnage is included in the recycling tonnage.

The link showing how food waste is made into energy can be found here:
<https://www.stgreenpower.co.uk/food-waste-recycling>

3. Update on the Development of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England

Ruth Dixon informed the group that:

- In January 2023, WCC spoke to DEFRA on being the disposal authority and how it worked with collection authorities including payments
- WCC requested a meeting with DEFRA regarding their new food waste disposal contract
- DEFRA provide monthly updates for authorities who want to drop in but there was not a lot of opportunity for questions
- The National Resource and Waste Strategy was published in 2018 and consultations were carried out in 2019 and 2021. Some feedback from the 2021 consultations was received but it had not all been received yet
- The elements that WCC was interested in were now called CPR (Consistency and Packaging Reforms)
- With Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) this means that the local authority should be paid for the management (collection and the disposal) of all household packaging that passes through. This will be funded by the producer so consumer goods would cost a bit more to pay for this
- DEFRA were working with Local Authorities on EPR about how these payment to them would be made. Tonnages amounts are given to DEFRA to deal with this
- Each authority would be put into one of nine categories that WRAP was developing. EPR should be finalised by April 2024, and this would include how much each authority would get paid to deal with this waste. This amount could be accepted or go to appeal. This would cover everything apart from DRS (deposit return scheme) and expensive food waste containers that could be sold e.g. a steel can
- Over the next few months DEFRA will carry out a composition analysis from pre-selected households to see what the composition of their recycling and residual waste bins are as well as HWRCs and street bins. They picked certain individual authorities to become a part of different working groups/panels
- If chosen, WCC were planning not to accept the HWRC composition element because WCC did this in house. WCC volunteered themselves for the authority groups because of this

- For the DRS, it would likely be maximised to 25p per bottle, and it will apply in England to plastic drinks containers e.g. water bottles but not milk cartons as they were not transparent plastic. It will apply to metal cans but not glass
- Scotland and Wales planned for their DRS to include glass too but as Warwickshire was not near enough their borders it would not alter the statistics
- England's DRS will apply to containers between 50ml to three litres in size
- DRS machines would be implemented into supermarkets and other public places, and they will read the barcode giving money back. If eligible waste is put in council bins, then the local authority may be able to retain the DRS money
- Scotland's scheme was planned to start on the 16th August 2023 but this may not happen as it was a contentious issue for some of the prospective leaders standing to be First Minister
- England's DRS was planned to start of the 1st October 2025
- With the consistency in collections, this focuses on telling collection authorities what they can/cannot do. It's expected that there will be mandatory separate food waste collections by April 2025.
- WRAP is offering local authorities' consultation and Rugby have had theirs
- By 2025 all authorities were expected to collect Tetra Pack and plastic film by 2026/27
- There could be a comment on the collection frequency, charging for garden waste collection and collecting recyclable waste separately or comingled or this could be left locally. Sherborn Recycling can already handle all of this
- When DREFA release this guidance, this will be shared. It was expected that this will be released at the same time as some of the consultation feedback
- Each collection authority should have provided up to date information to DEFRA by the 31st March 2023 as they will use this to work out new burdens payment for food waste collection and EPR payments
- DEFRA's next local authority engagement session is the 5th April which should cover their bin composition assessment

Andrew Pau noted that it was good to get more clarity on the DRS and more things were expected to be confirmed by central government over the next few months. This included the compulsory weekly food waste collection. WCC will go out to procurement for their new anaerobic digestion contract in the next few months.

In response to Councillor Katheryn Lawrence, Ruth Dixon stated that Sherbourne Recycling would send information directly to DEFRA as any information would come from the local authorities. Each local authority will submit their own data and get their EPR payment back. Recycling credits will sit separately from this, and DEFRA was still establishing what they will do about this. Local authorities would need to submit it individually because recycling on its own was not the whole picture and authorities need to talk about how much money it costs them to run their service. Sherbourne Recycling would not know how much their collection vehicle cost. In the future, DEFRA and the EA should develop a EDOCS system for all waste transactions including household, industrial and commercial ones. However, this had been in development for 20 years. Julie Lewis added that Sherborne Recycling were dealing with Stratford and Warwick's dry recycling because they arranged where it went. Details showing a breakdown of the materials they receive each month were given, so they know how much it costs to dispose of it.

Councillor Margaret Bell stated that the DRS plan for what plastics could be accepted would never be fully understood by the public and the infrastructure could be used better. It was inevitable that the public would put recyclables in council bins so local authorities would have to pay for it regardless.

Ruth Dixon noted that the purpose of the DRS was to reduce recyclable litter and create a better form of the recycled plastic. The reforms should leave to better labelling so each container should say if the consumer can claim money back on it via the DRS. If done properly, the consumers should be paying everything so theoretically local authorities should not pay the DRS.

4. Flytipping Statistics (2021/22) and Current Issues

Andrew Pau informed the group that:

- All local authorities in England can report how much fly tipping tonnes of rubbish is found in their area via 'Fly Capture'. The most up to date data of this was 2021/22
- WWP had talked about enforcement before, but more could be done
- RBC had a commercial style contract to deal with fly tipping, and a lot of work was being done in NBBC too
- Generally, fly tipping had increased or the incidents of fly tipping being reported had increased
- Large changes in fly tipping instances were difficult to explain. However, in 2018-2020, NBBC changed contractor for fly tipping, so this meant their operation was slicker and led to their fly tipping statistics increasing
- Some authorities got a large increase in fly tipping in lockdown i.e. Stratford's statistics doubled

Councillor Sue Markham noted that what was classed as fly tipping could be litter and vice versa. For consistency, what was labelled as fly tipping needed to be consistent cross-county.

In response to Councillor Sinclair, Julie Lewis stated that there was no evidence that suggested that the 1-2-3 collection system led to an increase in fly tipping in Stratford District. The street cleansing contract was let at the same time as the 1-2-3 one, if this led to the bins overflowing and this being reported as fly tipping, then BIFFA would have let officers know.

Andrew Pau informed the group that there was a West Midlands waste officer meeting later in March and fly tipping will be discussed there.

5. Recycling Capture Trial at Judkins Household Waste Recycling Centre

Andrew Pau highlighted the following points:

- In 2019/20 there was a black bag splitting trial at Cherry Orchard HWRC where black bags were sorted through to take the recycling out. Members of the public were given the option to do this themselves too
- External funding was obtained to undertake this, but it had to stop because of Covid-19
- 8/9 of Warwickshire's HWRCs are run by WCC but Judkins in Nuneaton is run FCC
- FCC started a trial that in January 2023 where they took unsorted residual waste bags and manually separated out the contents by material
- Early results showed that they were pulling out a lot of recycling especially cardboard and textiles

- They are finding 4-4.5 tonnes of recyclable waste in residual waste weekly
- WCC paid a fix fee for this trial, but FCC had to pay for the waste disposal
- If this trial is proven successful, then WCC will do it at their other HWRCs
- FCC have done this trial at their other HWRCs where they had similar successes

In response to Councillor Bell, Andrew Pau stated that FCC's business case for this trial was a mixture of them saving money by splitting it early and an education exercise for the public so they would see what is recyclable. It was reported that members of the public were now less likely to bring in black bags and were more likely to bring in their bag contents already separated.

6. Waste Partners Update

North Warwickshire

Cath James introduced herself as the Interim Director for Streetscape and she was Richard Dobbs' replacement for the partnership until a permanent appointment was made.

Nuneaton and Bedworth

Nothing to add

Rugby

Anton Cuscito informed the group that they now had three electric vehicles for their parks and cemeteries department. They should arrive in April 2023.

Stratford

Julie Lewis noted that for Stratford and Warwick their garden waste collection service had loads of subscriptions, so the cost of living was not impacting this as expected.

Warwick

Nothing to add

Warwickshire

The Chair informed the group that Warwickshire County Council now had electric mobile library vehicles.

7. Update on Climate Change (Including Skidmore Report)

Ruth Dixon informed the group that:

- Over the last three years, central government commissioned a study on net zero ambitions called the Net Zero Review
- 1800 pieces of evidence were submitted and there were 50 round table discussions across the process. Contributors included WRAP, trade bodies, individual waste companies and local authorities
- The report set out a long list of all the opportunities that net zero offers to the UK by a road map of the decisions/actions that central government should think about and take to achieve net zero by 2050, which is their legal commitment
- The evidence produced 340 pages
- The report looked at the barriers and opportunities for a net zero economy and spoke about acting quickly but sensibly with planning, so nothing was done hastily with unintended consequences

- Investing in net zero now outweighed the environmental consequences of doing nothing
- The report stated that local councils and communities should be empowered to act, and central government should do things to make the most of local enthusiasm
- Cleaner air and better energy security were also benefits noted and there should be targets/incentives
- Skill development would be needed because of the number of jobs that would be created by going net zero
- The technology of buildings will need to be improved so they use less energy and can be powered by green energy
- It mentioned the electrification of the national grid that was needed to make it work. This all feeds into both protecting biodiversity, enhancing nature, and helping people relate more to how beneficial the UK's natural resources are
- Central government will choose some trailblazer authorities and communities
- The report recommended that central government progressed with the waste reforms in the National Resources Waste Strategy and most of the feedback said that it was taking too long and there was a lot of real benefits to be gained from doing most of the proposed reforms
- There was a focus on the export of plastic waste and that it should go to developed nations who have better environmental controls. Investment in more infrastructure in this country would be needed where items can be collected, recycled, and turned into other things; especially by central government in this country
- The social economy looked at encouraging central government to invest more in reducing food waste, followed by all the different levels of the circular economy starting from reducing and redesigning waste, followed by remanufacture, repair, reusing and keeping all that material in circulation
- This could be done with construction, vehicles, food and drink and electrical appliances e.g. repairing then buying new
- There is a lot of embedded carbon in textiles so it would be good to have more systems implemented to allow clothes to be worn more often before they are no longer wanted
- Industrial symbiosis is industrial waste swapping e.g. one industry has a waste material and it could be a raw/input material for another industry
- When waste is burned as a fuel, it generates carbon so a discussion was needed around what waste from fuel would look like in the future. Carbon capture and enhancing carbon capture technology for power stations would be needed but biomass and some food waste could be used as a fuel as well as some unrecyclable plastics
- Public engagement should focus on reducing food waste, improving product labelling, and making repair easy and affordable

8. Agenda Item Suggestions for Next Meeting

Fly tipping in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Differences between waste collection and disposal authorities

Warwickshire Recycles Publicity

9. Dates of Future Meetings

- 14th June 2023 at 2pm (this meeting will be in person)
- 27th September 2023 at 2pm

Ruth Dixon noted that Warwickshire Recycles will be sending out newsletters for Mother's Day and Easter focussing on reducing waste. There were composting workshop spaces available to book via the website and composting bins available to buy.

In response to Councillor Grainer, Ruth Dixon stated that the next composting workshops in Warwick District were the 18th May in Lillington and the 22nd May in Kenilworth. Councillor Grainger suggested holding one at Warwick Market.

The Chair noted that the summer hours for the HWRCs would be advertised soon.

In response to the Chair, Andrew Pau stated that HWRCs would be open over the Coronation weekend, but booking was required for them to stay open.

The Chair wished everyone luck who was standing for re-election.

The meeting rose at 15:24

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Chair