

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

13 March 2024

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 2023.

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 NWBC along with the other District and Borough councils in Warwickshire, have recently received a letter from DEFRA setting out their proposals for an up-front contribution towards food waste collections from 2026. NWBC is currently reviewing the new Simpler Recycling Policy and will see a paper tabled in the coming months on costs and options for introducing food waste collections in the borough.
- 2.2 Initial work has identified that it is unlikely that the proposed contribution will cover the full costs of implementing the service. This has been queried with DEFRA.
- 2.3 NWBC are in the process of loading the parameters within Web Aspx optimisation tool for food waste collections. Once this work has been completed, NWBC will be in a position to evaluate each option, identifying the best possible solution for North Warwickshire.
- 2.4 NWBC have recently started to promote the garden waste service for 2024/5. NWBC are using social media, community groups and emails to encourage new customers to try our excellent service and remind existing customers to renew their garden waste service.
- 2.5 Following a visit to Sherbourne Recycling, NWBC have agreed to work together to improve the quality of our materials collected. Sherbourne Recycling will supply NBBC with data on the quality of the loads from each day they are collected, this in turn will enable us to target specific areas/locations where contamination levels are higher. This approach should help NWBC to develop

targeted communications an support for residents to drive a reduction in our contamination levels and improve the recyclable quality of the loads collected.

3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

3.1 Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing

- a) Staff training completed in January 2024 for H&S, equality and diversity, manual handling etc and was well received by all.
- b) Work has commenced to look at the Simpler Recycling requirements for food waste collections etc and NBBC officers will work with neighbouring authorities and industry professionals to establish what is required to comply with the new legislation.
- c) New Assistant Director for Environment and Enforcement, Alastair Blunkett, has been appointed and has started with the authority.

3.2 Enforcement

- a) NBBC continue to work with our partner District Enforcement, issuing littering, fly tipping FPN's.

3.3 Promotions/Communications

- a) Following an incident at Sherbourne MRF, communications were circulated to warn residents of the dangers of putting vapes in recycling bins.
- b) Recycling and enforcement road shows to be held in parts of the borough to support recent recycling material changes and advise residents of what can and cannot now be recycled.
- c) Because of an increase in disposable nappies being detected in recycling material, supporting communications were used to advice residents that these should be put in the black bins.
- d) Christmas and New year 24/25 waste and recycling now being looked at to establish least disruptive approach for residents.

4.0 Rugby Borough Council

4.1 Launch of the Rugby Recycles band logo:

- Professionally designed official recycling leaflet developed.
- All crews now have the logo on their PPE.
- Good quality reusable water bottles given to all crews and office staff to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles.
- 7 talks delivered to various community groups/schools.
- Rugby Recycles Facebook page has a reach of about 5000 per month.

- 4.2 New guidance released for volunteer litter pickers.
- 4.3 Charity Christmas tree recycling promotion resulted in about 250 trees recycled.
- 4.4 Introductory discussions with ERP about collecting WEEE and batteries kerbside.
- 4.5 Blog posts published on topics such as Christmas waste, plastic-free shopping, batteries, vapes, and where waste goes.
- 4.6 Fly Tipping still on the increase.
- 4.7 3 more different types of vehicles ordered for distribution across the RBC Fleet.
- 4.8 Investigating Food Waste Collection (Vehicles Etc).

5.0 Warwick District Council

- 5.1 Waste Education & Enforcement Team are now established, working with media team on a comms plan, FPNs are now being issued for fly tipping, magnetic signs on 'problem' litter bins where household waste is being dumped in/around.
- 5.2 Garden waste permit sales going well, almost 15,000 sold so far.
- 5.3 Segregated litter bins to enable recycling is to be introduced in the Summer.
- 5.4 123+ advert in the council tax booklet to remind all householders on the service/what can be recycled.
- 5.5 Recycling talks being given to community groups by Waste Education & Enforcement Officer along with WCC Waste officer.

6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- 6.1 Stratford-on-Avon District achieved the 5th highest household recycling rate (60.0%) in England in 2022/23.
- 6.2 In December, there were 14 missed collections per 100,000 across Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District.
- 6.3 Coffee pod collections, in partnership with Podback Ltd, are going very well with 3.7% of households across Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District registered to date.

- 6.4 Garden waste subscriptions for 2024/25 have now opened and there were over 15,000 permits sold in January.
- 6.4 Fly-tipping incidents have increased significantly with 60 fly-tips removed in January, main DIY and builders' waste.

7.0 Warwickshire County Council

7.1 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

- a) All the HWRCs are open and continue to operate with a 'live' booking system which reduces queueing. Booking will help to manage visits over the busy Easter period and into the warmer months. The system has helped with planned site closures due to the delivery of new cabins at Shipston and Cherry Orchard.
- b) A change to legislation means that there are new limits on the quantity of DIY-derived rubble, soil or plasterboard can be brought to a recycling centre per 4 week rolling cycle. There is a limit of 6 x 25kg bags (or one piece of plasterboard) no more than 4 times per 4 weeks.
- c) The Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire Reuse shops continue to have success with footfall, donations and sales. The shops are looking for more donations, and we have promoted them as part of our New Year Resolutions campaign.
- d) Food waste transfer continues at Princes Drive and Burton Farm prior to transfer to the Severn Trent Green Power anaerobic digestion facility at Coleshill. The new contract started in February.
- e) Warwickshire County Council are currently unable to accept upholstered seating at Shipston, Stockton and Wellesbourne. We have published prices for trade waste upholstered seating.

7.2 Communication activities update:

- a) 8300 subscribers received the Christmas editions of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter.

Edition	Open rate	Click Rate
How to recycle a real Christmas tree	41.3%	2.2%
Recycling and waste reduction at Christmas	40.8%	5.6%

- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,412 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. On a monthly basis 466 households are engaging with the platform, reporting their recycling and committing to reduce food waste. Currently WDC has the most slimmers, but there is still time for other districts

and boroughs to gain points and be in with a chance of donating £650 to the charity of their choice.

- c) In 2023, 49 school visits were made and that equated to 9512 primary school children and their families receiving information on reducing waste, composting or recycling.
This term, 30 schools will be visited, engaging with 5533 pupils and their families. There are still spaces for assemblies for after easter.
- d) In 2023, we held 18 home composting events with 350 in attendance. We spoke at 11 community events and talked to 480 adults about reducing waste and recycling more.

We have a series of spring home composting workshops coming up:

5th March	Stratford
8th March	Bedworth
20th March	Rugby
17th April	Atherstone
18th April	Kenilworth
8th May	Bedworth
15th May	Rugby
22nd May	Stratford
22nd May	Alcester
5th June	Atherstone

- e) All waste reduction behaviour change activity is promoted with regular posts on our social media accounts. We have 1025 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles) and 2680 Facebook followers (Warwickshire Recycles). Articles about reducing food waste, Christmas waste minimisation, reuse, home composting workshops, refill, Slim Your Bin and battery/electricals disposal were shared widely. An article about toasting bread straight from the freezer got a lot of interest.

7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) Procurements recently awarded include asbestos disposal to Environmental Contracts Limited.
- b) Procurements currently taking place or taking place shortly include abandoned vehicles, wood waste reprocessing, food waste haulage, reuse shops operation and card/paper reprocessing.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Next steps

9.1 Updates on progress to be provided at the June 2024 meeting.

Background papers

None.

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

Local Member(s):

Other members: