

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

24 Jun 2020

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 January 2020.

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 Green bin collections were suspended for four weeks (early April – early May) due to coronavirus. The service is now fully operational using extra vehicles, agency, leisure and County Council staff. In the four weeks following the suspension 1,320 tonnes of garden and food waste were collected, an increase of 981 tonnes when compared to the same time last year. There has also been an increase in refuse and recycling tonnages during lockdown measures
- 2.2 In March the Council agreed to introduce chargeable garden waste collections from 1st June 2020. The introduction of this service has now been suspended until April 2021. The opt-in charge will be applicable to all green bins. Officers are planning the introduction of this service, including the promotion of alternatives including home composting. Officers are also working with a local garden centre to provide vouchers and special offers to residents after they sign up.
- 2.3 Bulky waste collections were suspended from 24th March to 18th May due to coronavirus. The service is now fully operational again. There has been an influx of bookings, with many for the collection of fridges and freezers.
- 2.4 The introduction of in-cab technology, originally planned for September 2020 has been delayed.

3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

3.1 Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing

- a) Continuing to respond to the current COVID-19 guidance with regards to key services and safeguarding of key worker staff.
- b) Risk assessments have been prepared and circulated to NBBC staff in preparation for a gradual return to work of staff where possible.
- c) Bulky waste collections have restarted, with risk controls in place. Waste officers are currently assessing the task with a view to increasing collections.
- d) All household waste functions operating as normal.
- e) Key worker covid-19 testing has been continuing where necessary.
- f) Street cleansing operating as normal following the introduction of social distancing safeguards.
- g) Household recycling collections are operating as normal, with some increased additional material (primarily cardboard) reported.
- h) Enforcement resumption currently being negotiated and is likely to commence within the next 4 to 6 weeks in conjunction with social distancing safeguards and national guidelines.
- i) Commercial waste service continuing for those premises still open and is likely to increase further with expected opening relaxations for retail outlets and schools.
- j) The 2020/21 green bin scheme has again had a very positive take up response.

3.2 Promotions/Communications

- a) All promotions and communications continuing where possible to support core services.

3.3 Climate Change Emergency

- a) Climate change meetings have been scheduled are set to resume using remote access facilities for officers and members attending.

4.0 Rugby Borough Council

4.1 Fleet procurement progress nearly complete with all Lots now awarded. For infrastructure and technology reasons, all vehicles are diesel powered although alternative fuels were interrogated as part of the contract evaluations. The delivery of the new vehicles has been delayed due to the lockdown across Europe affecting all manufacturers.

4.2 Work completed on a new 14 year rolling fleet replacement programme.

- 4.3 New consolidated Policy Document detailing all service standards across all waste collection, street cleansing, Graffiti, flytipping, littering, winter maintenance etc. awaiting approval from February Full Council meeting. WCC facilities and services are referenced within this Policy Document.
- 4.4 Climate emergency committee meetings progressing to establish scope and scale of actions to be implemented. Agenda now firmly framed by impacts and evidence gained from the period of lockdown.
- 4.5 Green waste subscriptions now 23,700. Already 620 more subscriptions than 2019-20 totals, largely due to lockdown.
- 4.6 Contamination of our Dry Mixed Recycling is currently 10.5%. Still work to do to drive this percentage down further but contamination has been decreasing each month since April 2019.
- 4.7 Recruitment process successfully completed for waste, recycling and street cleansing operatives, significantly reducing our reliance on Agency workers
- 4.8 Review of commercial waste service efficiency and effectiveness commenced in February but halted in late March due to lockdown. Project will recommence when stores and customers resume business
- 4.9 Efficiency and effectiveness audit initially planned for March for the waste and recycling collection services. This follows the internal audits carried out in 2019 for the fleet management and green waste collection services. This Audit will now take place in July and we will update future meetings regarding its progress and outcomes
- 4.10 With the exception of a 2 week period where bulky waste collections were suspended, RBC has maintained all collection services through the lockdown period and have been working very closely with all group colleagues to ensure that best practice, advice, guidance and documentation is shared with all partners at all times.
- 4.11 RBC continue to liaise closely and take an active role in WPP working groups.
- 4.12 After a successful recruitment exercise, we appointed a new Executive Director/Head of Paid Services during this period with Mannie Kettley replacing Adam Norburn.

5.0 Warwick District Council

- 5.1 Currently in the process of tendering for our new waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance contracts which will start April 2021. Initial bids were received in April. Sustainability is featured quite heavily and bidders were asked to submit carbon reduction plans and costs for Electric Vehicles.

- 5.2 It became necessary to suspend textile collections from our kerbside recycling scheme earlier in the year due to the state of the market. There were no textile reprocessors willing to accept our kerbside collected material.
- 5.3 Have managed to keep all waste collection services running during COVID-19 crisis apart from an initial 2-week suspension of green bin collections. It became necessary, quite early on, to reduce crew sizes to enable social distancing so additional vehicles were hired, drivers from street cleansing services were seconded to help with waste collections and WCC helped with the provision of taxis to transport loaders out to rounds. Sustained increase in tonnages across all services.
- 5.4 Staff changes – Rob Hoof (Head of Neighbourhood Services) and Gary Charlton (Contract Services Manager) have both left WDC to take up new roles at other Local Authorities. Zoe Court has been appointed as Contract Services Manager.

6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- 6.1 SDC have continued to provide the full range of waste collection and street cleansing services throughout the pandemic. All waste streams have seen a significant increase in volume. To enable us to complete the rounds, we have had to limit collection to bins only, and suspend the collection of recycling side waste.
- 6.2 April and May saw a 39% increase in fly tipping across the district, compared with 2019 figures.
- 6.3 We have continued to focus on contamination, letters have been sent to occupiers of properties where contaminated bins have been presented for collection.
- 6.4 The chargeable garden waste service was due to start on 1st June 2020, this has been postponed, the new start date as yet to be confirmed.
- 6.5 Our Social media posts have been focusing on food storage and environmental messages.

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.
 - b) HWRCs closed on March 24th and 6 reopened on Monday 18th May with a booking system to manage social distancing. Shipston was the 7th site to

reopen on 22nd June. The systems in place have ensured that visitors and staff are able to keep 2 metres apart, nearly all of the waste streams are available, and queueing has been minimal. There are currently over 12,000 appointments available per week across the 7 open sites.

7.2 Pre-sorting of waste to increase reuse and recycling

The first 6 weeks of the sorting station trial at Cherry Orchard in Kenilworth was a success. It was designed to reduce general waste, in particular capture more electricals for reuse and recycling. It has not been feasible to resume this when the site reopened, due to social distancing. However, the booking system has given us the opportunity to ask users of all sites to pre-sort their waste, both to increase reuse and recycling and to reduce time spent depositing waste on site. Limiting the number of visitors at each site within each time slot also helps site staff to monitor and provide advice to maximise recycling.

7.3 Communication activities update:

- a) 9,160 subscribers received the June edition of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter, with a 36% open rate and 6.5% click rate. It featured: the impact of Covid 19 on waste services; booking a visit to a HWRC; home composting; reducing food waste; sustainable fashion. The summer edition will be out in August.
- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,188 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. We have added a module called Slim Your Bin Kids, packed with ideas for keeping children entertained with practical activities the bring home the waste minimisation message. We will be asking elected members from all local authorities to help to promote the scheme.
- c) Home composting events in the spring had attracted 146 delegates, however all events had to be cancelled. Instead, we produced a YouTube Home Composting Workshop, which we linked all booked delegates to and also launched to the wider Warwickshire audience. The video has been viewed 586 times and feedback has been very positive.
- d) The countywide food waste recycling behaviour change campaign – In to Win, continues across the county. 5795 households are now signed up.
- e) All waste reduction behaviour change activity is promoted with regular posts on our social media accounts. Facebook followers have increased dramatically to 2,180 (Warwickshire Recycles) with 939 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles). Initial Facebook posts about the recycling centre reopening peaked at 47,000 organic views. We are monopolising on this increased traffic to our social media accounts but also continuing our campaign posts on waste minimisation, home composting and recycling.

7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) The following contracts have been extended:

- Glass recycling
- Textile recycling
- Tyre recycling/disposal
- Waste composition analysis
- Ryton landfill gas

b) The following contracts have been awarded following a competitive process:

- Caddy liners concession has been awarded to Compost Bag Company; the contract will see members of the public able to purchase high quality liners online at a good price
- Purchase of 20 (40 cubic yard) RoRo containers from GJF Fabrications
- Scientific monitoring of landfill sites was awarded to Enitial Limited
- Wood reprocessing has been awarded to Jack Moody Ltd
- Metals recycling has been awarded to Whites of Coventry
- Corporate CCTV has been awarded to Open view
- Utilisation of Leicestershire County Council clinical disposal contract with Tradebe

c) Upcoming procurements or those currently taking place are paper and card recycling, paint recycling, plasterboard recycling and haulage of kerbside waste.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Next steps

9.1 Updates on progress to be provided at the Sept 2020 meeting.

Background papers

None.

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