

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

30 Sep 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 June 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 Although our refuse & recycling collection services are more or less back to normal from the period at the peak of the pandemic, we are still regularly deploying extra resources to collect the additional waste being put out for collection. Between May and July, recycling tonnages were up over 15%.
- 2.2 We are due to take delivery of three new refuse collection vehicles this month. These will be the first new 26 tonne single-bodied vehicles we have purchased since we moved to a fully commingled recycling service and will bring additional capacity, reduced running costs and lower carbon emissions. It is anticipated that the extra capacity will reduce our need for additional vehicles and staff to collect the higher than average amounts of material put out for recycling.
- 2.3 Officers are looking again at implementing in-cab technology to produce collection efficiencies and reduce the need to bring in additional rounds to meet the demands placed on the service by a growing population. In-cab will also assist with the introduction of green waste charging which was delayed due to coronavirus but is now planned for next year.

3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

3.1 Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing

- a) Continuing to operate with regards to key services and safeguarding of key worker staff. Vulnerable members of the work force have been taken from their substantive roles and placed on positions where their contact with others is kept to a minimum.
- b) Risk assessments have been updated and issued to all Gresham Road users and visitors.
- c) Bulky waste collections are continuing with restricted schedules; however, this is being reviewed constantly to increase where appropriate.
- d) All household waste functions operating as normal.
- e) Waste collection round reconfiguration exercise progressing well, in conjunction with Coventry City Council.
- f) Fly tipping 'In cab' data capture and sharing process has commenced and has been made live with no issues.
- g) Street Cleansing operating procedures to incorporate 'In Cab' automated graded works scheduling, following NI 195 monitoring highlighted actions.
- h) Street cleansing operating as normal following the introduction of social distancing safeguards.
- i) Riverside clearance training undertaken with operatives being trained to recover items from hard to reach areas and waterways using harnesses, ropes and ties.
- j) Household recycling collections are operating as normal, with an average increase of 30% tonnage throughout the covid-19 period so far
- k) Awaiting WCC decision on HWRC appointment scheme extension arrangements to assess any issues locally.
- l) Enforcement functions have re-started, and focus placed on fly tipping activities, with several FPN's issued

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 taken place to discuss NBBC response. Vehicle procurement exercises to identify electric and dual fuel alternatives when arranging demonstrations.

4.0 Rugby Borough Council

- 4.1 Eleven new RCVs have now been delivered and are on the road in Rugby. The other vehicles included in the procurement will be delivered over the next 4 or 5 weeks.
- 4.2 Work is ongoing on a new 14 year rolling fleet replacement programme.
- 4.3 Continuing to respond to the current COVID-19 guidance 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.
- 4.4 Implementation of in-cab technology in all refuse and recycling collection vehicles is ongoing.
- 4.5 Green waste subscriptions now nearly 28,000. Over 4000 additional subscriptions than in 2019-20 totals, largely due to lockdown. A fourth collection round has been implemented to deal with this additional volume.
- 4.6 As of August 2020, 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 has since recommenced, and all further updates will be provided to this group when outcomes and recommendations are fully known.
- 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 later in the year 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 continued to maintain 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. Work is underway in the planning for a second spike in infections and business continuity and risk assessments updated accordingly.
- 4.11 RBC continue to liaise closely and take an active role in WPP working groups.
- 4.12 RBC continue to play an active and proactive role in the regional MRF project which is currently progressing through procurement stages.

5.0 Warwick District Council

5.1 New Head of Service

Julie Lewis has been appointed as Joint Head of Service for Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council.

5.2 New Waste Contract

Final tenders have been received for street cleansing and grounds maintenance contracts. The aim is to award the contracts at the end of September 2020. The contracts will start on 1st April 2021.

The decision was taken to abandon the procurement process for waste collection and investigate alternative ways to deliver these services. Consequently, we are negotiating an extension to the current waste contract with SUEZ and exploring possible joint service opportunities with SDC.

5.3 University Students

Academic year starts on 5th October, we anticipate students will start to return to their rental properties from 19th September. We have a programme of coms to encourage students to deal with their refuse and recycling correctly. This includes posting out a welcome postcard to all known student properties, sending an email to all returning students via Warwick SU, a corporate social media campaign and a letter to all known student landlords to remind them of their role and responsibility regarding waste provision.

5.4 Fly-tipping

April – July we had 551 reports of fly-tipping, on par with the same period last year. We are continuing to just remove fly-tips and not looking for evidence or taking any enforcement action during this time.

5.5 Litter

The 'Don't be a Tossler' on Social Media was launched, it has been well received, Corex posters have been produced to put in litter 'hot spot' parks/green spaces. We have also produced a video to support this for social media/You tube.

5.6 Latest WDC kerbside collection data

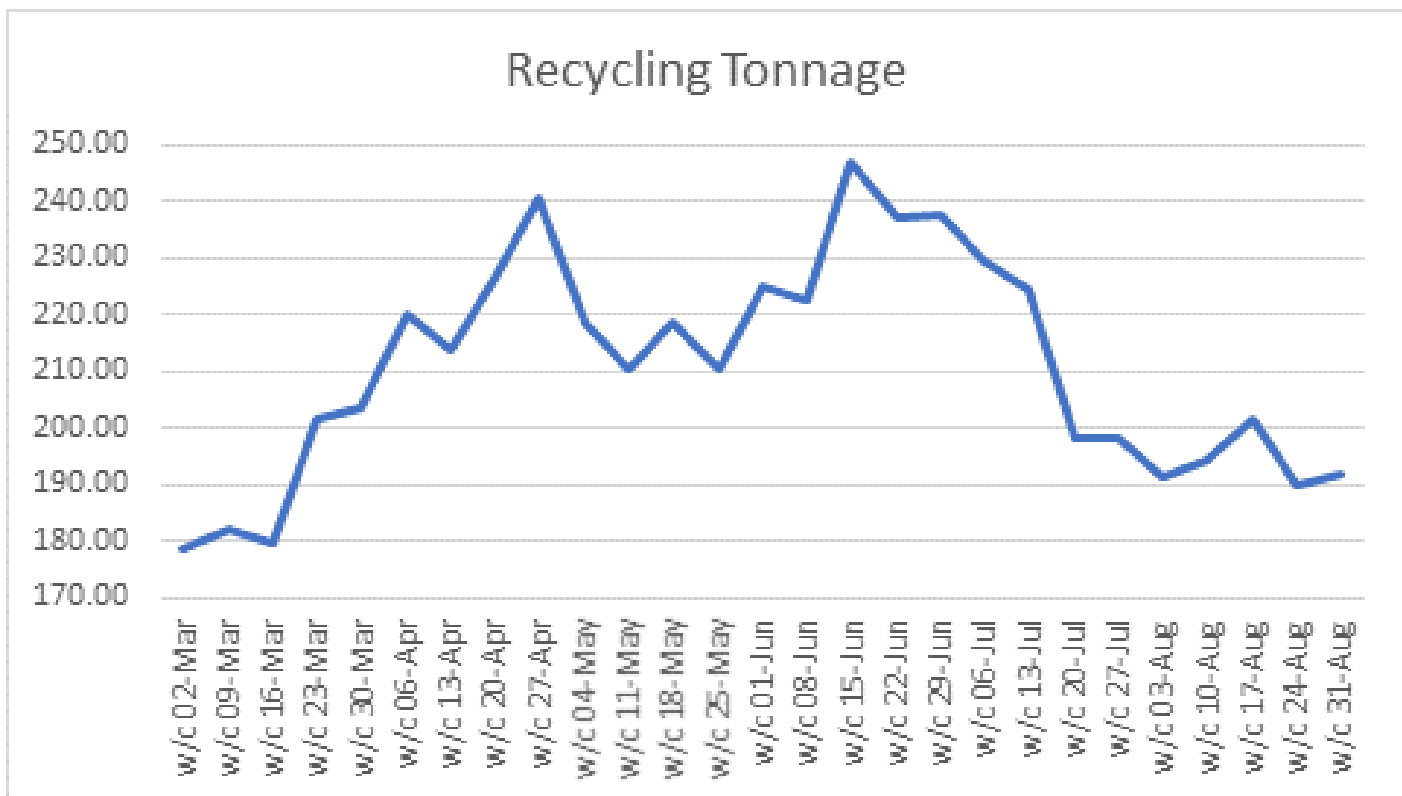
See refuse tonnage, green tonnage and recycling graphs; one extra vehicle is still being used to collect the higher levels of recycling, although we expect to drop this shortly.

Refuse Tonnage



Green Tonnage





6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- 6.1 SDC have continued to provide a full range of waste collection and street cleansing services throughout the pandemic. All waste streams have seen a significant increase in volume. General waste and dry recycling have seen a minor reduction recently with the reopening of the hospitality industry. Garden waste has seen a seasonal fall. We have also seen an increase in the number of requests for additional recycling bins due to not collecting recycling side waste.
- 6.2 June, July and August saw the number of fly tipping incidents more than double across the district compared to last year (64 in 2019 / 136 in 2020).
- 6.3 The chargeable garden waste service will start on 1st March 2021. There will be a 4-week period commencing 11 January 2021 where residents can sign-up to the service at a discounted rate.
- 6.4 Our social media posts have continued focusing on waste reduction, recycling and environmental messages plus refilling water bottles.

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 12,200 appointments available per week across the 7 open sites. The final two sites, Stockton and Wellesbourne, are due to open on 26th September. Four reuse shops are open: Princes Drive, Hunters Lane, Judkins and Lower House Farm. Wellesbourne is due to open on 26th September.

7.2 Pre-sorting of waste to increase reuse and recycling

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. We are also sending an appointment reminder, which is another opportunity to prompt reference to the website to know what can be recycled and to pre-sort waste. 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) 9,372 subscribers received the July edition of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter, with a 37% open rate and 6.8% click rate. It focussed on the reinstatement of waste services, detailing how to access the recycling centres and reuse shops. There will be another HWRC update send this month and an Autumn edition will be out in October.
- 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) The YouTube Home Composting Workshop launched in the spring has been viewed 634 times and feedback has been very positive. An updated version will be shared for the autumn composting season. Compost bins are available to purchase from the recycling centres, with a greater range of equipment available from the online shop for home delivery.
- d) The countywide food waste recycling behaviour change campaign – In to Win, continues across the county. 5807 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 to 2,194 (Warwickshire Recycles), with 955 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles).

7.4 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) The following contracts have been extended:
- Waste Electronic and Electronic Equipment Recycling
 - Leachate removal and disposal
- b) Upcoming extensions or those currently taking place are Asbestos collection and disposal, Ling hall landfill and Metals collection and recycling.
- c) The following contracts have been awarded following a competitive process:
- Plasterboard reprocessing has been awarded to Clews Recycling Ltd
 - Paint reprocessing has been awarded to Paint 360
- d) Upcoming procurements or those currently taking place are paper and card recycling, haulage of kerbside waste, glass, tyres, garden waste composting. Work is also taking place to consider haulage provision as the contract ends Nov 2021.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Next steps

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

Background papers

None.

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: None