

Harrow Agenda 21  
**Minutes of the Waste & Recycling Group Meeting**  
Committee Room 6, Harrow Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2UZ  
**Wednesday 24th November 2010, 7.00 PM**

Present:

Mick Oliver	MO	Chair
Mick Campbell	MC	South Harrow & Roxeth Residents' Association
John Hollingdale	JH	Harrow Friends of the Earth
Eileen Kinnear	EK	Greener Harrow

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Andrew Baker, Evelyn Donald, Pamela Swain, Beverley & Daniel McKeon, Charlotte Neville, (hence the Chair took brief notes of the present meeting), Shahrzad Amoli and Keith Tarring. Keith Tarring explained that he had a regular diary clash with the group's meetings but that he was keen to attend meetings of the Consumer Group.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting on 29th September 2010 were considered and approved.

### 3. Harrow Waste Management Report

3.1 MO reported statements by AB to Greener Harrow on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> that:

- the Mayor of London's Waste Strategy was available for comment (till mid-Jan),
- Harrow and West Waste's strategies would become available for comment shortly,
- West Waste's list of possible sites for waste management in future included Forward Drive in Harrow as it was already used for the purpose.
- Harrow and 4 other boroughs in West Waste had conducted surveys on the contents of household bins during October without issuing a press statement (unlike Brent).

The group discussed Harrow Observer's article on waste management on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: it included comments from the Chair, and defined possible sites for waste management. EK pointed out that although the Kodak site had been put forward in earlier discussions, it was no longer included, that access to Forward Drive was inferior to that at Hillingdon's South Ruislip site, and drew attention to Keith Ferry's role on the London Development Framework.

### 4. Projects and Campaigns

4.1 "What happens to waste?" MC explained he had completed filming and that the dvd would be available, so that members could see it at the HA21 social on January 15<sup>th</sup>. MO offered to deliver tape recorder and text of the commentary to DM and BM, and reiterated his thanks for their efforts. MC and MO agreed to seek consent from Viridor and Bywaters to include material from their DVDs in our production.

4.2 MO reported writing letters to Ofwat and to Harrow's 3 MPs which identified hard water as having adverse implications on biodiversity, and sought their help in changing water companies' policy on softening water at source. He reported Ofwat's reply that their role was as an economic regulator; and that Gareth Thomas had forwarded the letter to Defra, who sent a detailed reply, which identified Sutton as an area which softened a water supply similar to Harrow's. MO stated he had raised the topic with a cross-London environmental forum and placed an article on their

website, and undertook to make contact with anyone in Sutton who could help to develop the case. (Article being circulated with these minutes.)

### **5. CIWM Conference “Prevention is better than Cure – Waste Prevention and reuse”**

MO reported that WRAP’s delegate had let him know that West Waste had appointed a Waste Prevention Officer in May who was keen to develop contacts with Harrow.

He had since contacted Sarah Dickinson, who was visiting Harrow Civic Centre on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> with a Love Food Hate Waste campaign as part of the European Week for Waste Reduction (see [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu) . Sarah is willing to cooperate with any Harrow group on food waste, furniture reuse, or any aspect of waste prevention.

The conference ended with a paper on resource depletion, and the suggestion that that should be the subject of a future conference (see item 7).

MO also reported attending a conference on “Sustainable Communities – Building the Big Society”. He completed his appraisal form, which was drawn out of the hat, so he won a Hewlett Packard laptop computer.

### **6. Plastic recycling codes**

JH provided a display of plastic materials which carried the recycling codes and triangle, and considered he had received misleading advice from Harrow on what could be recycled. The codes represented:

1. PET polyethylene terephthalate
2. HDPE high density polyethylene
3. PVC polyvinylchloride
4. LDPE low density polyethylene
5. PP polypropylene
6. PS polystyrene

In discussion we covered

- Most MRFs can only detect and recover the bottle plastics 1 & 2
- A MRF that handles paper cannot separate plastic films, hence Harrow’s recycling collection does not collect plastic film (even though it carries the recycling symbol and is potentially recyclable).
- MO drew the meeting’s attention to a display he had set up before the meeting – a polypropylene (PP) soup container which was supporting a brick, which weighed 125 x its own weight. He considered this showed PP to be a valuable material with useful properties, yet it is a material which is not regularly separated from waste, hence is likely to be incinerated for “energy from waste”.

## **7. Scrapbooks**

MO brought in a scrapbook of cuttings relating to waste and recycling, (one topic being the depletion of rare minerals which are only mined in China and are used in essential components in renewable technology, computers and mobile phones - products which we use and discard wastefully – see item 5). He asked all members to save and share cuttings on waste-related topics, and provided pamphlets and supplements for members to take away.

## **8. Matters arising**

MO was unable to reach the teabags buried in his compost and could not report on progress, but JH was confident that they were compostible.

MO agreed to remind DM on reporting Nower Hill's Time Capsule trial.

## **9. Any other business**

MO explained that Sharhzad Amoli was interested in joining the group, and had written a dissertation on waste management in Tehran. The group discussed what it might contribute to improving waste management in other countries, reached no conclusion but would welcome practical suggestions.

MC pointed out that 8 MRFs operated in London, and that France and Belgium had a deposit scheme for glass bottles.

## **10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Next meeting confirmed for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011, in the Members' Lounge at the Harrow Civic Centre, at 7 p.m.

*and everyone is invited to the HA21 social and premiere of "What happens to Waste?" at HAVS, 64, Pinner Rd., Harrow on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 p.m.*

The March meeting is confirmed as March 30<sup>th</sup>, Civic Centre Committee room 3 at 7 p.m.