

Harrow Agenda 21

Minutes of the Waste Management Group Meeting Committee Room 6, Civic Centre, Harrow 24th September 2008 7.00pm

Present

Andrew Baker	AB
Mick Oliver	MO
Heena Modi	HM
Marguerite Huitson	MH
John Hollingdale	JH
Beverley McKeon	BM
Daniel McKeon	DM

1. Welcome and Apologies

MO welcomed new members to the group and the existing members introduced themselves. Apologies were received from BB and the group signed a get-well card for him.

5. Harrow Waste Management update

AB had previously stated he wished to leave the meeting early, and the agenda was adjusted to allow this. Waste-related topics had been discussed at Greener Harrow on Sept. 16 – MO had identified these in an email to AB, and AB tabled a response at the Waste meeting, which is circulated with these minutes.

AB also presented Harrow's draft Waste Management Strategy (Version 2) and explained it was not yet a public document and had still to reach some Councillors, that black text was still to be drafted, and highlighted text still to be developed. He explained the Council's fleet was about to be replaced, and that the strategy covered the likely life of the new fleet, to 2016.

He invited comments in particular on text relating to Harrow Agenda 21 in cl 2.4.3. and on the table of priorities on p 33. He invited comments/requests for clarification/general approval on all parts of the document, MO agreed to field these and forward to AB. AB expected the strategy to be circulated for formal public comment during December.

Action: Group to make comments to MO, MO to collate and forward to AB.

AB reported he and Susan Hall had visited a MRF operated by Greenstar at Walsall, that the company planned to commission a plant at Edmonton, and that a visit by 20 people was planned in the New Year. AB tabled Greenstar's brochure.

Action: AB to report visit arrangements at Nov. meeting.

HM pointed out that blue bins at her school, Earlsmead, had been collected together with general waste, and that she had been informed that a charge would be made for composting bins. (HM also described the lack of recycling at her flats.)

Action: AB to investigate Earlsmead situation and clarify.

In a discussion on clothes collections BM pointed out that LM Barrie collect from her school.

2. Appointment of Secretary

BM agreed to take minutes for the meeting.

Action: members to volunteer for the remainder of the year, or for individual meetings, or HA 21 to find a volunteer.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting of 30th July 2008 were agreed by the group as accurate and a true record of the meeting. Proposed JH, seconded BM.

4. Projects and Campaigns

The group discussed members' proposals which were a film about what happens to rubbish after it goes in the bin. The group recognised that filming may not be possible in a commercial operating plant, and that it would need the cooperation and support of the plant's operator. The group identified people studying media studies who could conduct the work, Pam Gerson's grandson (via SK and PG), Gianni Oconnor (07882900414 via MO), Sawan Shah (07870 693 479 via HM).

Action: MO to take advice of HA21, then make further contact with the above.

The group then brainstormed a few more ideas:-

- Educating people in flats as there is a high turn over of tenants.
- Game - practical activities.
- Targeting new tenants **Action: AB**
- Rubbish sorting -take into schools, outside events and into organisations.
- Stall in shopping centre.
- Picture guide to recycling on bins - leaflet design.
- Develop leaflets/stickers that could coincide with the Christmas leaflet drop.
- Re use the green boxes - have a green box amnesty and then deliver these to schools with an info pack to encourage the now compulsory recycling in schools
- Communication and education to site managers about the compulsory recycling.

- What happens to waste when it goes in the ground? A school could bury rubbish in a time capsule, leave it for a year and then dig it up to see what has happened. **Action: MO to speak to MR.**
- Make Web play at Think.com known to all schools. Schools could make contact with schools in other countries.

Action: BM to investigate and then pass on info to MR and Rupal for magazine.

6. Matters arising not covered by agenda items above

- Textile recycling - AB to update
- Visits to Frog Island - Mick C to make arrangements nothing as yet
- Harrow in Business - MC to set up a meeting and invite MO
- Project development - see above
- New residents - AB to check how information can be passed on. Heena suggested Information to Julie Cook that could be placed on communal notice boards in flats. julie.cook@harrow.gov.uk and copy to william.manning@harrow.gov.uk
- Visit to Waste site - BM to speak to MR and then maybe write an article.
- Bins were arranged for waste game by AB.
- DM has written an article for the next In Contact newsletter.

7. Any other business

Batteries

The European Batteries Directive comes into force on Friday 26th September. (SI 2008 No 2164 **Environmental Protection** The Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008. It states that recycling schemes should be put in place by the retailers that sell batteries.

Action: MO to investigate the date it is meant to happen by and may be we could start a campaign.

West Waste Waste Plan

MO alerted the group to West Waste's consultation on the West London Waste Plan. No draft was yet available, but was expected before the first public meeting (Brent, October 29). The Harrow public meeting is to be held at the Civic Centre on Tue Dec 2 from 6.00 to 8.30 p.m.

Action: group to make comments, attend meeting, or both

Reuse before Recycling

Books toys and pencils etc could be passed on to schools for them to use rather than them being disposed of. The group discussed whether this is up to individual schools to target people via a newsletter or something we could take forward.

Action: no decision made discuss at the next meeting.

Red rubber bands

MO had collected a bag of red rubber bands that are dropped by the postman and suggested that this bag of bands would be worth ½ million pounds if a fine had been issued for littering each time.

Action: MO to write a letter to Royal Mail either locally or nationally. (Please copy this letter to HM)

Polling Stations

It was discussed how items are thrown away after an event. **Action: AB to locate returning officer with regard to re-using pencils, pens and other stationary items after an event**

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 26, at 7 p.m., Civic Centre, Room 6.

The meeting closed at 8.45