

## Harrow Agenda 21

### **Minutes of the Waste Management Group Meeting Committee Room 6, Civic Centre, Harrow 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 7.00pm**

Andrew Baker	AB
Bernard Burns	BB
Mick Oliver	MO
Heena Modi	HM
John Hollingdale	JH
Beverley McKeon	BM
Daniel McKeon	DM
John Riches	JR
Sarah Kersey	SK
Sarah Fahy	SF
Mick Campbell	MC

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

MO welcomed new members to the group and the existing members introduced themselves. Apologies were received from LR and new member Rob Nichols. Chair was sorry to hear VMF is no longer able to attend the group agreed that he should contact VMF and thank her for service in the past. Welcome back to BB from illness

#### **2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 24.9.08.**

Amendment Part 2, delete "and has still to reach councillors".

#### **3. Projects and Campaigns for 2008-9**

**3.1** Members to develop proposals for projects discussed at September meeting, in particular DVD or film projects.

**3.2** Members to identify campaigns/shows/exhibitions we could take part in in 2009.

##### Projects and Campaigns

**3.1.1** MO had spoken to Peter Barnes from the Harrow Cine Video Society and discussed working on the project. This could include filming at Harefield waste site. The group discussed the need to tell whole story of waste and the various activities that could be filmed. MC commented division of brown bin waste and MRFs. Although the MRFs may like publicity probably won't allow filming. They would have to get them onside to be able to do this.

MO said Harrow Cine Video Society asked about format and suggested 16-18mm.

MO said that the group need to approach HCS and give them a brief.

SK asked what would be the objectives or message of the film that the group had thought of. The group suggested topics. MO said something to motivate people. BB said that "public negativity" should be dispelled by a film. MC commented food grade plastic bottles in particular should be highlighted and mentioned LINPAC's role. The group agreed that the MRF would be need to show the processing but that they may well say no. JR said we don't want to convey the wrong message.

Harrow Cine Video Society will need an editorial contract. BB said the group should set the agenda and they could make it chic. SK said she has project brief template the group could use. BM and MO agreed a template should be used.

**ACTION - SK to email the project brief template to MO and arrange a session on learning how to compile template.**

**3.2.1** JH asked if any statistics were gathered from the HA21 stand at Under One Sky and suggested that HA21 take some stats next time they host the Chuck Out Challenge. The group discussed the success of the game at the festival. DM commented that even Councillors even selected the wrong bins to put the rubbish in. BM asked if the Council would sponsor the group if they took the game to local shows by providing bins. AB answered that they would. JH suggested that the information gathered from future events should be sent back to council.

HM said that there is a need for labels on bins again. BM said more reminders to the public are needed about what waste goes in what bin. SK said this on the Harrow Council website.

HM told the group about a Interactive PC game. Game Chameleon is on the internet for raising recycling awareness amongst children. The group discussed the potential funding of acquiring this as an educational tool for the borough. SK said HA21 could consider contributing once costs are known.

**ACTION – HM to find out the cost**

**3.2.2** MO is working in conjunction with MR and the HA21 Education Group to create a 'Time-Capsule' of typical household waste that would be buried, then exhumed at a later stage. This experiment, to be distributed in schools, will illustrate to students the slow rate of decomposition of these frequently dumped items and how recycling is a more desirable option. BM and HM agreed that children would love it with the advantage of all the items being familiar and plentiful. It was settled that 1 year was enough for this project. MO commented all household objects could be used but tins would need to be washed as children might get cut.

The group considered if this project could also make a film. BM suggested that we seek advice from Nower Hill's Media Unit and Mr Nagel, Science Coordinator to help promote the project.

**ACTION - BM to contact Mr Nagel and ask if he would be interested.**

MO said that the Nower Hill could be the prototype. HM said once they have done it other schools might be interested. The group discussed promoting the project to all schools including emailing all schools in one hit. HM said that a lot of emails don't get through. BM said she can speak to Marilyn Raymond from the Education Action Group as she has spent a lot of time trying to establish contact to get the Schools Environment Newsletter to teachers.

MO suggested the same experiment could be conducted in cages above ground level to simulate litter. SK said that was a good idea. HM said it was worth a try but might be a mixed take up. SK said that any information about the project can be put on the website.

**3.2.3** MO said that he had sent 100g of red rubber bands picked up in the street in Stanmore and Harrow. He was concerned both about litter and waste and thought an organisation which is publicly committed to environmental concerns should be making efforts to reuse materials. He had yet not received a reply. He said if other members could do this if they wanted to. He gave the address to group: Post Office Mr Millage, Royal Mail House, 148 Old St., London EC1V 9HQ. DM said that he would like to do this and MO said that he could email him the letter he sent. DM said that the group could start a campaign. MC commented he would like to know how many tonnes of rubber are wasted each year. JR said that they could approach the Communication Workers Union about the same rubber band problem. SK said that the letter could be made available on website for people to download.

[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)

**3.2.4** MO asked if there will be a Climate Fair this year that the group could attend. HM said that it wasn't well attended and needs to be published better. SK said that she has been told that it may be that a green area will be amalgamated with Under One Sky which is at the end of June. HM suggested HA21 could do Roxeth Show. MC and SK explained that this was attended before but not last year, maybe not this year either as it had not been very worth while.

SK said that an updated version of HA21 calendar would be available on the website and that the group could make suggestions as to which national and local campaigns they might want to get involved in.

**4. Harrow Waste Management update** including draft waste management strategy. AB thanked the meeting for comments on draft strategy and said it goes to Cabinet in December, without the appendices on energy recovery, and with other amendments.

Points which arose in discussions were:

- AB said that by 2011 80% of waste would need to be dealt within the 6 West London boroughs.
- 4 week cycle in street sweeping - where does the material go? A. Tipped waste into black bags and sorted.
- Landfill Tax was set to continue; it was currently £8 per tonne and would possibly increase 2011 to £48 per tonne.
- Effect of economic downturn – low prices for waste – AB explained that open market prices were variable and those experiencing low prices had experienced substantially higher prices earlier in the economic cycle – and that Harrow was protected by having a long term contract.
- Home composting is beneficial as it reduces total waste. A figure of 20,000 composting units had been given out and JH asked how the Council know that they are being used. AB said 15,000 was the original provision of bins given out. BB commented that people may have moved, thrown them away, etc. AB admitted there was no science!!
- MO asked about provision for recycling batteries and if retailers were going to be consulted. AB said that there was no consultation document and retailers often want council to collect. JH commented that there was an EU directive which made the retailer responsible. BB pointed out that other councils in West London already collect batteries. AB said batteries in co-mingled waste were a problem that Harrow

could not handle.

MO asked can mixed plastics be separated. He has contacted British Plastics Federation, Green Star and WRAP but they have not replied. MC said plastics can be sorted out by water and air filters. MO asked if AB had a contact at one of these organisations that might answer his question.

**ACTION – AB to email MO a contact**

BM queried the frequency of recycling pick-up at schools. AB confirmed it should be a weekly collection. BM said that there have been discrepancies to this at her school and on reporting this it resulted in being collected as normal waste. AB advised schools to phone and ask for a next day 'recycling pick-up' or email [info@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:info@harrow.gov.uk) BM said it would be bad for the waste to be collected as normal waste as the school had invested money in blue bins and training staff and teachers didn't really have the time.

**5. Matters arising not covered by agenda items above**

**5.1** AB had left the meeting and wasn't able to confirm visits to Edmonton. The group suggested that matters arising should be checked before AB has to leave. SK told the group that agendas would need to follow the Standing Orders for meetings set out with the constitution of HA21 directed by the EC but that she would feedback to EC the Waste Groups comments.

**5.2** HM told the group about a website game to be used to raise awareness of children to waste. [www.think.com](http://www.think.com)

**Action – HM to email any links to SK for the website**

**Action outstanding from previous meeting – AB to locate returning officer with regard to re-using pencils, pens and other stationary items after an event**

**6. Any other business**

BB asked is the Waste Group would be addressing energy and SK said that this would now be covered by the Planning group.

**7. West Waste Strategy, Harrow meeting, Civic Centre, Tue. 2.12.08.**

**4.3** MO said that on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the Civic Centre from 6-8.30pm. the West London Waste Plan consultation was taking place. This would consider how to plan for waste facilities as governed by the London Plan. Also how can these boroughs be more self-sufficient which would include all municipal, construction and business waste.

**8. Dates and venues of 2009 meetings 28.1.09., 25.3.09., 27.5.09., 29.7.09., 30.09.09., 25.11.09.** Civic Centre for first two but no dates fixed after that. Could always hold them at the Community Premises on Northolt Road

Meeting closed 9.04pm