

## HARROW AGENDA 21

### Meeting of the Waste & Recycling Group

held at

Committee room 6, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2UZ

on

27 May 2009

#### In attendance:

Mick Oliver	MO (Chairperson)
Andrew Baker	AB
Beverley McKeon	BM
Daniel McKeon	DM
Heena Modi	HM
Linda Robinson	LR
Sarah Kersey	SK
Himesh Chavda	HC

#### Apologies

Mick Campbell	MC
Bernard Burns	BB
John Hollingdale	JH

#### Welcome and apologies

1. Members of the meeting introduced themselves and apologies were received from MC, BB and JH.

#### Approval of minutes of previous meeting

2. The minutes of the group's meeting held on 25 March 2009 were considered and approved.

#### Harrow waste management report

3. AB reported that the domestic waste recycled in Harrow had increased to 43% during the tax year to March 2009. This was the second best performance in London.
4. LR mentioned that fluorescent tubes were thrown in with general waste and should be collected separately.

#### Consultations

5. The group's response to the following consultations were considered:
  - West London Waste Plan (WLWP) draft plan
  - Waste Management Strategy (WMS)
  - Climate Change Strategy (CCS)
6. MO stated that he circulated the final WLWP and the text "draft" on the document was in fact an error.

***Action Point: MO to recirculate the final version of WLWP having removed the text "draft".***

7. AB stated that there is substantial work to be carried out in relation to the CCS. Brendon Hills (BH), Harrow's Corporate Director for Community and Environment, wants various procedure changes and has requested an opportunity to discuss and change them.
8. LR queried why the CCS is more urgent than the WMS? AB explained that the CCS is more complex and therefore detailed consideration will need to be given to it. In comparison, WMS is a steady procedure.
9. MO queried whether CCS will conflict with WMS? AB explained that they would not conflict and both consultations will be considered by the council in the same cycle.
10. MO what happens during WLWP the consultation process. AB explained that the consultations were closed and the comments and drafts were currently being considered. 6 boroughs (Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames) will present their options to various committees and cabinets for approval. This is followed by a further consultation process on the outcome of the results. Draft submissions are then published and given to the Secretary of State. AB was not certain about the final stages of the procedure. (Note: the time-table for the adoption of WLWP can be found at: <http://www.wlwp.net/timescales.html>).
11. AB continued to explain that at certain criteria were applied to identify suitable sites for adoption of the WLWP and the councils were awaiting confirmation that the criteria applied were sufficient and satisfactory.
12. Some criteria are "show stoppers". For example, if the proposed site is close to a floodplain, it would not be considered as a site. Sites close to residential property are graded: Grade 1 for too close; Grade 5 for distant. All sites are assessed on the same criteria and "show stoppers" are immediately excluded. The criteria are also weighted. The final score applied to a particular site will be a multiple of the score and weighting (Score x Weighting = Final Score). Sites with the higher score will be considered to implement the WLWP.

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

13. BM circulated maps of the waste and recycling proposals for Under One Sky. BM stated that Stephen Porter (SP), Communications Projects Officer, had queried the supply of bins. BM to suggest to SP: 3 bins in each of the marked locations.
14. BM asked whether it was possible to get labels for the bins on the day: "Food Waste" and "Landfill".

#### ***Action Point: AB to get labels made up***

15. It was confirmed that the risk assessment and public protection measures were in place. The entrance fees were discussed. £20 for those holding the stalls. Reduced prices were in place for those attending the consultation group.
16. It was discussed that SP should be contacted to either get refund on extra money already paid for tickets or get extra wrist bands.

#### ***Action Point: BM to also check whether parade people got in free.***

17. SK queried whether Harrow was trying to find out any information from the public in relation to waste. If so, we could use this opportunity to produce a questionnaire.

18. MO raised the possibility of a using a costume at the event. MO circulated a "Recoup" leaflet. Recoup focus on plastic packaging recycling. They offer associated membership to worthy organisations like HA21 and also provide the use of a free mascot worth over £250 at one event per year.
19. Various councils have costumes and we could persuade new members to dress up if they wish! SK suggested that it would be a good idea to buy costumes and join Recoup. SK stated costumes can cost over £1000, but can get a lot of use out of them and we can find somewhere to store it.
20. HM suggested that the costume could be used at summer fairs and school fetes, and be loaned to various eco-groups. Good quality, durable costumes will attract attention. SK confirmed that HA21 has a large enough budget to afford it.
21. The type of costume decided by the group was a "Crisp Packet". Suppliers and delivery dates were to be researched and contacted.
22. MO then referred to the events calendar on the London Sustainability Exchange (LSX) website. Events to be held by Harrow were not mentioned.

***Action Point: SK confirmed that JH has contact with LSX. SK to speak to JH to get the information on the LSX website.***

23. SK stated that other groups such as Friend of the Earth could be encouraged to put their events on the LSX website.

***Action Point: SK to speak to the Public Relations volunteer to use her skills to publicise HA21 events.***

24. SK considered whether there were any stickers we could give away? Or pens, pencils, lollipops or any other freebies on the day?
25. Recycling rubber bands were then discussed. Envelopes containing Royal Mails address could be handed out for people to put their rubber bands in for reusing.

***Action Point: MO to circulate the relevant Royal Mail address to the group.***

### **Time Capsule Experiment**

26. Nower Hill School was still to conduct the experiment. SK suggested that we could write instructions for it. MO stated that, old filing trays attached to a steel wire were needed.

***Action Point: The items to go into the trays were to be listed in the back of our newsletter.***

27. Sources of old filing trays were discussed. Possible option was from "freecycle".

### **Composting Bins**

28. HM queried whether any feedback on composting was received in the consultations. It was confirmed that cooked food and teabags can be put into the composting bins at home.

29. Schools operated a different policy for their composting bins.

**Action Point: The newsletter should contain what can and cannot be put into the composting bins.**

### **Batteries**

30. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations are set to impose targets for recycling batteries.

**Action Point: Members of the group agreed to go round and see whether supermarkets, hardware and DIY shops and electrical shops are accepting used batteries yet for recycling.**

31. AB stated that the battery take-back scheme doesn't officially start till next year. The Post Office is setting up a battery collection point and also a free "post-back" service.
32. AB stated that batteries being posted back do not require a separate consignment note. The Environmental Agency's advice on battery disposal can be found at: [http://www.envirogreen.co.uk/service\\_battery\\_disposal.shtml](http://www.envirogreen.co.uk/service_battery_disposal.shtml).

### **Secretary**

33. HC was elected secretary for the group.

### **AOB**

34. DVD or film projects - SK mentioned speaking to John Richards (volunteer who has previous experience in editing films in journalism) to discuss doing story boards if want to create relevant waste and recycling films. For example, filming the day in the life of a refuse collector to understand how waste is treated and recycled.
35. MO referred to the Courtauld Commitment, which is a voluntary agreement between Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and major UK grocery organisations that supports less packaging and food waste ending up in household bins – and is signed up to by all the major supermarkets. MO attended a conference held by Recoup, which was attended by representatives from WRAP. It was suggested at this meeting that the Courtauld Commitment may be anti-competitive as it could discriminate against the use of some plastics.
36. SK raised a query about recycling facilities in old flats, which is currently inadequate. Refuse collectors do not want to collect waste for recycling from flats due to the hassle and costs of collecting it. Old flats were built when there was less waste and bin sizes were also smaller. Therefore collecting waste from existing older flats is not easy. In contrast, all new flats must have recycling facilities.
37. AB stated that there are 2 issues concerning recycling from old flats:  
(a) The council does not have sufficient funds  
(b) How is the waste to be collected – as currently old flats do not have different bins and collection points.
38. The council would need to apply to the London Waste Recycling Board for a grant to purchase necessary facilities. The grant is under the control of the mayor.
39. **Action Point: SK and MO to consider best way to fund bin labels. The group also considered putting HA21 logo on it.**

40. MO queried whether anyone in group knew any businesses take back plastic flower pots that need to be recycled.
41. ***Action Point: members of the group to investigate and research this point.***
42. HM mentioned that many schools are interested in taking plastic flower pots for growing plants/herbs.
43. ***Action Point: requests for taking up flower pots to be put into the newsletter.***

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 29 JULY 2009**

**Meeting closed at 21.10**