

Notes of a Waste Group Meeting held on

Wednesday May 25th 2011 at 7 p.m.

at Harrow Civic Centre Committee Room 5.

Members present :- Mick Oliver (Chair and minutes) MO, Linda Robinson LR, Suzanne Sedgeman SS, Martin Reader MR.

1. Apologies were received from Evelyn Donald, Eileen Kinnear, Shahrzad Amoli, Beverly McKeon, Daniel McKeon, and Mick Campbell.

MO welcomed new member Suzanne Spellman and her guest Martin Reader.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 30/03/2011 were considered. Changes agreed were to record Mick Campbell as present, and to alter cl 4.4 to end “conducted” rather than “completed”. The only member at both meetings was MO, and it was felt inappropriate to approve the minutes:

Can members who attended the March meeting confirm them as a correct record or indicate any disagreement with proposed alternative wording by June 18th please?

3. Harrow Waste Management Report.

3.1 No presentation was given but MO was asked to seek a report from AB on

- the Borough’s final result for composting/recycling for 2010-1,
- progress on recycling in flats
- Councils’ response to West London Waste Authority’s Waste Prevention Plan.
- Sarah Dickinson (West London Waste)’s "Swishing Events" (clothes swap).
- upgrade of Waste Transfer Stations to Waste Processing status.
- transfer of Civic Amenity Sites from the Boroughs to the West London Waste Authority.

Members had followed the lead to the BBC’s programme “Bang goes the Theory – the Big Risk Test”, which AB had suggested – encouraged by the exposure this was giving to waste management and the response that other people were giving.

Members had also seen a separate Panorama on the illegal export of WEEE to West Africa, and backstreet metal recovery there, a hazard to those conducting the work, and inefficient recovery of the metals. (See later minute on EDM 1101).

4. Projects and Campaigns.

4.1 What Happens to Waste.

Suggestions were made that the dvd should be available on HA21's website, and should be given wider exposure in the Civic Centre One Stop Shop.

MC and AB to consult and action.

4.2 Other boroughs' strategy for collection from flats.

No developments

4.3 Water supply.

MO reminded the meeting of MC's intentions to consult Veolia and to start a project on water supply and waste of water – London and the SE face increases in population and water use despite experiencing the driest conditions in the country – and water supply is energy-intensive.

4.3.1 MO explained the implications for biodiversity of hard water, and his concern that he was ploughing a lone furrow on the subject. He alerted the meeting to Colne Valley's claim in 1938 to have the largest softened water supply in Britain and the largest plant in Europe, and questioned why the situation had changed.

4.4 Projects and Campaigns for 2011.

MO gave the dates Under One Sky – Sunday June 26, and Canons Park Fun Day, Sunday July 17.

SS described an initiative she had taken on waste management in the St. Ann's Centre and Starbucks – MO asked her to describe this in an article for In Contact.

5. Report on contacts with "Campaign for Real Recycling" and with "Recoup".

MO reported HA21's contact with Harrow's 3 MPs on Early Day Motion 1101, which was seeking to improve the credibility of recycling by establishing an End Use Register for recycled waste. Bob Blackman (Harrow East) had replied that he was awaiting the announcement of the Government's Waste Strategy. Gareth Thomas had consulted the Dept. of Energy and Climate Change and enclosed their reply, which referred to the Government's review (due to be completed this month), and indicated the Government's reluctance to impose regulations and preference for citizens to hold their Council to account locally.

SS & MR left the meeting at 8.30.

6. Scrapbook

LR provided extracts from Which on different Councils' waste collection policy and overpackaging by supermarkets.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Next meeting

Annual General Meeting at Civic Centre, Wednesday July 6 at 7 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting of **Waste Group** is set for Wednesday July 27th at 7 p.m. in Civic Centre.

Can members please state whether they are available for this meeting by July 15 – we will only hold this meeting if we can expect an adequate attendance!