

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE (MEETING WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP)

MINUTES of the meeting held on Friday, 20 January 2012 commencing at 9.30 am and finishing at 12 noon

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale – in the Chair
Councillor David Dodds
Councillor David Harvey
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Reg Waite
Cllr Mark Lygo (In place of Councillor John Tanner)

Officers:

Whole of meeting	Andrew Pau, Rachel Burns and Julie Dean – Oxfordshire County Council; Wayne Lewis and Paul Mocroft – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership; Trevor Askew and Ralph Young – West Oxfordshire District Council; Ed Potter – Cherwell District Council; Matt Prosser – South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils; John Copley – Oxford City Council; Joanne Wines – Environment Agency
Part of meeting	Susie Ohlenschlager and Nick King – Oxfordshire County Council; Linda Watson – Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman paid tribute to the late Councillor Roger Belson, a former member of the Partnerships. Members stood for one minute's silence in his memory.

SECTION 1 - OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

1/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF DEPUTY MEMBERS

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Mark Lygo substituted for Councillor John Tanner and Jo Wines for Lee Horrocks (Environment Agency).

2/12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor David Harvey declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6, Oxfordshire 2030 Targets (paragraph 14) on account of his position as a board member of USEA (United Sustainable Energy Agency).

Councillor James McNamara declared a personal interest in joint Agenda Item 8 – Waste Development Framework – on account of his membership of the Board of Oxfordshire's St. John's Ambulance service, part of whose voluntary duty is to collect and deliver clinical waste.

3/12 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the 28 October 2011 meeting of the Environment Partnership were approved (Minute Numbers 59/11 to 62/11 inclusive).

4/12 ORCC COMMUNITY BULK BUYING SCHEME AND TOE2 WOOD FUEL PROJECTS

(Agenda No. 4)

Linda Watson, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) gave a presentation updating the Partnerships on their Community Bulk Buying scheme and the TOE2 Wood Fuel projects.

Mrs Watson was congratulated for ORCC's work relating to the TOE2 Wood Fuel project and was offered help and support from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC). Councillor Harvey pointed out the scarcity of biomass boilers within the County, a vital ingredient of the project, adding that WODC, when giving grants to schools, youth centres etc, were encouraging their use.

Linda Watson was thanked for her presentation.

5/12 ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPORTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND PROGRESS ON ENERGY/CARBON REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION WORK

(Agenda No. 5)

The Environment Partnership had before them a report (EP5) which recommended a form of reporting to Partnership members on energy/carbon reduction and climate change adaptation work within each organisation, in order to support the work and to share good practice.

The Environment Partnership **AGREED** the proposed process for reporting progress in reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and for sharing practice, as set out in paragraphs 4 – 7 of the report.

6/12 OXFORDSHIRE 2030 TARGETS

(Agenda No. 6)

The Environment had before them a report (EP6) which gave an update on the current situation with regard to the Oxfordshire 2030 targets, and which proposed some amendments prior to the submission of a report to the Oxfordshire Partnership in the Spring 2012.

The Environment Partnership **AGREED** to note the activities outlined in the report, and to agree the additions and/or amendments as proposed in paragraphs 3,4,6,11 and 17; together with the following additions which were agreed at the meeting:

- Priority 1 (paragraph 3)– progress on the target relating to Suds (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) be also reported to a future meeting of the Environment Partnership;
- Priority 4 (paragraph 19) – to support, in principle, the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment’s £300k TOE Community Woodfuels project which aims to help develop the woodfuel market in Oxfordshire via community education and potentially woodfuel cooperatives which will provide the stimulus for increased woodland management;
- Priority 4 (paragraph 18) – to report to a future meeting of the Partnership on the Natural Environment White Paper and to circulate to Partnership members further information with regard to the Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) bids which were based on Oxfordshire’s Conservation Target Areas – focused on the Upper Thames Tributaries and Chilterns Chalk Scarps.

7/12 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

(Agenda No. 7)

There were no requests to make an address or to submit a petition.

8/12 WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

(Agenda No. 8)

Peter Day, Minerals & Waste Policy Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council gave a presentation updating the Partnership on the development of the Waste Core Strategy document. At the close of the presentation, a question and answer session was held.

In response to a question about the quantity of waste being imported into the County, Mr Day responded that 2 – 300k tonnes per annum was currently being imported from the London area, together with 450k tonnes from elsewhere in the Country. He pointed out that the Plan made provisions for a reduction of the London intake at the rate of approximately 50k per annum with the aim of eliminating it by 2021.

Councillor David Dodds expressed the view that the 30 mile round trip to the Household Waste Recycling Centre, Redbridge, was 'unreasonable' for some of his residents living in the South Oxfordshire area.

Councillor David Harvey expressed his disappointment that the presentation had not focussed on the future plans for mineral/gravel extraction. He added his grave concerns that West Oxfordshire would be providing most of the gravel/mineral extraction for the County and that this would have a disadvantageous impact on the environment. He urged, therefore, that a good deal of thought be put into landscaping should this occur and asked for assurance that the residents of West Oxfordshire would be informed of the consultation proposals. Mr Day reassured him that public consultation would take place on the draft Waste/Minerals Strategy, adding that full and detailed consideration would be given to all representations received from local residents and businesses as well as from statutory consultees.

Councillor James MacNamara expressed the hope that there would be some 'joined up thinking' between Planning and Waste policies to ensure that recycled waste was being used and to enable local access points for its disposal, particularly the disposal of small quantities of hazardous waste. Mr Day responded by emphasising the need for the County Council Planning officers to work closely with their District Council colleagues. Mr Pau endorsed this, adding that the role of the Development Framework was to set out a broad strategy only.

Peter Day was thanked for his presentation.

9/12 OXFORDSHIRE GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 9)

Richard Pollard of Groundwork Thames Valley gave a presentation updating the Partnerships on the Oxfordshire Green Schools Programme.

He undertook to circulate the names of the eight school 'hubs' to all members of the Partnerships.

OWP

Richard Pollard was thanked for his presentation.

10/12 EP/OWP FORWARD PLANS

(Agenda No. 10)

The Partnership Agreed a set of Forward Plans for both Partnerships, as set out at EP/OWP10.

11/12 ROLE OF HOST AUTHORITY AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Agenda No. 11)

The Partnerships were asked to note that the hand-over of the role of OWP Host Authority and Chair of the Environment Partnership to South Oxfordshire District Council would take place with effect from the June 2012 meeting (OWP11) They were also asked to agree the meeting dates for 2012/13 and 2013/14 as follows:

22 June 2012
26 October 2012
18 January 2013
29 March 2013
21 June 2013

The Partnerships noted and **AGREED** the arrangements for the next two years, with the exception that the meeting date proposed for 29 March 2013 be amended to 22 March 2013.

12/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF DEPUTY MEMBERS

(Agenda No. 12)

As at Agenda Item 1.

13/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda No. 13)

As at Agenda Item 2.

14/12 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 14)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October (Minutes 64/11 – 74/11 inclusive) were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

Minute 73/11 – Financial Incentives for Weekly Bin Collections - Responses from Bob Neil MP and Nicola Blackwood MP were circulated. It was decided to request the officers to respond to accord with the vein of the discussion at this meeting, once the details of the incentives had been published.

Minute 74/11 – External Audit Findings – 2010/11 – a letter from the Chairman to External Audit, requesting further clarification and challenging the qualification, was circulated for information.

15/12 CONSULTATION ON REFRESHING THE OXFORDSHIRE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - FIVE YEAR REVIEW

(Agenda No. 15)

The Waste Partnership had before them a draft refresh of the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for public consultation (OWP15).

Wayne Lewis reported that the Oxfordshire Chief Executives Group had requested that the Partnership defer approval of the draft consultation document to allow further negotiation around the level of the recycling and composting targets. The District Council members each concurred with this request.

Paul Mcroft undertook to send out a press release to publicise the excellent performance statistics for recycling waste around the county.

It was **AGREED** to note the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy document and draft action plan and to approve its content and strategic delivery aspects in principle, subject to further negotiation around the level of the recycling and composting targets; and that it be brought back to a future meeting of the Partnership.

16/12 COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION - PILOT PROJECT

(Agenda No. 16)

The Partnership considered a report (OWP16) which sought approval to the entry into a funding agreement with Remade South East for the delivery of a pilot food waste recycling collection service for small and medium enterprises in Oxford.

It was **AGREED** that the Partnership should enter into the funding agreement with Remade South East and Oxfordshire County Council (acting as the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership host authority) should sign the agreement on behalf of the Waste Partnership; and that the Waste Partnership be kept informed of progress.

17/12 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS - UPDATE

(Agenda No. 17)

The Waste Partnership had before them a report which provided an update on financial arrangements to date (OWP17).

OWP

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership noted the financial arrangements payments, as set out in Appendix 1 and the forecast year end adjustment figures, as set out in Appendix 2.

18/12 PERFORMANCE MONITORING - THIRD QUARTER 2011/12

(Agenda No. 18)

The Waste Partnership had before them the quarterly update on performance (OWP18).

West Oxfordshire District Council reported that they were experiencing a significant reduction in fly tipping as a consequence of a marked rise in successful prosecutions. Paul Mcroft further reported that good relationships were being established with private landowners in an endeavour to crack down on this problem. Jo Wines pointed out also that the Environment Agency were working with the Government on an initiative to tackle metal thefts in the south east area.

Matt Prosser reported that South and Vale District Councils were still in negotiation with DEFRA to reopen the waste data flow statistics for 2011/12 with regard to the reported reject rate of dry recyclables, adding that Vale and South were leading the national recycling tables.

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership **AGREED** to note the report and to request that an update on NIF funded projects be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

19/12 WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT - UPDATE

(Agenda No. 19)

The Waste Partnership had before them a report (OWP19) which gave an update on the progress of the Residual Waste Treatment Procurement project and the related bulking and haulage procurement.

Andrew Pau offered to organise for members of the Partnership to visit an Energy from Waste facility.

Partnership members put forward the following concerns:

- that close consideration be given to the routing arrangements around the site. Andrew Pau commented that routing agreements were already in place as part of the planning permission and that CCTV cameras had been installed and were monitoring the entry and exit routes. Councillor Macnamara asked for Parish Councils to be kept informed of arrangements;
- the potential added costs to councils and Oxfordshire taxpayers of bulking arrangements. Historically both bulking and waste facilities had been available on the existing district council depot sites;

OWP

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- the cost of staffing and could it be avoided? Andrew Pau responded that the competitive procurement process for the bulking and haulage contract could not be short-circuited, however OCC were encouraging good, value for money proposals and the project team was made up of internal staff with good district council representation.

It was **AGREED** to:

- (a) note and support the progress made on the residual waste treatment project;
- (b) support the procurement of a bulking and haulage contract for the efficient delivery of waste to the Ardley EfW facility; and
- (c) make a visit to an energy from waste facility, subject to prior commitments.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

2012