

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board, held at Knowle, Sidmouth at 2.00pm on 29 July 2009

Present:

Councillors:

David Cox – Portfolio Holder, Street Scene Services (Chairman)
Philip Skinner

Honorary Alderman – Ron Mudge

SITA:

Rick Aldridge
Dave Swire

EDDC Officers:

Donna Best – Principal Estates Surveyor
Paul Deakin – Waste and Recycling Manager
Karime Hassan - Corporate Director
Hannah Jarvis – Democratic Services Support Officer
Diccon Pearse – Corporate Director
Mark Reilly – Head of Street Scene Services
Derek Smith – Legal Executive
Nick Stephen – Communications Officer

Apologies:

Councillors:

Andrew Moulding
Mike Green

Cherise Foster

The meeting started 2.08pm and finished at 4.34 pm

27. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board held on 24 June 2009 were agreed and signed as a true record.

28. Matters Arising

Backdoor Collections

At its last meeting, Members agreed that a press release be issued at the beginning of September to deal with the changeover from backdoor to kerbside collections, due to be implemented in October 2009. However the Chairman advised Members of increasing publicity in Exmouth with regard to split waste sacks as a result of seagull attacks.

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of continuing with backdoor collections until the launch of Phase 4. The Board was advised that in areas where wheeled bins had been provided there were less split waste problems. Town centre issues would be resolved when refuse was containerised, as identifying takeaway businesses which were not conforming would be easier.

Members noted that early morning collections in seaside towns would reduce the amount of split waste and allow crews to clean up more quickly. Rick Aldridge advised that consultation with crews would be required before they were asked to come in early for one day a week.

Backdoor collections continued ...

Members were advised that in preparation for the roll out of Phase 4, residents would be receiving their wheeled bins late August/early September, which could be used by residents prior to the launch; however side waste could be an issue as it had been in earlier Phases. A letter to residents asking for their co-operation was suggested.

RESOLVED that the cancellation of backdoor collections in Exmouth, be postponed until the implementation of Phase 4 and in Budleigh Salterton until implementation of Phase 5.

Wrap participation survey – Phase 2

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager advised Members that additional requested information had been sent and a report was anticipated in the next couple of weeks.

Billboard advertising

The cost of advertising on billboards was being investigated.

Ottery St Mary – Mill St.

Members were advised that issues relating Mill St appeared to have been resolved, with no further problems to report.

Administration Support

Members were advised that the post had been agreed by the Chief Executive and would be advertised shortly.

Shoe banks

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager reported that following no objections from the Parking Services Manager it had been agreed that the European Recycling Company would provide shoe banks in all EDDC car parks they had requested. Other car park site owners, which currently held EDDC recycle banks, would also be contacted by the European Recycling Company.

RESOLVED that the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager arrange for the provision of a shoe bank at Greendale Barton depot.

Narrow access vehicles

The Interim and Recycling and Refuse Manager reported on a visit to view a side loading, narrow access vehicle used by May Gurney. Following his visit, Link Tip had been contacted and the Members were advised of the cost to provide a similar vehicle; if purchased an additional £1k would be added to the contract per month. Some of the cost could be offset due to the two vehicles currently used not being required. The Board was advised of one particular group of properties that the Council could not offer a recycling service to due to the narrow access and it was felt the procurement of the vehicle would allow an improved and more efficient service to be offered.

RESOLVED

1. that the Board support, in principle, the procurement of a narrow access vehicle subject to satisfactory costings;
2. that Rick Aldridge provide figures for the cost of running a narrow access vehicle and the operating costs of the existing vehicles which would be offset against the new vehicle

29. Details of missed collections (Recycling & Refuse) – June/July 2009

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager circulated the figures for missed collections during the period of June/July.

Members noted that there had been a reduction in the numbers of missed refuse collections from 490 in June, down to 382 in July to date. 166 of the missed collections in July had been in the Phase 2 area. Missed assisted refuse collections were reported to have dropped by 12-15%.

A significant reduction in the number of missed recycling collections was noted by Members, which saw a figure of 636 in June, drop to 297 in July. 175 of the missed collections in July had been in the Phase 2 area.

The Chairman hoped the downward trend would continue.

There was concern that the figures for missed bin collections provided by the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager, taken from the Lagan system, differed considerably from those in the SITA report. Rick Aldridge clarified that his report did not take into account invalid missed collections. To avoid confusion the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager and Rick Aldridge would bring together the conflicting reports.

(Nick Stephen arrived)

30. New depot – Greendale Business Park

The Principal Estates Surveyor circulated a draft copy of the report to be taken to the Executive Board in September. The report recommended that Members give authority to the Principal Estates Surveyor to agree terms for a lease to be taken by the Council on the new refuse and recycling depot premises to be constructed at Greendale Barton Business Park.

Members were advised that further information was awaited, before being included in the report. A draft of the lease had been requested. Following a grant of variation start times for vehicle movement were to be clarified by the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager. Rick Aldridge stressed that the depot needed to be operated from 6.30am, in order for collections to start at 7am. Rick Aldridge was reported to be happy with the number of vehicle movements in the Traffic Plans.

The Board discussed capacity issues should the depot not be complete in time for the launch of Phase 3. The construction of the depot would take approximately 6 months, therefore if work commenced in October the depot should be complete in March; although the Principal Estates Manager felt this was an optimistic timescale. Should approval be given from the Executive Board, the report then needed to be submitted to Full Council before the lease could be signed. The Legal Executive advised that he could be proceeding with the legal work in preparation of completion following Full Council. Construction could not commence until planning permissions had been finalised. The Board confirmed that they were happy with the layout and capacity as set out in the final plans for the depot.

The movement of plant and equipment from the Woodbury depot to the Greendale site could be completed over a weekend. Rick Aldridge advised that SITA would terminate the lease of the existing unit tenanted at Greendale on transfer to the new depot.

Members were advised that an Exemption Permit could be obtained from the Environment Agency almost instantaneously. The Food Waste Permit would take 20 weeks to be issued and would therefore need to be ready for submission. Transfer of the operating license would need to be done in good time.

New depot – Greendale Business Park continued...

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager reported that some wiring to be undertaken would be at cost to the Council; an exact cost for this work was to be sought from F W S Carters who would have an electrician on site. At present there was no planned shower facility, however it would be possible for the disabled toilet to be fitted as a wet room.

The Legal Executive advised that it would need to be made explicit to Executive Board whether the cost in the report was inclusive or exclusive; the Principal Estates Surveyor was reported to be working on precise figures.

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager reported that discussion had taken place with regard to a possible tie in with SITA Commercial, who was prepared to meet the cost of having an educational facility at the depot. Although the Board supported the principle, there was concern that further negotiations at this stage could delay the primary purpose of the depot.

RESOLVED that the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager seek confirmation on the opening times of the depot.

31. Communication update and call detail

The Communications Officer advised Members that the press had been relatively quiet with regard to the new recycling and refuse contract. Following recent publicity relating to seagull attacks on waste, a response had been sent to the Exmouth Journal.

The Midweek Herald had given front page coverage to an article concerning a resident in Temple Street, Sidmouth who was unhappy about having bins in his front garden. Members were advised that the Council had received no direct contact from the resident and that the Waste Management Officers were establishing which property he lived in, in order allay his concern.

In response to the Daily Mail campaign against wheeled bins, 40 replies indicating that residents did not want bins had been received.

(Nick Stephen left the meeting to attend another appointment)

The Customer Service Manager was unable to attend the meeting; however Members were pleased to note that there had been a considerable reduction in the number of calls made to the dedicated waste line.

RESOLVED that the call information figures from the Customer Service Centre relating to refuse and recycling be circulated to the Board.

32. Phase Two Update

Food Waste

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager updated Members on the quantities of food waste collected in May, prior to the launch of Phase 2 and in June:

May 2009 (Phase 1 only) 94 tonnes
June 2009 (Phases 1 and 2) 203 tonnes

Members noted a reasonable reduction in the amount of waste taken to landfill from 2,100 tonnes in May to 1,800 tonnes in June.

Phase Two Update continued...

Fluctuations in figures seen in the past were reported to be more consistent. Levels of food waste recycling tonnage in Phase 2 were reported to have been slightly better than in Phase 1. 500 tonnes per month were expected when all five Phases had been launched.

In response to a question regarding the possibility of disposing supermarket waste, Members were advised that the Council could only dispose of the waste if it offered a commercial waste service but generally waste from the supermarkets is operated on a national basis.

EDDC's recycling rate was reported to be at 26.52% for 2008/9, which was just under the Government target of 27%; this figure did not take into account the launch of Phase 2 and it was anticipated that EDDC's rate would now exceed the Governments target. EDDC was now one of the lowest for residual waste per property.

Members were pleased to note that the Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager had submitted an application for a National Recycling Award for on target success in Phase 1.

33. Update from SITA

Contract Managers Report

Board Members noted a report from the Senior Contract Manager, Rick Aldridge. Members had found the report very useful, however commented that they would like to see graphs within the report as this helped see variations in trend over a certain period.

Corporate Director, Diccon Pearse asked whether it would possible to include finance performance in the report, for example recycling income trends.

In response to a Member's comment that sickness levels among staff were high, Rick Aldridge advised that long term sickness inflated the figure. There were currently three crew members off sick, as a result of a reported incident. With regard to the financial implications of the vehicle being off the road, Rick Aldridge advised that costs were being identified.

Rick Aldridge reported that the last 12.5 tonne recycling vehicle had been delayed and was now due in Mid October, due to an influx of orders to the manufacturer; however was being chased by SITA's fleet department.

RESOLVED

- 1) that the Contract Managers' report for the period April – June 2009 be noted,
- 2) that the Contract Managers' report include graphs to depict trends,
- 3) that the Contract Managers' report include updates on financial performance,
- 4) that Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data included in the report for January – June 2009, be noted.

34. Re-routing – details of progress

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager reported that following discussion with the Heads of ICT at EDDC and SITA, it had been decided the software would be held on an external server. Issues had been raised by SITA's Head of ICT, with regard to additional costs and clarification was awaited from Webaspx. Members heard that some of the information to be uploaded onto the software required 'cleaning', which would be an additional cost. Software operating licences also needed to be obtained.

Re-routing – details of progress continued...

An exemption to standing orders had been authorised for procurement of the software. This would be reported Executive Board.

35. Contractual issues – performance framework

The Legal Executive advised Members that comments were awaited from SITA’s legal department on the variation to the Partnership Working Agreement.

36. Schedule 2 waste update

The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager reported that he had visited a caravan site in Uplyme, which was open from the beginning of March until the end of October. The owner of the site required weekly emptying of between 1 and 12 bins throughout the season. The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager had advised the owner that the Council operated fortnightly collections and 1100l bins would be required on site.

Members acknowledged that the Council had a legal obligation to collect refuse from Schedule 2 properties if requested and agreed a yearly charge be made for collection of waste from schedule 2 properties.

RESOLVED that a yearly collection charge be made to all schedule 2 properties requesting the service.

37. Any other Business

Dog bin collections - Payhembury

Councillor Philip Skinner thanked Rick Aldridge for his comprehensive reply to Payhembury Parish Council with regard to the frequency of dog bin collections. Residents had complained that bins were being collected once every 8 weeks as opposed to the 3 times weekly collection that should be in place. Rick Aldridge advised that the issue was being investigated and would continue to be monitored. The Interim Recycling and Refuse Manager advised that Town and Parish Councils would often not report problems to the Council.

RESOLVED that frequency of dog bin collections in Payhembury be monitored to ensure they were emptied three times a week.

Food Waste Collection Fund

Members noted that a food waste collection fund had been set up for local authorities by WRAP. Applications for funding of £10 per property for the introduction of food waste collection was being offered and East Devon’s application for the first two phases were due at the end of the week and in October.

38. Next meeting

The next meeting of the East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board is scheduled for Wednesday 30 September 2009, at 2.00pm in the Room One.

Chairman

Date