

**BUCKS WASTE FORUM**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKS WASTE FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2000, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.45 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>Council, Organisation or Society</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Buckinghamshire County Council	Mrs C M Aston Mr C F Robinson OBE Mr H G W Wilson
Chiltern District Council	Mr J Warder
Aylesbury Vale District Council	Mr D J Rowlands
South Bucks District Council	Mr J Kennedy Mrs J Woolveridge
Environment Agency	Mrs S Gebbles
Shanks (ESA)	Mr G Kemp

**Officers**

Buckinghamshire County Council	Mr P Barnes Mr G Liddiard Mr R Wilkinson
Chiltern District Council	Ms G Harding Mr K Lavender
Aylesbury Vale District Council	Mr D Smedley
South Bucks District Council	Mr C Popham
Wycombe District Council	Mr R Powell Ms S Wright

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Ghent (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Mr J H McB Page and Mr W Chapple (Buckinghamshire County Council), Ms H Matthews (Chiltern District Council), Ms G King and Mr I Prosser (Milton Keynes

Council), Mr C Oliver, Mr L Taylor, Mr J Savage and Mrs L Tang (Wycombe District Council)

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2000, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed.

## **4 PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR ANDREW PORTEOUS: ENERGY FROM WASTE INCINERATION (EFWI)**

The Forum received a presentation from Professor Andrew Porteous, from the Open University on Energy from Waste Incineration. During discussion the following points were noted : -

- Professor Porteous reported that there were a number of challenges to recycling such as market availability, collection and processing costs, transport costs and the need for public education. Raw material was not in short supply, for example, for every tree that was used, two new trees were planted, which has made it difficult to create a viable market for recycled paper. Members noted that not all of the waste put into recycling tips is actually recycled. The Forum noted that the target set by Government for recycling could not be justified because of the above reasons.
- Members discussed the alternative, Energy from Waste Incineration (EfWI) and proposed plants adjacent to the County that might have a role in meeting Buckinghamshire's future waste management needs. The representative from ESA reported a proposal for an EfW incinerator at Newton Longville was being considered. This would be an integrated facility which may provide other services such as composting. Shanks were also examining another thermal treatment called pyrolysis.
- A number of members had visited the EfW at SELCHP. They had been informed that SELCHP had carried out a number of extensive public meetings and had taken members of the public to visit an incineration plant in Coventry. Because of this, members of the public had generally supported the building of SELCHP and there had been no public inquiry. There were proposals to build an incinerator at Colnbrook.
- Members commented that it was important for waste to be transported by rail to avoid large numbers of vehicles being used.
- A member expressed concern regarding the number of dioxins given off by

incineration. In response it was noted that the number of dioxins did not present a health problem. People who lived near “old technology” incinerators had not experienced any health problems relating to dioxins. It was also noted that dioxins were also present in composting.

The Forum agreed that the presentation on energy to waste incineration should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting, in particular how this would affect Buckinghamshire.

## **5 BEST VALUE AND AUDIT COMMISSION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR 2001/2002, CONSULTATION – SEPTEMBER 2000**

The Forum received and noted a report from the Director of Environmental Services providing information of the content and key elements included in the Best Value and Audit Commission Performance Indicators for 2001/2002. The consultation period on the indicators had recently closed but each Buckinghamshire Authority had made a response to Government and there would be value in sharing these.

In relation to the indicators for 2001/02, it was reported that the Government have proposed to amend the definition of household waste and have implied this would mean:

- excluding incinerator residues;
- excluding beach cleaning wastes;
- clarifying that home composted waste does not count as household waste;
- clarifying that abandoned vehicles do not count as household waste;
- the inclusion of hardcore materials

The consultation report also indicated that the standards would apply to “Waste Disposal Authority areas”, this would mean both Waste Collection Authorities and Waste Disposal Authorities.

The Forum were provided with the 1998/99 recycling/composting rates and proposed standards for 2003/04 and 2005/06 for each Authority within Buckinghamshire.

Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council raised concerns at the inconsistency in the definition of household waste and the method of calculation being applied by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR).

A representative of Aylesbury Vale District Council queried the likelihood of the Government imposing penalties should the standards and targets not be met. As yet, the Government have given no indication regarding non-achievement of targets. He then informed members that the District Council was undertaking a Waste Audit sponsored by EB Bucks and the results would be available to all Authorities. Some results were expected early next year.

District Councils were urged to feedback their comments and concerns to Government

via the appropriate means.

## **6 WASTE STRATEGY FOR BUCKS (WSB) – PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

The Forum received a report from the Director of Environmental Services inviting them to consider the overall approach to public consultation that should be adopted for the emerging Waste Strategy for Bucks.

Consideration had to be given to the financial commitments needed to deliver the WSB, in particular, regarding the funding of the consultation process. The report suggested that the costs be split between each Local Authority.

Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils felt that it would be more appropriate to consult via Area Committees than through the use of external facilitators. The Forum agreed that special meetings of the Local Committees should be held to discuss the Waste Strategy. Members felt that it was also vital to hold public meetings and to obtain agreement from local industries to the Strategy. It was agreed that these meetings should be held in June 2001.

### **The Forum :**

- 1 Agree that the overall approach to public consultation on the emerging Waste Strategy for Bucks shall include the following:**
  - a agree to a countywide householder survey;**
  - b a period of formal public consultation on a published draft of the Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire;**
  - c discussion workshops for County, District and Parish members run by the Officer Working Group should be implemented via special meetings of the Local Committees**
- 2 Agreed that the views of the constituent Buckinghamshire Local Authorities in paragraph 1 above should be sought and that they be requested to make the necessary financial provisions available to enable consultation on the WSB to proceed in line with the agreed consultation programme agreed by the Forum; and**
- 3 Instructed the Officer Working Group to provide an information report to the next meeting of the Forum detailing joint funding arrangements that have been agreed by the Buckinghamshire Local Authorities.**

**7 WASTE STRATEGY FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (WSB) DRAFT HOUSEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE AND ISSUES PAPER**

The Forum received a report from the Director of Environmental Services to seek the Forum's views regarding the content and style of the proposed draft householder questionnaire and issues paper.

South Bucks District Council thought that the questionnaire and issues paper was too technical and needed to be simplified to enable meaningful data to be collected. It was also suggested that a glossary of terms be added and that the "issues paper" be renamed to be more relevant.

It was agreed that South Bucks District Council would liaise with Officers at Buckinghamshire County Council to feedback their further comments.

A new draft would be produced and discussed at the next meeting of the Forum.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was proposed that at the next meeting of the Forum "REMADE" should be invited to give a presentation on new uses for recyclable materials.

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 14 December at 10.30 am – venue to be decided.

**MR H G W WILSON  
CHAIRMAN**

**CONTACT OFFICER : JULIE BIERTON (01296) 383386**