
MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN REVIEW
REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP (RTG) HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2005 AT
12.30pm AT THE OPTIC TECHNIUM CENTRE, ST ASAPH BUSINESS PARK.

Present for:

Conwy County Borough Council

Tony Sykes (TS)

Denbighshire County Council;

Mike Pender (MP), Claire MacFarlane (CM), Alan Roberts (AR), Dyfan Barr (DB)
Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

Flintshire County Council

Andy MacBeth (AM), Gary Nancarrow (GN)

Gwynedd County Council

Dafydd Gareth Jones (DGJ)

Anglesey County Council

Mike Evans (ME)

Welsh Assembly Government

Sue Martin (SM)

Wales Environment Trust

Richard Carter (RC)

Snowdonia National Park

Gareth Lloyd (GL)

Federation of Small Businesses

Neil Taylor (NT)

Cylch

Katie Trent (KT)

Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust

Amy Bird (AB), Eddie Adderley (ED)

Environment Agency Wales (EAW)

Fran Machin (FM), Rhiannon Jones (RJ)

1. Apologies

Barry Bond, Conwy County Borough Council
Ceri Thomas, Gwynedd County Council
Gareth Jones, Gwynedd County Council
John Williams, Anglesey County Council
John Ellis, Wrexham County Borough Council
Geoff Clegg, Wrexham County Borough Council
Clive Sproule, Cheshire County Council
Lynda Bigland, Environment Agency Wales
Andy Bull, Powys County Council
Roanna Manson, Powys County Council
Peter Evans, Gwynedd Council
Gwenllian Owen, WDA
David Edwards, North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Cathy O'Brien, Environment Agency Wales
Jim Rollinson, University of Wales, Bangor
Andrew Dale, CCW
Henry Roberts, N W Economic Forum
Adrian Cooper, Shropshire County Council
Stan Yates, Conwy County Borough Council
Zoe Lenkiewicz, Wales Waste & Resources Research Centre
Ceri Thomas, Conwy County Borough Council

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accuracy

Page 5 - In paragraph 6 'clinical waste' should read 'non-infectious clinical waste'.

Page 6 – In paragraph 6 'Application in for Shotton Paper' should read 'Planning permission granted for a paper pulp boiler at Shotton Paper'.

Page 6 – In paragraph 7 'Robin Jones and Son' please read 'are preparing an application for a landfill site' instead of 'have a landfill site'.

Page 7 – In paragraph 2 replace '75 tones' with '75,000 tonnes' and replace '25 tonnes' to '100,000 tonnes'.

Page 7 – In paragraph 4 after 'A planning application' insert 'for a civic amenity site'.

Page 7 – In paragraph 5 replace 'MRF at Bangor' with 'MRF at Caernarfon'.

Page 7 – In paragraph 5 after Llwyn Isa add 'and Ffridd Rhasus'.

Page 7 – In paragraph 6 change the number of proposed sites from 13 to 14. Also, add the paragraph ‘A planning application for full planning for MRF subject to negotiation of terms and conditions’. Also add ‘The consultation period ended on 28th October 2005 for pre-enquiry changes’.

Page 7 – In paragraph 7 add the sentence ‘A planning application is going to Planning Committee for a civic amenity centre subject to a favourable flooding assessment’.

3. Matters Arising

MJP asked FM what progress had been made with regard to the facility capacity questionnaires for Local Authorities. FM will liaise with Andy Rees and report back to the group.

FM to action

MJP raised the issue of inviting Chief Executive Officers and Finance officers with the group stating that the RMG members felt that inviting the officers is premature as the employment land issues have not yet been fully discussed.

MJP confirmed he had raised the issue of waste as part of the Wales Spatial Plan priorities with Iwan Prys Jones, who raised this with the WSP officers group. No firm conclusion was arrived at and MJP will raise this matter again.

MJP to action

It was stated that Aled Davies (WDA South East Wales) is intending to meet with the Waste Plan Regional Coordinators to continue the work carried out on employment land availability on an all-Wales basis. This could provide a database of available employment sites for waste management facilities across Wales.

4. Employment/Industrial Land Data

MJP updated the group, stating that some LAs have a sufficient supply of available employment land for waste management facilities and others have very little. MJP outlined the two main issues faced by LAs, with regard to available land for facilities:

- (i) a lack of available, serviced sites,
- (ii) the apparent reluctance of Economic Regeneration officers and the WDA to market sites for waste uses.

The former issue has considerable financial implications if the private sector is reluctant to invest in infrastructure, meaning the burden then falls on the public sector.

MJP advised the group that a letter had been sent to Sue Essex AM, and subsequently passed onto Carwyn Jones AM, regarding this issue and are awaiting a response. MJP advised the group if they have any further examples of marketing issues regarding employment/industrial sites to advise MJP and CM.

DGJ added that 6 out of the 14 sites identified in Gwynedd as available for WMF (waste management facilities) have been identified for landfill facilities. Employment land has also been identified as potentially available for in-building WMF.

SM suggested that Local Authority Economic Development officers should be targeted rather than officers from the WDA regarding marketing of sites.

TS reported that the WDA had part-funded a site identification study, with the resulting best option being a WDA-owned site, which local Economic Development officers appeared reluctant to consider.

DGJ advised the group that land owned by the WDA is normally developed in stages and this may mean transporting waste through sites which may contain more prestige developments.

SM suggested that the group may want to raise the issue at regular meetings between the WDA and Economic Development officers.

5. Hazardous Waste Supplement (HWS)

MJP advised the group that the consultation deadline for the Hazardous Waste Supplement is 25th November 2005 and to date there have been no responses.

GL confirmed that comments from Snowdonia National Park were being sent to Planning Committee and should be available next week.

GN felt that the document was very detailed, attempted to be helpful but had too many caveats. GN also felt that the Health Impact Assessment directive and requirements from TAN 21 should be included in the document.

6. WAG/RPS Mapping Areas of search exercise

DB presented a demonstration to the group on how the GIS maps work, showing what each layer represents. MJP added that this exercise has been led by Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) who has commissioned RPS to devise a strategic tool for identifying strategic waste areas of search.

SM stated that there are three versions of the GIS maps, these are: -

- Read-only PDF (Acrobat Reader) version
- Full editable version which the Regional Coordinators and WAG will have
- Non-editable version for all Local Authorities.

SM stated that there is a DVD with a covering letter explaining what specifications and requirements are needed for the DVD to work, which is due to be sent out to all Local Authorities this week.

WAG to action

Members of the group raised the issue that some sites in North Wales that have been identified on the maps are not suitable for waste use, in particular those which are closed facilities/redeveloped sites. FM asked the group to look at the data and let Environment Agency Wales (EAW) know what sites are not suitable so that the waste management license data can be updated.

All to action

DB stated that an extra layer could be added to the GIS system to show any additional comments on particular areas. Members of the group felt this would be helpful. SM stated that this could be explored but reminded the group that the maps are not suitable, or intended for, use at Development Control level.

7. WAG Wales Spatial Plan – Regional Coordinator to report

MJP stated that Iwan Prys Jones (DCC) has been attending the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) officers meetings and had requested that he raise the issue of waste at the next meeting. The issue was subsequently raised but no conclusion was arrived at. MJP asked the group if there are any issues of concern that they are passed onto MJP who will ask IPJ to raise this again in the next WSP meeting.

MJP to action

8. Regional Waste Plan Options

MJP advised the group of the 7 options for the Regional Waste Plan and invited any comments regarding the options.

FM added that the EAW hopes to provide the group the 2004/05 data, for use in assessing the options, by December. FM also confirmed that the WRATE assessment software is still being user tested and will be available by January.

EAW to action

9. Representation of private sector on RTG

MJP asked the group if they had any suggestions as to how to encourage representatives from the private sector to attend future RTG meetings. MJP raised the issue that only representatives from umbrella organisations are invited

to attend, but due to the lack of organisation members in North Wales MJP suggested inviting waste management businesses directly.

The group agreed that in the interests of equality every waste management business in the region would need to be invited to attend, and this was agreed to be unmanageable. MJP confirmed that he will continue to contact umbrella organisations in order to monitor any changes in membership within the region.

MJP to action

10. Any other Business

MJP asked the group for an update in each LA: -

Conwy

There is no change in the present situation. The partnership to develop a regional in-vessel composting facility has changed from Denbighshire County Council and Conwy to Conwy with Gwynedd and Anglesey. An application for this facility has been received for the Penhesgyn Gors landfill site and no decision has been made yet.

ME to provide further details

The kerbside collection has started and uses Denbighshire's bulking station at Bodelwyddan depot. However, a planning application has been submitted for a facility at Gofer.

The LDP Delivery Agreement has been approved by WAG.

Flintshire

There is no change in the present situation. A planning application is expected for a facility on Deeside Industrial Park, to treat 120,000 tonnes of household waste per annum. An application for a landfill site is being prepared by Robin Jones and Son.

A civic amenity site has opened at Greenfield where the processing of green waste is completed. Consent has also been given for a waste transfer station where 30,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste can be processed.

There have been several enquires from businesses looking to move to larger buildings due to expansion of the business, particularly those treating construction and demolition waste, and commercial and industrial waste.

A small material sorting plant has opened at Buckley.

There has been no real change in progress on the UDP.

Gwynedd

The closure date for Cilgwyn landfill site is yet to be determined. There is potential to use the Gloddfa part of the site but this would require substantial engineering works, the feasibility for which will be looked at further. If this option is followed, there is potentially 5 years of life in the site.

There have also been pre-application enquiries from a developer to expand the waste transfer station at Cibyn, Caernarfon.

Gwynedd are looking to expand the kerbside collection service to plastic and green waste and are aiming to achieve 22/23% composting/recycling targets.

The consultation period for pre-enquiry proposed changes ended on 28th October and responses are being collated. Of the responses relating to the 14 sites allocated for waste management uses, the majority applied to sites in the Cilgwyn/Carmel area.

Snowdonia National Park

Committee are minded to approve a Civic Amenity site in Bala, subject to a flood risk assessment.

The LDP Draft Delivery Agreement and Community Involvement Strategy are going to Committee in the near future.

Denbighshire

The situation has not changed. There is a joint procurement partnership with Conwy for a waste disposal contract. Tenders documents are being sent out in the near future, for the contract to commence April 2006.

Denbighshire are not going forward as part of the regional composting scheme, which was a joint venture with Conwy. There are discussions with neighbouring authorities regarding treatment facilities.

Consultation on the Delivery Agreement and CIS is currently underway. Strategic issues will be considered in the New Year.

Wales Environment Trust (WET)

Looking at potential procurement of a site in Anglesey and are looking at smaller sites in Denbighshire and Flintshire for suitable waste facilities. Have discovered

that Anglesey is not suitable for sites that WET are looking for. The trend in technology appears to be towards high-tech landfill alternatives.

Anglesey

A planning application has been received for a 35,000 tonne/annum biogas plant outside Gwalchmai which involves converting farm waste and crops etc. to gas and then into electricity.

The Development Plan team are responding to changes regarding the Inspectors report.

Wrexham

Hafod: Extensive site preparations already undertaken. Work is still continuing with the operator aiming to commence land filling at the earliest opportunity. The local residents protest group is still questioning the validity of the various consents and the County Borough Council is therefore seeking clarification of the legal position.

Astbury: Nothing further to report.

Penybont: The operator (Waste Recycling Group) wishes to extend the working life of the site. An application is being prepared to vary the relevant time limited planning condition.

Wrexham Industrial Estate: The application by HLC for a materials recycling facility is in abeyance. An alternative package of proposals, which includes the production of refuse derived fuel for sale off-site (rather than on-site energy generation), is being prepared by Waste Recycling Group. As yet, no planning application has been submitted.

Local Development Plan: The Community Involvement Scheme and Delivery Agreement is being prepared on the basis that expenditure will be limited to the essential requirements set out in Welsh Assembly Government guidance. The Executive Board has not authorised any funding over and above that contained in the Council's current development plan budget.

MJP asked the group if anyone was aware of the North Wales Waste Management Group and how often the group met. The group advised that Peter Evans (Gwynedd) is the chairperson but that a meeting had not been called for some time. Gareth Jones advised that he would follow up this issue.

DGJ to action

The group considered it desirable for the NW Waste Management Group to reconvene and MJP suggested that Denbighshire act as a secretariat to enable

the group to meet before or after the Waste Plan RTG meetings. RC advised that WET had already approached the North Wales Authorities with a view to taking on this position, and that he would provide an update on the current situation.

RC to action

11. Timetable/future meetings

The next meeting will be held on 16th January 2006 at 12.30 (lunch provided at 12.00pm) at the Optic Technium Centre, St Asaph Business Park.

Meeting ended at 3.15pm