



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Public Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Rhyl, North Wales</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>North Wales</b>
<b>Hyder Staff :</b>	<b>Sarah Jane Widdowson, Euston Ling, Georgina Taubman</b>
<b>Other :</b>	<b>Martha Savage (Denbighshire CC), Jonathan Cawley (Denbighshire CC), Mark Watson (Environment Agency Wales)</b>

**Minutes:**

**Q= Question**

**C= Comment**

**A= Answer**

- C** TCC – was looking for more community representation, will take back views to their community.
- C** Conwy Valley (composting site is causing problems) but also an interest as a “farmer”
- Q** I enjoyed the Wrexham presentation (on the 30<sup>th</sup> Oct) however, I am interested to know whether these meetings will be targeting specific groups i.e. green groups?”
- A** Specific stakeholder meetings are being held.
- Q** I’m not sure how my role in the consultation procedure works  
– how long before central government starts telling local government what to do.
- A** The RWP will provide guidance on a local level
- C** Heavy fines will be made for not meeting recycling targets these will take money from Local Authorities that are trying to improve their recycling rates”
- C** Local Authorities are currently looking into the feasibility of various different waste treatment solutions so they can evaluate “doing nothing” v’s implementing specific technologies – from this they have concluded that they are better off “doing something”.
- C** Packaging needs to be better regulated and controlled as this is one of the main sources of household waste”
- C** – personal recycling responsibility has its place however, the materials being produced (packaging) is out of control. We need to encourage manufacturers and industry to take more responsibility to reduce packaging and make ‘recyclability’ better
- Q** Is incineration the answer to the problem of mixed residual waste?
- A** The calorific values of residual waste is often high and so it can be used for e.g. CHP to generate electricity. Its often the best environmental option. Even high cost incineration will become more cost effective given rising waste disposal (to landfill) costs and increasing energy costs”.



- C There is no continuity across authorities in the way that recycle is collected and the services provided – is it very difficult to understand – why do they all do it differently?
- Q “What about Hazardous Waste?”
- A Do we need a Hazardous waste site in Wales? – tough decisions need to be made as part of the RWP?”
- C Maybe we should consider treating/disposing of our waste on our own doorstep i.e. treat the areas waste within the area

**Discussion Topic: Which waste streams should we focus on?**

- C Construction and Demolition waste represents the greatest proportion of our waste so we should focus on this element.
- C Many local authority areas don't take plastic household waste or Tetra Pak.
- C Where can people see examples of state of the art incineration facilities? People should be taken to see these working effectively before they can make an educated, informed opinion. Residents may be more accepting of an EfW plant in their area if they get free heat and energy.

**Discussion Topic: Decisions on new facilities & sites**

- Q How much sway does the community actually have on waste facility planning notices?
- C “Often planning decisions have already been made with no regard to local community views”.

**Discussion Topic: Do you agree with the vision for the RWP 1<sup>st</sup> Review?**

- C We don't want to leave our children with our waste problems.
- Q Who do you want to attend these consultation meetings?
- C To engage and interest the public would it be better to consult on actual (waste) plans – currently this broader consultation does not seem to be engaging the public generally. We have to deal with waste issues locally particularly when dealing with low value waste materials where transportation costs may cost more than the vale of those materials.
- A We need to balance the number of facilities with locality i.e. if we have lots of local facilities there may not be sufficient 'waste' material available in the area to allow the plant to run efficiently – however this consideration needs to be balanced with local demand.