



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 5.00pm – 8pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Rhyl, North Wales</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>N Wales</b>
<b>Hyder Staff :</b>	<b>Sarahjane Widdowson (SJW), Euston Ling (EL), Rhys Roberts</b>
<b>Other :</b>	<b>Fran Machin (EA), Martha Savage (DCC), Alan Roberts (DCC)</b>

**Minutes:**

**Q= Question**

**C= Comment**

**A= Answer**

- Q** How was the general public informed of the consultation process for the Strategy? I do not feel that Hyder/WAG have fully engaged in the consultation process and I only found out about the meeting by chance. Want to record my disappointment with the engagement of the public.
- C** I am registered with the council [Denbighshire] but was not informed of the meeting.
- C** I feel that as many people as possible should be aware and involved in the consultation process.
- C** I sent an email on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November [to Hyder] to acquire the PowerPoint of the presentation at Wrexham, but did not receive the information until the 12<sup>th</sup> following two phone calls to enquire its whereabouts. Also feel that the meetings have not been scheduled in a coherent and structured format.
- Q** Why is waste minimisation not dealt with as part of the consultation?
- C** Your statement that this consultation is not about 'education and awareness raising', but is this not what the whole process **is** all about? I find it condescending that the general public is not being consulted, and it [the consultation] is aimed only aimed at focus and community groups.
- C** We need to discuss recycling at this stage as it is intrinsic to the waste strategy.
- Q** At what point are facilities likely to be commissioned, and, if recycling or reuse is to increase then there is a danger that any new facilities may be 'under used' in years to come, therefore is this going to be considered?
- A** By 2010 local authorities aim to recycle 40% of municipal waste along with higher percentages of other types of waste. At present approximately 30% is recycled across North Wales (NW).
- Q** Is there a potential for waste trading between local authorities or regions?
- A** The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has taken the view that trading between local



authorities is not possible although this is undertaken in England. At present a considerable amount of waste is exported from NW to the northwest region of England.

- Q** Is the consultation going to discuss the energy value of the technologies?
- C** My concerns are the health issues relating to the waste strategy, for example there need to be baselines from which to monitor the health impacts of any facility.”
- C** I hope that all councils in NW have been undertaking monitoring over a number of years to inform any baseline surveys.
- C** Communities need concrete assurances about the impacts of any potential facilities within NW.
- C** We are running out of landfill sites but we need to ensure that any landfill utilised within the region are tightly regulated and sealed / capped accordingly.
- C** Is it not a ‘self-fulfilling’ prophecy’ to say that we will always need landfill? Why can’t we achieve 100% recycling?
- C** Nature currently landfills by storing carbon in peat and soils.
- Q** We need to ensure that any new technology should be proven and not fall foul of the issues that befell early landfill sites. Are there any disadvantages between open-air composting and in-vessel composting?
- C** Recycling [by MRF] does not work.
- A** It is true to say that home-sorted recyclable waste has a higher rate of reusability, but a co-mingled system encourages higher recycling in households.
- Q** Is the technology that sorts out recycling material being improved?
- Q** What happens to glass bottles when collected by bin men? They are thrown in and broken! Does this not make it harder to recycle with existing technology?
- Q** Is it not down to education to encourage the public to sort out their own waste? Monmouth CC have decided not to introduce wheelie bins for co-mingled recycling material, therefore why do we need to introduce it in NW?
- Q** What happens to the waste that is collected by smaller bin wagons – is it recycled? I am not comfortable with the statement in the PowerPoint [Are you comfortable with the need for more MRFs to process / sort / bulk recyclables?].
- C** Why are the Government not able to impose their will on the waste situation by education and monetary policies? I am not satisfied that the consultation process is working.
- C** Common voice of the meeting is that there has been a lack of public information for the meetings.
- C** If fines [for excess landfilling by local authorities] are to be introduced then we all know



where the money will be sourced – council tax.

- C** It is a question of educating people about waste.
- Q** Why can't monetary incentives be attached to recycling, for example on a local authority or council ward basis?
- C** The cost of mailing every household in Wales should not have been an issue, in the context of the future costs of waste management this would have been miniscule.
- C** You [Hyder/WAG] should let Jane Davidson know that she should be 'bold' and get on Television to address the nation as to the importance of recycling and reducing waste.
- C** The consultation seems to be more imperative than the decisions relating to the strategy.
- C** This [above point] relates to the NHS consultation that was undertaken previously in Wales.
- Q** Do 'energy from waste' plants need to operate at their maximum when they are operational, that is, do they require a constant amount of feedstock to operate?
- Q** EfW technology is not very effective, and while the Environment Agency regulate the incineration industry in reality they operate a 'self-regulating' policy where excursions from emission levels are 'allowed'.
- Q** What do you [Chris Tayler] advocate instead of the EfW technology?
- C** 100% recycling!
- C** EfW produce high amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> as opposed to MBT therefore should be stopped. We should not choose to incinerate where possible.
- Q** Can EfW plants be made more efficient by combining them with traditional power stations or biomass plants?
- C** A power plant at Fiddler's Ferry utilises sewage sludge alongside coal-fired boilers but uses more power than it produces.
- A** The Government is not looking at establishing several large-scale waste plants, rather at numerous site or location specific plants with a suitable technology.
- Q** Do we have any pyrolysis or gasification plants in the UK at present?
- A** There is one at the Centre for Alternative Technology [at Machynlleth] and a National Trust property has one so they can be quite small.
- Q** Have the Scandinavian countries utilised EfW, pyrolysis etc. only on the basis that landfill was not an option and are they still utilising it purely because they have not developed other technologies?
- A** We are not advocating any particular technology but an integrated approach with several



technologies. There will be a 'cap' on EfW in the future which should ensure that there will be no situation where plants run under capacity.

- C EfW could be a suitable answer **but** due to the present system of monitoring plants the public are loathe to trust the technology.
- C Incidents of fly ash leakages from EfW plants magnify that these technologies cannot be trusted. Combined heat and power plants are not as viable as discussed [in the presentation] due to a lack of demand for heat in homes etc during the summer months. Also EfW plants, for example the one in Vienna, are eyesores when situated in the middle of communities.
- C There are schemes in Australia achieving 100% recycling!
- C Friends of the Earth wants 100% recycling, and has advocated this for years as a result of MBT technologies.
- C It comes back to the point [from the previous meeting at Wrexham] that it is not just 100% recycling that should be aimed for but a reduction in the production of waste at source.
- A Setting targets for reduction of waste at source is much harder than those for recycling of waste.
- Q Why is there no political will in Wales to reduce the production of waste at source?
- Q What materials cannot be pre-treated for pyrolysis / gasification?
- A Glass is not suitable, but this can be recycled anyway.
- C Anaerobic digestion operates in the same manner as a cow's stomach and therefore it produces methane.
- Q What are eddy current and optical separation? What types of plastics cannot be separated by optical separation?
- A Due to the market value of some types of plastic it is not worth the separation costs.
- C The Waste Packaging Directive is aimed at motivating manufacturers to package products in eco-friendly and /or recyclable materials.
- Q FoE have written a letter to Pembrokeshire CC to encourage them to utilise MBT technology as opposed to EfW technology. Should WAG not investigate MBT technology rather than EfW due to its inherent safety concerns? It is better and quicker to establish MBT plants compared to EfW plants. Are we not supposed to be discussing which technology options are the least harmful during this consultation?
- A It is not about choosing one option, it is about choosing combinations of technology that are acceptable and suitable."
- C You [Hyder] have concentrated on road transport during the meeting but rail transport



should be considered due to the mainline across NW and its proximity to good brownfield sites.”

- Q** If additional indicators are identified [for options appraisal] will they be included in the options appraisal?
- Q** You [Hyder] talk about the next phase of the review, does each stage mean a further step down the line, in other words, does the next stage decide on specific technologies for example?
- A** The strategy does not choose options, it merely indicates what technologies the public [following consultation] prefer and this is material consideration for planning applications via the Local development framework.
- Q** How does the attendance at tonight’s meeting compare to other focus group meetings across Wales?
- A** Generally it is similar in numbers to other meetings, but there have been much bigger and also smaller turnouts too.
- C** I appreciate the comment [from EL] that people should speak their minds and object if they want to.
- Q** Can the map [of suitable areas in NW] be broken down on a county by county basis to make it clearer?
- C** There is no health expertise involved in the process of appraising the options, and there should be someone present at this meeting.