



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Public Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 5.00pm – 8pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Rhyl, North Wales</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>North Wales</b>
<b>Hyder Staff :</b>	<b>Adam Read, Sarah Jane Widdowson, Victoria Bond, Georgina Taubman</b>
<b>Other :</b>	<b>Mandy Langstaff (EA), Martha Savage (DCC), Adrian Jones (WAG)</b>

**Minutes:**

**Q= Question**

**C= Comment**

**A= Answer**

**Q** What about setting commercial waste targets?"

**A** WAG are looking at ways of setting commercial waste recycling targets – however its is more complicated to do this than it is with MSW. WAG are currently considering setting at 75% recycling target for the construction & demolition industry.

**Q** Are targets being set for waste reduction?

**A** No statutory targets have been set as yet, though the current waste strategy suggests waste reduction targets.

*Re: Planning legislation*

**Q** Does Westminster have any influence on waste planning decisions?

**A** Not really as Wales has a devolved government.

**Q** When you say 'deal with waste within your Region' do you mean the 3 waste regions in Wales? – if that is the case then e.g. Anglesey is very far away from north east borders.

**C** The term 'region' is too broad, close proximity is not necessarily realised by disposing inside your region – it may not therefore, be practical to treat waste only within the region in which it was created.

**Q** What impact can I have on the consultation process?

**A** This consultation goes on until Christmas Eve and we are encouraging people to complete the survey and give their views. 11,000 surveys have been sent out to randomly selected members of the public across the whole of Wales. Also consultation meetings including community meetings, stakeholder meetings and industrial sector meetings have been, and are being held across Wales. The consultation process has been advertised in local press, national news coverage and posters.

**C** The dates and the times of the consultation meetings have not been advertised on the 'Our waste our challenge' website, nor have they been advertised on individual council websites either.

**C** I believe there has been inadequate consultation or publicity. I can't say I think this consultation process has been meaningful.



- C** Local radio would have been a good way of publicising the consultation events.
- Q** Does WAG start new consultations from scratch or do they have a strategy in place, i.e. does WAG have a best practice consultation methodology? Groups (such as TCC and FoE) would like to have the opportunity to give feedback on the RWP consultation.
- Q** Is it possible to share the outcome of each of the consultation meetings between the three waste regions – cross fertilization?
- A** All comments/feedback from the consultation process will be compiled and published in the new year.
- A** We [the Regional Waste Groups] will receive the report in January 2008, from this the final document will be compiled and then, by April, the 3 regions will agree the draft document which will then seek political endorsement after the elections.
- Q** During one of Denbighshire Councils rural development partnership one of the subjects that was discussed was looking at funding an officer specifically to look at recycling agricultural waste. Does the RWP process realise that this is going on?
- A** Up until recently all we have ever done is dispose of our waste into holes in the ground, now our waste involves much more treatment and administration, and this needs more staff.
- A** There is a shortage of local authority waste officers, plus ideally, we need more waste treatment and recycling facilities in Wales- these will all cost more.
- Q** Shouldn't each area be responsible for their own waste? If an area achieves e.g. a 70% recycling rate then they would only have to dispose of 30% waste – why should they be penalized and have to deal with other areas waste?
- Re: what are your views – should we be dealing with our own hazardous waste in Wales?*
- C** Wales doesn't have any Hazardous waste facilities, I believe that each region should deal with its own waste.
- C** It would be ridiculous to have just one waste treatment site in Wales because all of Wales' waste would have to be transported great distances to it, it would be better even to transport it to England if their sites were closer.
- C** [Hyder] What if a region takes waste from another region to help pay for the costs of developing that waste facility?
- C** It is dangerous to create contracts that tie local authorities in for periods of time to taking other areas waste.
- C** If facilities are created too big then you are stuck with that facility and its associated required throughput of waste.
- Q** [Hyder] What if there is a benefit to the waste treatment technology e.g. energy for the surrounding community?



- C** Waste facilities may not be required if local authorities meet their recycling targets, therefore putting large waste treatment facilities in place may act as a disincentive to meeting future higher recycling rates as waste feedstocks will be required to maintain those facilities.
- A** Recycling targets only relate to MSW, we will still need facilities to deal with other sources of waste.
- C** We need to start planning for waste treatment facilities now, currently recycling rates are relatively low so we currently need to plan for large waste treatment facilities for the current levels of waste production.
- A** We could build modular waste treatment facilities so they can adapt to handle decreasing amounts of waste as recycling rates increase – or facilities could be designed so they can deal with other waste streams other than MSW.
- C** I have heard of local authority officers planning waste strategies based on sending their waste to be disposed of in neighbouring authorities facilities.
- Q** As MSW streams decrease others will come on line – what happens to these (other waste streams) currently?
- A** Commercial bodies may currently be sending their waste out of Wales/UK – if facilities become available in their locality they may start to use them, especially if the facilities are associated with energy production which could reduce their energy costs.
- C** it sounds like it would be better to have more, smaller facilities – however we need to be confident that the technology will work. We should build smaller technologies and monitor them so we can be confident before building any large facilities that may not be effective and therefore waste money.
- A** Many waste operators have been using facilities in e.g. Scandinavia and so many have already been tried and tested.
- C** One of the issues in the long term is what will be left (after recycling) that we can burn. Facilities built in 2012 may be designed for current waste production tonnages but by 2025 waste tonnages may be very different, we should be very careful to realise this and design plants accordingly. Therefore in the short term we may be better building smaller waste facilities.
- C** We should stop talking about regional facilities and talk about sub regional facilities (i.e. two or more regions sharing facilities).
- C** The public do not dislike chimneys as such, rather what is coming out of them. Concerned members of the public are called NIMBYs.
- C** [Hyder] The EA regulate waste facilities very closely.
- C** We visited this facility [Stoke's Mass Burner] and noticed large containers full of fly ash, someone was sweeping fly ash from the yard and we were told there are excursions of



HCI daily – these sites have problems. We have to be careful about which waste treatment technologies that we develop. This reinforces the point that we should be developing more smaller facilities.

- C** The best waste treatment facility is MBT according to the EA.
- A** This is not a proven technology yet, once proven (or not) local authorities may choose to implement them.
- C** Re: Areas of search maps: It states that industrial areas are very varied. Also it is not just householders that have issues with the development of waste facilities near them; other industries/businesses are not happy with the idea of facilities being built near them, many have threatened to move if a facility is developed near them.
- C** I don't agree with the red (1<sup>st</sup> areas of search) areas on the maps – there shouldn't just be exclusion areas/areas for consideration – the maps should code areas according to the types of waste facility that should be situated there i.e. the map should identify where e.g. composting sites should ideally be situated.
- Q** Is National steer (by WAG) likely to have any bearing on planning decisions?
- A** WAG are steering the use of waste treatment facilities over disposal to landfill however decisions on the types of facilities are a local/regional. It is unlikely that any of these facilities would be large enough to require any sort of National (WAG) involvement.

#### Formal comments made by TCC:

- TCC fully recognise that local authorities have a responsibility for waste collection and disposal and that they have limited funding available to do this.
- TCC have huge concern that this consultation process has not been wide enough.
- TCC are pleased to have been part of the discussion.
- TCC would be happy to have the opportunity to comment on the draft RWP report.
- TCC want a relationship with the regional waste group (North Wales).
- TCC do not want to be recorded as 'representing Wales' public', as they do not.