
MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP (RTG) AND REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT THE OPTIC CENTRE, ST ASAPH BUSINESS PARK AT 12.30PM.

Members and Officers present for:

Denbighshire County Council

Mike Pender (MJP), Alan Roberts (AR), Martha Savage (MS), Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

Conwy County Council

Councillor Mike Priestley (MP) Lindsay Whetheral (LW)

Anglesey County Council

Mike Evans (ME)

Flintshire County Council

Councillor Kevin Jones (KJ), Andy Macbeth (AM), Gary Nancarrow (GN)

Gwynedd County Council

Councillor Emyr Pugh (EP),

Powys County Council

Andy Bull (AB)

Snowdonia National Park

Welsh Assembly Government

Sue Martin (SM), Andy Rees (AR)

Environment Agency Wales (EAW)

Rhiannon Jones (RJ),

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

Raymond Roberts (RR)

Cylch

Katie Trent (KT)

1. Welcomes and Introductions

EW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Councillor Eryl Williams
John Ellis,

Ruth Richards, Wrexham County Borough Council
Bob Sheffield, Flintshire County Council
Gareth Lloyd, Snowdonia National Park
Councillor Arthur Todd, Snowdonia National Park
Dafydd Gareth Jones, Gwynedd County Council
Councillor Joy Shearer, Powys County Council
Cathy O'Brien, Environment Agency Wales
Henry Roberts, North Wales Economic Forum
Gwenllian Owen, DEIN
Clive Sproule, Cheshire County Council
John Williams, Anglesey County Council (Officer)
Mike Learmond, Federation of Small Businesses
Richard Carter, Wales Environment Trust
Councillor Mike Priestly, Conwy County Borough Council
Peter Evans, Gwynedd County Council
Councillor Ernest Williams, Gwynedd County Council
Joanne Smith, Welsh Assembly Government
Adrian Jones, Welsh Assembly Government

3. Minutes of last meeting

The Group agreed that the minutes were an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

AR advised the group that he has spoken to Julie Masters and they are not ready to set up a sub group as there is not enough interest from the Industry at present. AR will update at a future meeting.

AR To Action

5. WAG Objectives Paper presentation and discussion

SM and AR made a presentation to the group which highlighted the need for 200-300 new facilities in North Wales in order to meet the Landfill diversion targets by 2012/13.

The following questions/points were raised: -

- The timescale for meeting targets by 2013 is impossible. How can we meet targets by 2013 bearing in mind
 1. Lead in times
 2. Unproven technologies
 3. Funding
- The image of waste facilities is an issue for the public.
- Carwyn Jones, Welsh Assembly stated in a meeting on 7th September that landfill is not a long term option. This has significant implications on infrastructure requirements.
- Collaboration with the Local Authorities, Welsh Assembly Government and DEIN for waste facilities could provide waste sites for more than 1 Local Authority, i.e. Regional facilities .
- Can the WAG provide additional funding for waste facilities?

The responses were: -

- The timetable for the RWP has been agreed and consultation is needed for the SEA.
- The development plans need to be in place as soon as possible and robust by January/February 2010 in order to avoid infraction fines.
- The waste facility buildings don't need to be ugly and the WAG have been in contact with the Wales Design Commission to design the sites to improve the image of waste facilities.

6. EAW WRATE Life Cycle Analysis Tool – Update by EAW

RJ advised the group that the WRATE tool will be sent to EAW by 5th October. Once the software has been received the lifecycle assessment will be started. EAW are on track according to the revised schedule. Each county will be defined as rural or urban capacity depending on the character. RJ asked MS to circulate capacity information to the group.

MS to Action

7. GIS Mapping Areas of Search Exercise

MS advised the group that the RPS Areas of Search work completed in 2005 is in its next phase and a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) /Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being conducted on the maps. A number of Local Authorities across Wales noted a number of errors/anomalies which are also being refined. A draft scoping report of the SA/SEA will be circulated to Local Authorities for consultation and comments are required by the 30th of October 2006. MS will circulate the draft scoping report once she has received the report.

MS to Action

MS also advised the group that meetings have been set up by South West and South East for the RPS presentation of the draft report and that a presentation would be given to the North RTG/RMG group. The group agreed that they should meet on 11th December 2006 at 12.30pm for the presentation. MS will distribute an agenda and papers for the meeting in due course

MS to Action

8. Use of Employment Land for Waste Management Facilities – Update

MJP stated that there has been reluctance on the part of the DEIN (former WDA) to bring forward sites for the siting of waste management facilities. MJP was disappointed that a representative from the DEIN was not present at the meeting, despite being asked. SM suggested that MJP send an email to DEIN advising of the disappointment.

MJP to Action

9. Projects

MJP stated that there is nothing new to report to the group.

10. Regional Waste Plan Work

MJP stated that a copy of the timetable was sent for information. A draft copy of the Regional Waste Plan Review will be distributed in May 2007 before the public consultation in June 2007.

11. LA Update

MJP asked the group if they felt that it would be beneficial that MJP and MS attend all Local Authorities LDP Stakeholders Group meeting. The group agreed that this would be beneficial. MJP is to write to the Local Authorities to arrange attendance at the meetings.

MJP to Action

Wrexham

The Hafod site is now up and running.
The delivery agreement for the LDP is currently with WAG.
The Community Strategy Consultation document is going out for consultation in November.
The pre-deposit LDP will be ready next autumn

Gwynedd

Awaiting a decision regarding the date of the UDP inquiry
A planning application has been submitted for an in-vessel unit which is going to planning committee on 18th September 2006 where the officers have recommended that the application is approved.
Two applications have been submitted for the tipping of inert waste.
One application has been made for a dirty MRF that can deal with 25,000 tonnes per annum of mixed waste
There are two sites that could be developed as sub regional facilities.

Conwy County Borough Council

There is a composting facility in Llandulas
The UDP preferred strategy will go ahead next month with Llandulas as the preferred site.

Anglesey County Council

The landfill site is 95% full
There are plans for a shared composting facility with Conwy County Borough Council

Flintshire County Council

The hazardous waste planning application has been refused which and the Appeal Public Inquiry will reconvene in November following suspension.
There is currently an EIA being undertaken of a clay pit in Flintshire for a landfill.

There is a modified waste policy in the UDP
The UDP public inquiry will be taking place in 2007.
Prematurity to the Regional Waste Plan First Review was cited as one of the reasons for refusal.

12. Site Visits to Waste Management Facilities

MS stated that a number of visits to various waste facility sites have been arranged and has informed every one of the dates and venues. MS advised the group that there are limited spaces and if people would like to attend to let MS know as soon as possible. MS also advised the group that the Huddersfield site visit has been cancelled and that CIWM are in the process of organising another visit to a waste facility site and as soon as MS has had the information she will advise the group.

MS to Action

MS stated that the Grimsby Energy from Waste (EfW) site has a capacity of 56k per annum, which is more suitable for a rural area and the Sheffield (EfW) site has a capacity of 225k per annum and is more suited to an urban area.

EW stated that the site visit to the Netherlands was successful and very informative. EW recommended that the group go on a day visit to the Netherlands to see how the waste disposal site worked. EW stated that the people in the Netherlands had been educated about the waste facilities and improved the image of the waste facilities sites.

MS stated that a trip was being organised by CIWM and she will inform people of details in due course.

13. NWRWP Position Statement

MJP stated that the North Wales Regional Waste Plan Position Statement will be passed to various groups including; the North Wales Strategic Directors Group, Wales Spatial Plan & North Wales Economic Development Forum, and has been sent to all councillors.

14. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

15. Timetable/purpose/future meetings

The next meeting will take place on 11th December at 12.30 – venue to be confirmed

The meeting ended at 15.30