
MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP
(RTG) AND REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 29th
JANUARY 2007 AT THE DEIN OFFICES, ST ASAPH BUSINESS PARK, ST
ASAPH 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

Lyndsay Weatherall (LW)

Anglesey County Council

Mike Evans (ME)

Flintshire County Council

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

Gwynedd County Council

Dafydd Gareth Jones (DGJ)

Powys County Council

Councillor Joy Shearer (JS), Andy Bull (AB)

Wrexham County Borough Council

John Ellis (JE), Ruth Richards (RR)

Snowdonia National Park

Gareth Lloyd (GL)

Cheshire County Council

Clive Sproule (CS)

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)

Sue Martin (SM), Adrian Jones (AJ),

Environment Agency Wales (EAW)

Cathy O'Brien (COB)

DEIN

Martin Williams (MW)

Wales Environment Trust

Gerald Morris (GM), Richard Carter (RC)

Cylch

Katie Trent (KT)

H J Banks

Colin Priestley (CP)

RPS

Kevin Parr (KP), Alyn Jones (AJ), Rondalyn Northam (RN)

Peter Brett Associates

Salim Vohra (SV)

1. Welcomes and Introductions

MJP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Councillor Eryl Williams, Denbighshire County Council
Bob Sheffield, Flintshire County Council
Councillor Arthur Todd, Snowdonia National Park
Henry Roberts, North Wales Economic Forum
Gwenllian Roberts, DEIN
John Williams, Anglesey County Council (Officer)
Peter Evans, Gwynedd County Council
Councillor Mike Priestley, Conwy County Borough Council
Catherine Monaghan, North West Regional Assembly
Councillor Emyr Pugh, Gwynedd County Council
Peter Walmsley, UPM

3. Minutes of last meeting

DGJ asked that the paragraph on page 6 for Gwynedd be changed to “The main issue that Gwynedd has achieved the targets for landfill”.

AR asked that “about to” be inserted on page 7 after “A new CA site application”.

4. Matters Arising

MJP stated that the matters arising were on the agenda for discussion.

5. Presentation by Consultants RPS – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Sustainable Appraisal (SA) of Areas of Search project.

RPS presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group. RPS asked for any comments on the areas of search to be put in writing to Martha Savage who will pass the comments to RPS by 12th February 2007.

The following questions were raised: -

Q: Can RPS provide a shorter brief on the summary.

A: Yes

Q: The tool identifies broad areas of search using SA/SEA. There is conflict between existing land uses and the weighting applied, in particular, with relation to B2 sites.

A: The purpose of the tool is to identify broad areas of search whose land uses do not conflict with waste management. The weighting applied may need to be revisited. Feedback is welcomed on how to improve the tool.

Q: Can an interactive version of the RPS tool be provided to MS to show the Local Authorities?

A: RPS will provide an interactive CD for MS

Q: Is there an altitude filter on the tool?

A: Altitude is inappropriate to use as a filter as the impact of altitude will vary across the Country. It may be more appropriate to use a proxy for altitude. Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Q: The maps identify a number of existing waste management sites as areas of exclusion. This model does not improve the image of waste to the public.

A: The high level, strategic approach taken means that Local Authorities will need to consider local issues when using the tool. If a site is not identified as a first area of search the LA Officers will need to investigate the constraints identified by the tool to see whether they can be appropriately mitigated.

Q: The B2 sites are mapped as point data. Where there is an industrial estate this is misleading. Can sites over a certain threshold be identified using polygon data?

A: RPS stated that there is a possibility. The polygon data is there, it is just not visible. There may be problems with presentation however if all industrial estates are mapped.

Q: Some industrial estates which are in flood zone C areas appear to have been excluded. Have the industrial estates been excluded because of the flood risk?

A: The flood zones have not been excluded. For example, a site on the Deeside industrial estate has been excluded because it is identified as a residential area. This is incorrect and needs amending.

6. Revised RWP Review Timetable.

MJP stated that the Local Authorities are considering Objective 8ii on the WAG objectives paper and that lists of preferred sites/locations/areas for in-building waste management facilities will be required by the end of April 2007. MJP stated that they are hoping to draft the review in April/May/June.

MJP stated that Denbighshire County Council is prepared to visit all Local Authorities to discuss the preferred sites before the end of April. MJP stated that they had visited most Local Authorities which have been very informative. Meetings with Wrexham County Borough Council and Powys are to be arranged

MJP stated that the next meeting on 2nd March 2007 will be to discuss the RPS exercise and WRATE and would like to meet in April to discuss the preferred strategies with the Local Authorities.

The revised timetable has been agreed by Welsh Assembly Government and will go out on consultation in September/October 2007 after the elections.

7. Waste & Resources Assessment Tool for the Environment (WRATE)

COB stated that the WRATE work is ongoing and that the final version was received on 19th January 2007. COB stated that they will provide representations this week and will be issuing final drafts by the end of the week.

8. Health Impact Assessment

SV presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group regarding the Health Impact Assessment.

The following questions were asked.

Q: The role for Health and well being. It's a strategic exercise which covers waste management and information is required from the RTG. What will happen with the information?

A: The information will be fed back to the team who will incorporate the issues.

Q: There is a lot of work involving public engagement which means working together with WAG to get public involvement.

A: The purpose of the exercise is to get the public involved at an early stage

Q: How do we tackle the 'perception of Health?'

A: All issues are perceived. It's about the political and social side. There is distrust between the general public and any Government Organisation

Q: There is a perception that property value will be negatively affected by the introduction of a waste facility close by.

A: Waste is created by everyone. Need to engage on the Sustainability of waste and spend time engaging with the general public

Q: Can the comparison of risk be developed.

A: Comparisons with activities such as smoking are inappropriate as people choose to smoke. They have the choice to do something; the public perceive that they have no choice with the siting of waste facilities. The process is always seen as unfair. The wording needs to be carefully selected. Engagement is essential.

Q: There is a problem of not maximising B2 use on industrial estates.

A: It is more profitable for developers to build houses rather than improve B2 sites on industrial estates.

9. Consultation Strategy

MJP stated that the document was self explanatory. If there are any comments on the document to pass to MJP as soon as possible.

10. Awareness Raising/Training

MS stated that there is funding available for awareness training for members. It is intended to target Planning Committees. JS stated that all Members should receive the training. Each Local Authority has different meetings or platforms that could be targeted to maximise the number of Members receiving the training. Contact should be made with each local authority to determine what the best venue is for that authority.

11. Presentation by the Wales Environment Trust of the RAPID Initiative

GM presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group for the RAPID Initiative.

The following questions were asked: -

Q: What is the criteria for an Eco-Park in terms of size, type etc

A: There is no stereo type for an Eco-Park

Q: Is there any convergence money?

A: Nothing has been mentioned as yet.

Q: Powys is not mentioned in the presentation.

A: An update for all Local Authorities can be provided in the future

12. Use of Employment land for Waste Management Facilities

MW introduced himself to the group. MW stated that there is no waste policy in place for waste management. MW stated that land has been sold land in Caernarfon for waste facilities. DEIN owned 10,000 acres of employment land from Wrexham to Holyhead but the portfolio has since declined.

Q: At what stage is the Property Strategy Review and what is the timetable for completion?

A:

Q: Is there a policy for non-DEIN land in terms of funding?

A: Since the restructure with WAG and WDA the funding has not been there. The business plan is in place for the next 3-4 years. The group can provide representations for the Property Strategy Review.

Q: Is there a particular policy in place for use of land? The view is that the available land is not available for waste management sites.

A: The attitude was that the land should not be used for waste management sites. Now land is looked at in terms of availability and suitability for waste facilities.

Q: The impact of waste will affect everyone. The process of looking for suitable sites for waste facilities has only just started. Why hasn't this process been started earlier?

A: The focus hasn't been on waste in North Wales. Land isn't available for sale or to let.

13. Update on the Review of the Wales Waste Strategy

AJ presented the Wales Waste Strategy PowerPoint presentation to the group emphasising the reduction of household waste.

Q: Will there be an opportunity to make comments/representations?

A: WAG is consulting through the process.

Q: When will the final draft be available?

A: The end of 2007

Q: If there a way of enforcing the large organisations to use bio-degradable materials

A: Cannot force organisations to use bio-degradable products

14. LDP/UDP Stakeholders Meetings

MJP stated that letters have been sent out to the Local Authorities. Nothing further to report.

15. Site visits

The group agreed to consider possible sites that they would like to visit and to respond to MS via email.

16. NWRWP Review Expression of Interest

MJP stated that there has been a poor response to the Expression of interest for waste sites for letters that were sent out before Christmas. MJP advised the group that he will send a reminder to the contacts.

17. Local Authority Update

GL suggested that each Local Authority email MS with their update. The group agreed.

18. Any other Business

Nothing to report

19. Timetable/Venue/purpose/future meetings

The next meeting is 2nd March at 12.30pm – venue to be confirmed

The meeting ended at 16.45