

**Notes of the Waste Development Forum – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007**  
**Brandon Marsh Nature Centre**

**Present**

Planning Policy Team, Warwickshire County Council - Pam Neal, Derek Greedy, Adam James, Eva Neale

Invitees - Mr. Andy Ambrose (A L P Ambrose Minerals Planning & Development Consultancy), Mr. Philip Blackman (Merevale and Blyth Estates), Mr. Ian Davison (Green Party), Mr. Shaun Denny (SITA UK), Mr. Paul Green (Waste Recycling Group), Ms. Charlotte Harper (NISP), Cllr. Chris Holman (Sustainable Environment Panel), Mr. Keith Kondakor (Friends of the Earth – Nuneaton District), Cllr. Bill McCarthy (Studley Parish Council), Mr. Peter McHenry (Waste Recycling Group – attended on behalf of Clair Thomas), Mr. Colin Mercer (Highways Agency), Cllr. Noreen New (Rugby District Council), Cllr. Patricia Wyatt (Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils), Mr. Jonathan Parkhouse (Warwickshire County Council), Ms. Mary Tappenden (Biffa Waste Services), Mr. Bruce Undy (Federation of Small Businesses), Ms. Kalen Wood (Warwickshire County Council),

**Apologies**

Mr. Ray Colbourne (Government Office for the West Midlands), Mr. Steve Feeley (Institute of Civil Engineers), Mr. James Glynn (Severn Trent Water), Mr. Anton Irving (Natural England), Dr. Susan Juned (NISP), Cllr. Michael Kinson (Warwickshire County Council), Mr. Mark Langabeer (Veolia Environmental Services PLC), Mr. David Lowe (Warwickshire County Council), Mr. Richard Lucas (Smallbrook Environmental Business Counsultancy), Mr. Hugo Mallaby (Arbury Estate), Mr. Philip McCutcheon (Federation of Small Businesses), Mr. Steve Mitchell (Veolia Environmental Services Birmingham Ltd), Prof. Adam Read (Hyder Consulting),

**Agenda**

Pam Neal initially provided an update of the progress regarding the Warwickshire County Council Waste Core Strategy as well as to why progress had been delayed. This touched upon factors such as the requirement for a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Planning Inspectorate advice on the Shropshire and Worcestershire Core Strategy Submission Documents and emerging Communities and Local Government guidance on 'Strategic Sites'. It was explained why it is proposed to go back to Spatial Options to avoid being found unsound. Details regarding the stages and timings of the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (brought into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007) were then provided, as well as future implications of the Planning Bill and the proposed changes to PPS12.

## ***Spatial Options***

Derek Greedy explained further that following detailed discussions with Government Office for the West Midlands, the Council's Waste Core Strategy would need to be taken back to the Options stage as there was a need to consult on a range of spatial options. Derek discussed each of the spatial options, and then introduced the break out sessions so that the spatial options could be examined in more detail. The group was split into two breakout groups with 8 invitees in each group.

### Breakout session 1

Pam Neal chaired the session. It was considered that there should be 3 main considerations for siting waste facilities; the proximity to population, the size of the facility and the processes undertaken at the site. It was commented that a central location within the county may be more advantageous as this could ensure that only Warwickshire's waste would be processed. It was also commented that options 1, 6 and 7 were too restrictive and that no sites should be discounted; sites should be selected on their own individual merits.

The general consensus was that option 3 was the best of the options but needed amending. Nothing should be discounted at this stage and that the spatial options should be kept as open as possible and sequential tests could then be applied later on. The discussion then focused on what is meant by "in close proximity". It was said that a definite distance may be too restrictive and would depend upon the waste volume/type, the road networks and the potential impacts upon the local environment and population.

### Breakout session 2

Derek Greedy chaired the session. It was said that option 1 was too narrow and more flexibility was needed. Option 3 gained the most preference as it was commented that new housing will be developed around the key settlements, yet it was still viewed as being fairly restrictive. It was also considered that a constraints map/key diagram would be useful so that sites that cannot be developed are identified first.

It was discussed that an eighth option may be considered – option 3 but with reference to highways networks, rail networks and waste management facilities countywide.

## ***Strategic Sites***

Derek Greedy then outlined that following advice based on emerging guidance, the waste core strategy may need to allocate 'strategic sites' and areas critical to the strategy's vision. He then presented some possible definitions of what 'strategic' may mean and then opened up a group debate to discuss them further.

It was commented that the definition of 'strategic' should look at where the waste is sourced from (i.e. districts) rather than waste tonnages, as these can vary with waste stream and definite values can be too restrictive. It was also said that anything bigger than a civic amenity site could be deemed as 'strategic' and that present and future capacities of existing sites could be used to assess whether they are, or can become, strategic. It was asked what other authorities are doing and Derek responded that Gloucestershire have deemed 'strategic' sites to be those processing waste over 50,000 tonnes per year (from the EA regulations).

### ***Renewable energy and the Merton Rule***

Derek Greedy then provided a presentation and discussion on the potential for use of renewable energy at waste facilities taking into account the principles established by the "Merton Rule". It was commented that there is a need to look at resource management, not just waste disposal. It was also said that the 10% renewable energy requirement should be used for things such as lighting and office based functions, but should exclude waste processing. Off setting and bio-fuels were not seen as appropriate sustainable methods, but a list of viable alternatives should be established. Carbon emissions should be reduced where possible (reduced travel etc.) and waste reduction should be attempted in all processes. It was also said that Combined Heat and Power should also be used where possible.

### **Conclusion**

Derek Greedy then thanked everyone for attending and said that this forum was the initial 'sounding board' for ideas. The views expressed would not only help to shape the core strategy but it would also supplement a second forum in the new year for statutory consultees.