

## **BDR PFI Waste Treatment Facility – Community Liaison Group Meeting on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

### **Attendance:**

### **Non members:**

**1. Welcome.** The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies.** Apologies were received.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting** on 19<sup>th</sup> February were approved as a true record.

**4. Issues arising.** The chairman expressed disappointment that two elected members were missing and again no apologies had been received. He was particularly concerned about the absence of the Barnsley Council member as Barnsley's lack of representation at CLG meetings had been raised with the BMBC portfolio holder. If this situation continued he would like to withdraw the invitation to BMBC to be part of the group.

### **Action: BDR Manager to raise the issue again with Joint Waste Board.**

The BDR Manager reported that she had passed on details about TWIGS to RMBC's co-ordinator for Love Where You Live. She had also established that a total of 68 pedestrian permits had been issued at HWRCs in Doncaster.

There was a long discussion about litter in South Yorkshire, which CLG members felt was a worse problem than in other parts of the country. Causes included rubbish falling from lorries, litter being thrown from cars and discarded near takeaways. It was felt that the appearance of the area could deter potential investors.

### **Action: BDR Manager to raise the issue with the local authorities to establish what other councils are doing to successfully tackle the problem.**

**5. Update on RMBC proposed changes to waste service.** This was given by the BDR Manager and RMBC representative on the CLG in the absence of RMBC Head of Street Scene who was ill and had sent apologies.

RMBC had consulted local residents about their proposals, and the following changes had been approved:

- 240 litre size black bins for residual waste will be replaced with 180 litre ones.
- The 240 litre black bins will become the new recycling bins for plastics, glass and cans.
- New brown bins will be provided for the new chargeable garden waste service
- The existing green wheelie bin will be used for paper and card.

Free collections of garden waste would end in October. If residents sign up by October for the new chargeable service, they will get 15 months for £39. After that it would be an annual charge. Collections would be monthly between November and February, and fortnightly after that, with a four-week break for Christmas. Larger

families and people with specific medical needs would be allocated a larger bin. The changes involved a great deal of planning, and work was currently taking place to procure an outlet for plastics which in future will be collected from the kerbside. Initial indications show that about one third of households will sign up for the chargeable green waste collection. FAQs on websites and a major engagement and communication programme would help residents cope with the change. This would be in four phases:

1. End of free of charge garden waste service and change of use of existing green wheelie bin to paper and card.
2. Start of collection of chargeable service for garden waste
3. Delivery of new smaller residual waste bin
4. Change of use of existing black bin to plastics, glass and cans and new smaller residual bin collection begins

CLG members raised a number of concerns about the proposals:

- Cost – the new service would not save money
- Charges for garden waste service
- Lack of consistency with other BDR authorities
- Difficulty of storing four bins, particularly for flat dwellers
- Overflowing residual waste bin because of smaller size
- The majority of consultees were not in favour of the changes

The BDR Manager explained the increased cost was because of the introduction of kerbside collection of plastics, something requested by the vast majority of respondents to the consultation. The aim of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy was to bring about a more consistent approach by the four local authorities.

**Action: RMBC Head of Street Scene to be invited to the next CLG meeting to discuss the new proposals.**

**6.3SE update.** The Renewi Operations Manager reported a couple of noise complaints from an anonymous source. Despite extensive checks, no noise problem had been found and the issue had been referred to the Environment Agency. Proposals for the fire prevention improvement programme would be discussed with the insurers in the next few weeks. The aim would be to ensure the work was carried out with minimum disruption to the plant. The Compost Like Output (CLO) clean-up project is due to start this year. This is designed to remove contaminants from the input material before it enters the AD facility in order to give a 'cleaner' CLO product. It is hoped this would cause as little disruption as possible to the facility. Silt deposits had been found in the drainage system so emergency procedures had been put in place to deal with this. The Environment Agency had taken water samples which had now been given the all clear. The cause of this was being investigated. Figures for the year showed a 15.03 recycling figure – the best the facility had ever achieved. The reception hall doors damaged by wind would be replaced in May. The new fly prevention system was in operation and teething problems with this were being ironed out. A couple of complaints had been received about flies. The cause was

thought to be the short spell of exceptionally warm weather in April, combined with the damaged reception hall doors.

**7. BDR update.** The BDR Manager reported on a meeting of the liaison committee when directors of the three local authorities met directors of Renewi and SSE. The impact of changes in Rotherham's waste service on the facility would be the subject of negotiation because it was a significant change. A Memorandum of Understanding for the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy was being signed by all four authorities, and the strategy itself was now with designers. CLG members were shown a first design for the 20-page document which they indicated they were happy with. Contracts for HWRCs were up for renewal and a procurement process was taking place. In June the chairmanship of the Joint Waste Board would move from Doncaster to Rotherham.

**8. CELO update.** Last year 128 events were attended and more than 150 people shown round the site. Work was taking place on the planning of this year's Love Food Hate Waste campaign which would run from 4<sup>th</sup> June for 11 weeks. The emphasis this year would be on social media and public events would focus on supermarkets across the three council areas. The campaign will be run using WRAP resources. The possibility of hiring an apprentice to help with work with schools and workshops was being investigated. Two submissions to this year's National Recycling Awards had been shortlisted and the final results would be announced in June. This year's Corporate Social Responsibility Fund had been allocated to five projects across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. Most of the projects focused on developing nutrition skills in adult groups and cutting down on food waste, which accounted for one third of waste thrown away across the BDR area.

£800 was awarded to Social Eyes to construct raised beds to be used for therapeutic horticulture to grow simple foods to be used in life skills and meal preparation sessions. These sessions will include Love Food Hate Waste principles.

£2,540 to Great Houghton Village Hall to construct an allotment to run horticulture and mindfulness sessions with children and adults with special needs. The produce grown will then be used in cook and eat sessions where groups will be taught to make the most possible use of food.

£760 to Gateway Church to work with families in crisis to run cook and eat sessions focusing on good nutrition and healthy food on a budget including ways to make food last longer and embodying the Love Food Hate Waste principles.

£900 to Mexborough Arts Collective to produce a free of charge magazine including poetry and prose focusing on the environment and recycling.

£1,000 to POPs Outdoor Adventure to plant and grow food to be used in healthy eating sessions designed to improve life skills, reduce waste and minimise food waste.

**9. Communications update.** Stratiji thanked CLG members for providing contact details so that an up-to-date database could be produced. This showed a good spread of representation with four members from Rotherham, and three each from

Barnsley and Doncaster. A press release had been issued about the awards shortlisting, and the news had also been posted on the BDR and local authority websites. A press release was planned to publicise this year's beneficiaries of the CSR fund.

**10. Any other business.** A CLG member asked why there were so many Sherwood vehicles visiting the site and if they were from Nottingham. It was explained that Fred Sherwood was the name of the company which operated the fleet and they were bringing waste to the facility from Barnsley and Doncaster, and then on to Ferrybridge.

**11. Date and time of next meeting.** This will be on Monday 16th July at 7pm at the Visitor Centre.