

BDR PFI Waste Treatment Facility – Community Liaison Group Meeting on Monday, 16th July, 2018.

Attendance:

Non members:

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

2. Apologies. Apologies were received and the chair welcomed representation from Barnsley Council and said he hoped this would continue on a regular basis.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 30th April were approved as a true record.

4. Issues arising. CLG members again asked for HWRCs across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham to adopt a common approach so that residents could use HWRCs in any of the three local authorities. At the moment Barnsley operates a residents only permit policy. The BDR Manager explained that apportioning costs to HWRCs in different areas was complex, but the aim when awarding new HWRC contracts was to introduce as many common policies as possible. The chairman asked for this to be given priority in order to promote responsible behaviour by residents. There was also a discussion about the need to promote re-use of waste taken to HWRCs, and plans to include in new contracts areas signposted for items to be re-used were welcomed.

Action: Head of Street Scene to ask Assistant Director to raise this at Steering Committee.

Action: BDR Manager to give a full update at next CLG meeting.

5. Update on new RMBC waste collection service. The Head of Street Scene gave an update on the consultation carried out, and the new proposals. 9,700 responses had been received from residents, and 700 people attended drop in information sessions. Overall, thousands of comments were received. Regular collections were considered to be the most important issue, people preferred bins for recycling rather than boxes and bags, and wanted existing bins to be re-used. 80% of residents wanted more materials collected for recycling, in particular plastics. Concerns were the introduction of a charge for green waste, and smaller capacity leftover waste bins. The Head of Street Scene felt the impact of smaller bins would be offset by kerbside collection of plastic, meaning less waste going into the leftover waste bins. He gave an assurance that the situation of large families and households with no outside space would be dealt with sympathetically and more consultation and engagement would take place. Some CLG members again expressed concern about the smaller capacity bin and space available for up to four bins per household. A major engagement and communication programme would be launched to help people adjust to the changes. The chairman welcomed efforts to increase recycling and encourage the right behaviour.

6. Fly update. Renewi Contract Director reported that in June over a short period, approximately 50 complaints were received. This coincided with the replacement of

damaged reception hall doors. Since that time the number of complaints had considerably reduced. Working to an action plan agreed by the Environment Agency, work on door replacement was suspended, fly treatments increased and some waste diverted away from the plant. Efforts were made to reduce the stockpile of waste waiting to be treated and move it through the facility as quickly as possible. The EA had carried out a further review and their report was due shortly. The issue of odour from the facility was also raised, but CLG members felt air quality in the area was a vast improvement from 30 years ago.

7. Third party waste. Renewi Contract Director said under current planning restrictions, no third party waste could be delivered to the plant before 9.30am. To improve the flow of waste through the plant, planning consent could be sought to bring in third party waste from 6.30am to avoid mainstream waste deliveries. This would involve a maximum of five vehicles, but normally just two or three. There would be no net increase in the number of vehicles. CLG members raised no objections to going ahead with the request for planning consent for this change.

8. 3SE update. Renewi Contract Director reported that work to improve the bio-filters scheduled to take 7.5 weeks had been completed in four, and work on a glass clean-up project previously outlined was scheduled to start on 16th August. Fire prevention improvement works were at the design stage and would then go out to tender.

9. BDR update. The BDR Manager said a Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy had now been signed. Discussions were taking place with Renewi about the contract and changes needed to deliver the new waste service in Rotherham.

10. CELO update. The current main focus was planning and executing the Love Food Hate Waste campaign. Eight events have taken place across BDR at supermarkets and food banks, and training given to food bank staff. Two shortlisted submissions to the 2018 National Recycling Awards had not been successful. Several site tours had taken place, and spaces were still available available on Saturday 22nd September at 2pm and 6pm. Talks were taking place with FM1 about developing a series of joint information packs and an opportunity for a secondary school, all focusing on STEM subjects, engaging young people with the waste industry and the diverse careers available. The CELO has also taken part in a study being conducted by a PhD student at Leeds University looking at partnership working. This will involve Renewi, BDR and the three Councils.

11. Communications update. Responses to media articles about flies had been prepared, together with updates for CLG members, local businesses, complainants, ward members, steering committee and the local authority communication teams. A press release had been issued on the Love Food Hate Waste campaign which generated some positive publicity and a radio interview. A major publicity campaign would be developed to help make the changes to waste collections in Rotherham go as smoothly as possible.

12. Any other business. SG raised the issue of litter around the facility and said there was a contractual obligation to pick this up within 100 metres of the gate. This

prompted a long discussion about the causes of litter and how to deal with the problem. The BDR Manager said that litter near the plant was being picked on a regular basis, but not where it was unsafe to do so because there was no pavement. In areas with no pavement, it was the responsibility of the council, but cuts had affected this work. SG said he organised regular litter picks in the area and felt businesses should be involved. He praised the contribution of Street Pride who worked with them to remove the litter once it had been picked.

13. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 1st October at 7pm at the Visitor Centre.