

Update for 'virtual' CLG meeting on 30th March, 2020

1. Message from chairman to all CLG members. We are living in very challenging times and will be unable to meet for the foreseeable future. But we can have 'virtual' meetings where we can receive written updates and also raise other issues. It is important that we keep the group going and the exchange of information which is vital for the role the CLG plays. A 'virtual' agenda is attached, together with the notes/actions from our previous meeting in February. Below are written updates from Renewi, BDR, the Community Education Liaison Officer and Stratiji. Please take care, stay safe, and let Stratiji know about any issues arising from these written updates.

Mike North, chair of the CLG.

2. Minutes of last meeting on 3rd February. These were sent out previously and no comments have been received so they can be approved as a true record.

3. Issues arising. The CELO has responded to CLG member about how to dispose of stainless steel embroidery needles. They are typically made of ferrous metal and should be placed in a ferrous tin which should be made secure and then put in the scrap metal skip at an HWRC site. The BDR Manager has reported to highways a pothole in the carriageway near the facility.

4.3SE update. The Renewi Contract Director reported that the waste treatment facility, including Barnsley Transfer Station, is fully operational. Contingency plans are in place in the event of difficulties caused by the Coronavirus outbreak. Fire improvement works are now complete and the new system went live in early February following training of staff. The second energy from waste facility at Ferrybridge (FM2) is fully operational and accepting material from BDR. FM1 has a planned shutdown in April for 21 days.

5. BDR update.

Kerbside collection services across the region have seen reductions in staff who either have underlying medical conditions or are self-isolating. management services. Garden waste services have been suspended in all three authorities councils. The councils will be providing information on how to compost at home through their social media channels. In

Barnsley the paper and card collections have also been suspended. There may be further disruptions to collections if stricter social distancing measures come into force and crews will have to reduce to a driver and one collector.

Household Waste Recycling Centres across the three councils have closed to comply with the Government's requirement for social distancing and for residents to undertake only essential travel and activities. There were also long queues on the highway at HWRCs leading to a request from Police to close them on safety grounds.

Contingency plans are in place with daily conference calls across the BDR councils to share information and good practice and ascertain the resilience of collection services across each borough.

The BDR Team are investigating how the BDR AGM should now take place or if it will need to be cancelled.

6. CELO update. Since the last meeting, until mid-March, the CELOs have been busy with school visits, site tours and preparing campaigns for the 2020/21 financial year as well as conducting a survey of how waste and recycling is taught in schools and administering the CSR fund. In mid-March the Government recommendation to avoid unnecessary group activities has meant that all school visits and site tours from 17th March to 16th April have been postponed and where possible rearranged for later in the year. Also, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the CELOs have been reviewing the work planned for 2020/21 and re-arranging this where appropriate, for example delaying the coffee cup re-use month to later in the year as most retailers have stopped the use of re-useable cups and replacing the campaign with clothes messaging instead. It may be necessary to continue to adapt and amend the workload for the year as we progress so that campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste fall at the most appropriate times. The home composting campaign, which is due to start in April, will proceed as scheduled with a slight change to the children's competition to account for the fact that schools may be closed. This is to include a competition on the Waste Less South Yorkshire Facebook page to win a hot compost bin, social media posts giving tips and advice on composting, a children's creative compost challenge and a guide for schools on composting.

The CSR fund has closed, applications have been scored and funding decisions made. The allocation of volunteer hours is currently on hold as we are not able to deliver these at the current time. The funds will be awarded as follows:

BDR Area - £3,000 – Restoration Beyond Belief – school uniform re-use. The money will be used to fund storage space, racking and containers as well as the cost of collection and delivery of school uniforms. The group helps over 300 families from the Dearne Valley each year who are struggling to provide school uniform for their children. Good quality clothing is collected from donation points within the community, cleaned, sized, repaired where needed and stored until needed.

Barnsley Area - £1,000 – Goldthorpe Salvation Army – the Victory Programme. The money will be used to fund the delivery of the Victory Programme, a six-week educational initiative run to encourage participants to embrace war-time budgeting skills while making friends, learning to cook simple, healthy meals and making their money and food go further. Doncaster Area - £1,000 – Little Einstein’s Day Nursery – Sensory Garden and environmental education space. The nursery is to create a sensory garden and environmental education space including a wild flower meadow and pond. A large number of the local children do not have regular access to a safe outdoor space to play and learn about their natural environment and how to care for it. This would allow those opportunities whilst creating a space that families could also enjoy.

Rotherham Area - £1,000 – St Ann’s Junior & Infant School – reading and creativity garden. The children in the area have a disproportionately high rate of special needs and mental health issues as well as a lack of safe outdoor space in which to play and feel secure. The funding will be used to create a calming outdoor learning haven with access to books, writing and drawing materials surrounded by nature. This will create an outdoor space where parents can listen to their children read, children can come to reflect and practise mindfulness and they can safely experience the outdoor environment.

7. Communications update from Stratiji. This has been a busy period, liaising with local authority comms, BDR and Renewi teams to help get the message out to the public about implications for waste services across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham because of Coronavirus. Since the last meeting we’ve issued two press releases, one to extend the deadline for applications for the Renewi CSR Fund and one to launch the home composting campaign which has gone out today.

Temporary suspension of green waste collections across BDR has made this particularly timely. We're also trying to keep the BDR website as up to date as possible, referring people to their local authority websites for full details about new waste arrangements.

8. Any other business. No additional matters have been submitted.

9. Date, time and venue for next meeting. This has been provisionally earmarked for the beginning of June.