

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT
GROUP HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY,
26 MAY 2005**

MEMBERS

* Cllr R W Hallett - Chairman

* Cllr A R Vale - Vice-Chairman

∅ Cllr H D Bastone

* Cllr J Brazil

* Cllr B E Carson

* Cllr M Stone

* Cllr A Ward

* Cllr J A Westacott

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance and participating:
Cllrs S M Fairman, P J Prudden and R O Yonge

EPDG.01/05 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Policy Development Group (EPDG) held on 24 March 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment of recommendation (i) (minute reference EPDG.22/04), which was to read *the beach awards be not applied for at Strete Gate, Beesands and Motherwell.*

EPDG.02/05 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members of the forthcoming annual forum of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to be held on 23 June 2005. Members were advised to contact the AONB department if they were interested in attending.

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the Group following their appointment at the Annual Council meeting held on 12 May 2005 (minute ref. 10/05 refers).

EPDG.03/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. These were recorded as follows:-

Cllr J Brazil declared a prejudicial interest in item 5: Progress Report on Waste Changes and Introduction of New Policy for Holiday/Second Home Waste, by virtue of his home being rented out during the summer months. Cllr J Brazil left the meeting when discussion turned to the Policy for Holiday/Second Home Waste (see EPDG.04/05 below).

EPDG.04/05 PROGRESS REPORT ON WASTE CHANGES AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICY FOR HOLIDAY/SECOND HOME WASTE

Consideration was given to a report which updated Members on the progress of the revised household waste collection services within the district between January and March 2005. The report also identified issues concerning properties classified as second/holiday homes and proposed an additional policy in relation to them.

The report concluded that the Council had made good progress in relation to the project and may even exceed its statutory recycling/composting target of 30% by March 2006.

During discussion of the report, particular reference was made to:-

- a) the progress made during phase one of the roll out programme, with 88% of households being able to accommodate the new wheeled bin system. A Member of the Group expressed concern regarding the process by which properties were assessed for their capacity to hold wheelie bins. In response it was confirmed that each property had been surveyed for the suitability of wheeled bins. In addition DEFRA had funded the purchase of handheld computers which enabled Officers to assess each property on an equal basis. However, Members were informed that any households which had encountered difficulties using wheeled bins were able to contact the Council to be reassessed. In addition any householder who had problems with managing their wheeled bins could apply for an assisted collection service.
- b) a Member's concern that, although the 33% composting rate referred to in the report regarding Phase 1 was positive, it was important not to lose sight of the percentage of waste that was still going to landfill. Whilst in agreement with this, the Head of Business Development reminded Members that the previous year saw a decrease by 1% of waste going to landfill which, it was noted, compared favourably to the national indicator which showed a waste per household increase of between 3 and 5%;

- c) a non-Group Member's query regarding the effect the statistics relating to the breakdown of waste tonnage (as detailed within the report) would have on the business plan if they were to stand following completion of the rollout. In response to this, it was noted that current indication was encouraging but without the final statistics it was hard to comment;
- d) the number of telephone calls received regarding the scheme. It was noted that the number of calls had reduced for phase 1 but was increasing as phase 2 was being rolled out. A Member of the Group offered their thanks to the Waste Management Team for work well done;
- e) the distribution of wheeled bins. It was confirmed that they would be delivered within the boundary of the property. A Member of the Group felt it would be helpful for both the local Member and Parish Council to be informed prior to delivery within their areas. Officers stated that prior to the introduction of the scheme to new areas of the District, Members were invited to a meeting where details of the programme were explained;
- f) the operational issues involved in deciding the container size. Members were informed that the health and safety of the Operations Team staff was taken into account. In response to a question, Members were advised that wheeled bins smaller than 120 litres were not available. Following discussion, it was noted that it would be logistically difficult to meet every householders needs in relation to container size;
- g) the use of compostable wheeled bin liners. The idea of endorsing a company which produced the correct standard of compostable brown paper sacks was tabled at the meeting;
- h) a Member's disappointment that commercial waste had not been addressed. In response, Members were informed that this issue had previously arisen and it was then noted that it would be addressed following completion of the residential waste roll-out. Members were informed that the Council had made an application to DEFRA for additional funding for a waste analysis of trade waste in the District. This was to give the Council a better understanding of potential types of commercial waste that could be recycled.

RECOMMENDED

That the Executive be **RECOMMENDED:-**

1. that the Environmental Policy Development Group notes the progress made in the introduction of the waste changes;
2. to endorse the formal adoption of the Policy as laid out in paragraph 26, as detailed in the report presented to the Group, relating to Holiday/Second Home Waste.

(Meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.00 pm).

Chairman