



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

2nd November 2023, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM
CLlr Simon Whittaker, Middlewich Town Council	SW
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM
Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT

Other Attendees:

Megan Bowyer, PA to Kevin Melling (Minutes)	MB
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Apologies Received:

CLlr Fraser Whytock, Middlewich Town Council	FW
CLlr John Bird, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	JB

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising 2.1 The Minutes from the meeting on 10th August 2023 were approved as an accurate and correct record. 2.2 Matters Arising None</p>	
3	<p>Operational and Community Events Update 3.1 Operational JT advised that bin stickers will be distributed over a few weeks commencing on 13th November, for those people affected by the bank holidays for Christmas and New Year; most of Middlewich has Tuesday collections so will be affected. The stickers will tell residents their revised collection days. It will take about 2 weeks for all the stickers to</p>	

be applied. Also, a reminder that the suspension of green waste will be in place between late December and mid-January. Thereafter the new paid-for scheme will start from 15th January 2024 onwards with individual start dates over a 2-week period.

Street Cleansing – it is a busy time for the team with heavy leaf fall.

Waste Transfer Station – ducts associated with the odour abatement system have been cleaned as part of the annual maintenance plan.

3.2 Community Events/Sponsorship in Middlewich - Ansa is busy with a number of events in Middlewich to report since the last meeting. These include:

- Donation to the Poppy lampposts.
- Royal British Legion remembrance event at Cledford depot – 10th November
- Middlewich Vision and Clean Team requested Katy’s Garden refurbishment – Ansa and CEC carried out works to repair a railing, the footpath, tidy up the garden and provide edging.
- Green Flag at Fountain Fields awarded again for the overall condition of the park.
- Attended Cricket Club ‘Fiesta on the Field’ and engaged with 64 residents – the key message was safe disposal of batteries. Street Cleansing arranged for litter removal from the event.
- Middlewich Library – Ansa provided a stand on recycling and engaged with 37 residents.
- Willowmere Assisted Living – Recycling and waste reduction talk to the residents and carers.
- Cledford Primary School – recycling talks to the children
- Sponsorship of Beer and Cider Festival – last weekend.
- Stall at Christmas Lights event – in late November (still planning)

PC advised that he had heard through the Round Table that the beer and cider festival had raised £4k which will be split equally between the Round Table and the Poppy Appeal so thanks for the sponsorship.

4

Update on Project Vanguard

KM reported that we are still waiting for replacement components for two broken pumps, and we do not have a definitive date for install yet, although they are aiming for the first week in November (i.e., any day now). Once installed the equipment can be re-commissioned. The delays are disappointing from Ansa’s point of view as we have two vehicles that have been converted to work off hydrogen and we have not been able to use them yet. PC asked if in future this is commissioned what will happen- is the equipment on the two vehicles transferrable onto new vehicles? KM confirmed that is the case.

In the meantime, we are making huge progress in converting our small vehicles to electric – these are vans and smaller street cleansing vehicles. Infrastructure is being put into place for charging and this should be happening over the next 6 months. There is an expectation that this new fleet will last for 8 years.

Our HGV fleet of diesel engine powered refuse vehicles are still being used although they have been fitted with electric lifts on the back to reduce carbon emissions.

<p>5</p>	<p>CEC Green Spaces Strategy Public Consultation <i>[SW joined the meeting at this point having had system problems previously]</i> The link to the consultation on Cheshire East Council’s website was shared in advance and KM encouraged everyone to participate before the closing date of 24th November. Green spaces consultation – Have your say (cheshireeast.gov.uk). Open spaces maintenance frequencies will be changed although there won’t be much discernible difference in formal parks. Town Councils may want to fund some of the work themselves to enhance the maintenance schedule and KM suggested that if so, they complete the details on the consultation and work with Cheshire East Council to make the appropriate arrangements. SM commented that there will not be a major impact on the environmental hub re vehicle movements. KM agreed. He remarked that there is an element of wellbeing associated with open spaces and the plans will be for more re-wilding and natural habitats in future. SW shared his view that it is not a consultation, but an implementation and he had heard there will be redundancies at Ansa as a result. KM said that Ansa will need to realign resources/divert elsewhere if possible. The Council will be paying £600K less to Ansa next year for green spaces maintenance as part of its cost saving challenge so inevitably there will be a reduction in maintenance standards across the whole of Cheshire East.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Middlewich Community Issues FW had sent his apologies for the meeting, but had emailed in two agenda items that he wished to be discussed as follows:</p> <p>Brown Bin Leaflets/Green Waste KM updated to say that this initiative is part of the Council’s strategy to close its funding gap so from 15th January 2024 there will be a charge for green waste collection. The facility for registering interest and paying for the service went live on 2nd October 2023. In the month of October over 18,000 households have signed up to the new service and income will be generated for the Council. This equates to approx. 12% of the total number of eligible households. From Ansa’s perspective it will be challenging and not everyone will have paid for the new service by 15th January. Some people may wait until spring, and some won’t sign up at all. The challenge is that each week things will change as more residents subscribe and also that now people are paying their expectations will rightly be high.</p> <p>FW had reported certain areas in Middlewich had not received the leaflets at the time of his email. We think it will be Royal Mail as they were contracted to deliver to the whole of Cheshire East Borough. KM asked attendees to please advise us of any specific postcodes affected so that we can follow up with Royal Mail. Alternatively, all the information is available to view on the Cheshire East website. Garden bin subscription (cheshireeast.gov.uk).</p> <p>SM asked if the Household Waste Recycling Centres are Ansa’s responsibility. KM responded that they are run by H W Martin but managed by Ansa. PC commented that £1 per week not to have to go to the tip with grass cuttings is worth it. He asked why the subscription ran from January rather than April per Council tax – KM speculated that the Council had decided it was easier to use a calendar rather than a financial year.</p>	

Waste Recycling Contracts

FW had asked for further information on the decision to contract with Re-Gen in Northern Ireland to recycle 20,000 tonnes of waste per annum at a cost of £10.2 million. He wished to know why Re-Gen was chosen both in terms of cost and environmental impact with respect to the transport distances. Were there not companies or facilities more local to Middlesbrough that could have undertaken this work? Also, could ANSA please advise on the progress with their enquiry for the recycling of 20,000 tonnes of MRF, which has an advertised value of circa £7 million.

KM explained that the MRF contract came up for renewal in April 2023 and Ansa had to go out to tender. We are treated as a local authority when we contract so a number of factors are considered and a strict process followed to ensure that the most economically advantageous tender is chosen.

The Shotton site which we used previously, is undergoing a huge redevelopment and they chose not to bid. When we put out the tender, we were advised to break it down into several smaller lots as it was likely that most prospective bidders would not be able to handle the total volume. This was the case and some of the smaller lots were awarded to facilities in Hull and Derby. However, the Northern Ireland company was awarded one lot. The terms were out of kilter in price and so we agreed a one-year contract only and we are going out to tender again for this lot to see if the market has changed.

None of the facilities are local, as mentioned the others are Hull and Derby. There is a ferry journey to Northern Ireland, so the vehicular route is not as far in distance as Hull. It is unlikely that there will be any MRF facilities locally that will have capacity for the waste tonnages.

KM asked if there were any other community matters to discuss. SW said that things were fairly quiet and the only matters he had to raise recently were missed bins which had been resolved.

SM said that H W Martin have started a retail shop at the Crewe, Pymms Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) selling reclaimed items. This goes against the grain and several people have been annoyed about it. KM responded that a number of models at other local authorities had been reviewed including in Greater Manchester where a failed private finance initiative (PFI) resulted in an opportunity for setting up a REUSE Hub. Residents can bring items in for reuse and resale, and they had set up a shop on the scale of IKEA following the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We don't have the space in Cheshire East and working with H W Martin we would like to start to set up reuse shops. Any money raised would go back into the community. There is a link missing and there needs to be communication on how the money is being used etc.

Action KM to raise the matter of better communications.

KM

As an aside, KM also mentioned that the Council are also looking at a consultation on HWRCs in future and there could be a reduction in the number of recycling centres. Meanwhile, the larger HWRC sites in the Borough are due to start accepting mattresses so this is a service improvement.

7	Any Other Business None	
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The meeting closed at 18.30. Next meeting to be held on 25 January 2024