



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

25th January 2024, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM
Cllr Fraser Whytock, Middlewich Town Council	FW
Cllr John Bird, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	JB
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:

Karen Potts, PA to Kevin Melling (Minutes)	KP
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Apologies Received:

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting on 2nd November 2023 were approved as an accurate and correct record.</p> <p>2.2 Matters Arising</p> <p>FW advised that a resident had asked why the Green Waste Subscription started in January when the Council Tax starts in April. KM advised that it is easier to measure in a calendar year rather than financial year.</p> <p>KM confirmed that H W Martins are piloting a reuse shop initiative which in the future may become a more formal arrangement. Although the project seems to have been well received, it is in its early stages and the full benefits are still to be determined. It was closed through December as the number of reusable items reduces. SM expressed concern that the money raised from this operation is outside normal procedures and residents did not expect their waste to be sold on and reiterated the comment he had</p>	

	<p>made at the last meeting which was that resident awareness needs to be raised as the initiative has not been communicated effectively.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Operational and Community Events Update</p> <p>3.1 Operational</p> <p>JT advised the Waste Transfer Station carbon filters had been changed in December and are scheduled to be changed again in the spring.</p> <p>FW advised there had been no odour complaints to Middlewich Town Council. JT advised Ansa meets on a weekly basis to look at our compliance schedules.</p> <p>JT advised that to date there have been approx. 65k green waste subscriptions. She advised there had been a peak in subscriptions just before Christmas and again in the New Year. Last Monday (15th January) there were a thousand subscriptions received in one day, although this has now levelled to approx. 400 a day. We expect another peak in subscriptions if the weather improves or in the spring.</p> <p>To ensure that all subscribed bins were emptied even if they had not attached their stickers, we identified them via our in-cab technology. Any addresses that presented their bins but had not subscribed were not emptied and separate stickers were attached advising of the need to subscribe.</p> <p>CEC are due to send out a reminder communication in the next month or so.</p> <p>FW advised there has been no complaints about missed bins to Middlewich Town Council. He did advise there had been some comments on Facebook where residents' bins had not been emptied and asked if we monitored this. JT confirmed that this is the case and last week we did have issues with the snow and ice, but we returned over the following 2 days to collect any we had missed.</p> <p>PC advised that at a recent meeting he attended in January, the members expressed concerns that they were not aware of the subscription for Green Waste and asked how this had been communicated to residents. JT advised that this was a CEC process and they had communicated through various methods. Leaflets were posted through every door in Cheshire East via the Post Office, CEC website and social media had also been used. Ansa advertised on the side of their refuse wagons. SM also advised that he had been asked the same question and found it useful to ask, "how would you like to have found out" and accepts there are a small group that are unaware.</p> <p>3.2 Community Events/Sponsorship in Middlewich</p> <p>JT advised that Ansa want to continue to be a good neighbour and our Communications and Waste Volunteer groups engage with a number of groups in Middlewich.</p> <p>Members from both our Communications team and Waste Volunteers attended the Middlewich Family Fun Day and Christmas Lights switch-on, sharing ideas to use recyclable Christmas Cards, wrapping paper/ create your own decoration and card ideas.</p> <p>A member of the Communications team attended Waters Edge Medical Information Hub providing information on our 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign, providing free</p>	

	<p>recipes to help residents. It's planned for us to take turns with other organisations and to attend on a regular ongoing basis.</p> <p>This month we are in contact with the Middlewich Baby Bank to support new mums and to promote the Real Nappies Project. We are looking to discuss future projects via clothes swap opportunities which will reduce textile waste.</p>	
4	<p>CEC Budget 2024/25 Consultation. 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 28th January. https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/VYQ2RB/</p> <p>FW advised the meeting that the Environment Committee meeting is scheduled for 1st February 2024 to finalise the Grounds Maintenance policy that featured in a previous consultation.</p> <p>SM advised that he didn't feel this meeting should comment on the consultation.</p> <p>KM advised he had brought this to the agenda to ensure that everyone in the group is aware of the ongoing public consultation and importantly to highlight to the Middlewich residents so they could engage and have their say as individuals. FW advised that CEC have 16 consultations currently active, and residents are becoming weary of them, therefore engagement numbers will drop.</p> <p>KM gave a brief overview of the consultation advising there is a list of different initiatives that CEC are considering across all areas and an example of these for Environmental and Communities Services are:</p> <p>Reduce costs of waste disposal and number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) One of the proposals is emergency reduction of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to four core sites at Alsager, Crewe, Knutsford and Macclesfield.</p> <p>SM advised that this is not something we could sell to the Middlewich residents to remove the HWRC as the waste comes to the Hub. The closure of the HWRC has previously been looked at but did not materialise as the increased waste in the black and grey bins resulted in extra refuse vehicles and increased carbon emissions in Middlewich.</p> <p>Reduce costs of street cleansing operations Revise street cleansing operations borough-wide to secure operational efficiencies</p> <p>SW advised he has requested a meeting with CEC, Ansa and the Town Council to progress opportunities for the Town Council to secure additional services from Cheshire East for Grounds Maintenance activities.</p> <p>JB advised that the Grounds Maintenance policy papers are available on the CEC website for the public to view and there are detailed tables relating to Green Spaces which he and FW are viewing to see what the implications are for Middlewich. SW referred to the number of times a year grass cutting will take place is dependent on resources and asked the question is this related to labour or finance. KM advised that</p>	

	<p>this could be both as from the 1st April Ansa will have to manage their resources to the budget.</p> <p>JB has had several conversations relating to significant concern around the £600k reduction Ansa has to find across the borough. KM confirmed that this figure is across the whole of Cheshire East grounds and open spaces. He advised we don't cut grass verges along the highways. We have had to make sure we can match the equipment and resources to the proposals.</p> <p>SW advised that Middlewich is very much an urban town and potentially will have fewer open spaces in the future, although these could be lots of smaller lots which could take up more time to maintain.</p> <p>JB asked if KM would be able to have a further discussion before the meeting on the 1st February. KM confirmed he is happy to support outside the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Middlewich Community Issues</p> <p>Recently, SW had requested that litter and debris was collected along Booth Lane and around the junction with Cledford Lane. He thanked KM for arranging and advised that the area looked 100% better.</p> <p>SW advised that the black bins were not emptied in Grange Lea off Chester Road, and Dierdens Terrace in the town centre. JT apologised and advised this was due to the snow last week, she will follow this up tomorrow. Action JT</p> <p>JB asked would it be possible to ask the crews to ensure bins are not left in the middle of the paths. Currently they are strewn all over the pavements in the King Edward Street area, which has schools opposite and nearby. JT advised that the crews should do this as a matter of course but they occasionally need reminding and she will follow this up. Action JT</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	

The meeting closed at 18.35. Next meeting to be held on 25 April 2024