

PACE meeting 14.10.21 on zoom

Chair Jeremy Thorp, minutes Ann MacGarry

Present:

Martin Kemp, Helen Gooderham, Jeremy Thorp , David Merrell, Karin Thompson, Mike Membroy, Jackie Charlton, Freya Pryce, Jo Rees, Kate de Oliveira, Richard Thomas, Diana Brace, Rolly Bea, John Senior, Ann MacGarry, Jake Berriman, Keith Brelstaff, Diana Brace Ashley Collins (Waste dept PCC)

Apologies:

Patrick Adams, Kate Inglis, Laura Shewring, Nigel Dodman

Waste treatment in Powys.

We started with a presentation from Ashley Collins who is the Senior Manager of Waste and Recycling at Powys County Council

His presentation was very comprehensive and I will not have managed to note everything down.

People can ask for extra recycling boxes.

Powys has now got an electric waste collection truck which is in operation down in the Brecon area. This costs twice as much as a diesel one to buy but the difference was funded by the Welsh government. Despite fears that it wouldn't have the power to cope, it's been very successful. Financially they won't be able to replace the rest of the fleet with electric vehicles until they need replacing.

There is a massive demand for street cleaning and bin emptying.

They get back some of the cost of the service from selling materials.

A lot of untrue things have been said about the proposed Abermule centre. NRW make sure that high standards are met re smell etc.

Food waste now goes to Bridgend to an anaerobic digester.

The residential residual waste (absolute rubbish) goes to be burned at a site in England. These sites have to be large to work efficiently. The ash that remains is used as a building material.

The garden waste is used to resurface the landfill site. Collecting it has been a very popular service.

The Household Waste Recycling Centres are at Ystradgynlais, Newtown, Welshpool, Llandrindod Wells & Brecon. 4 owned by Powys, 1 by Potters, all managed by Potters. They are trying to increase the re-use of stuff.

There are lots of collaborations across Wales between councils and organisations. The recycling target is 64%. Powys was reported as 63% but should in fact have been at least 64% but someone made a mistake in reporting. It will probably be 65-66% this year. The next target set will be 70%. The Welsh government are looking at a circular economy and are putting more emphasis on the carbon impact.

They are looking at plastic film.

Responses to questions –

The trucks. Unfortunately the rest of the fleet wont need replacing for a while. The one we have is not a pilot. Electric vehicles are the future and they are looking at electric for the other vehicles in the fleet.

Keith asked about how they could coordinate with the street cleaning team as they do litter picks and cleaning in Llandrindod.

Jo asked about the food waste. It goes to anaerobic digestion and the digestate goes to farming.

So called compostable bags cause problems so they use plastic and they go into the energy from waste stream.

Schools have to pay for their waste collection. It is cheaper for them to collect the waste separately for the recycling stream rather than it all go in the residual waste stream. With soft plastic it is difficult to find a market so it then goes in the energy from waste plant. Bottle deposit schemes are complicated to manage.

They have tried using split bins to collect different materials with limited success. It is possible for litter pick groups to collect different materials separately. Private business produces the materials but we pay to deal with it. In the future the industry will have to pay for the end of life – EPR = Externalized Product Responsibility We only produce about 20,000T of residual waste a year.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Agreed as correct

Actions/matters arising:

Jeremy got a response and wrote back. He also emailed the Coop group about collecting tetrapaks at their stores for recycling.

PCC update

Martin -

Powys represents Mid-Wales on the Decarbonisation Strategy Panel.

Carbon Action Plan – there is a draft strategic plan that integrates the benefits of climate action with climate justice, bringing everything into one document. Senior managers are looking at it now so the document is not yet in the public arena but there will be a public consultation.

There will be public consultation on the PSB work.

Jake put in the chat -

“I have to leave now. Re update, the last xparty working group was cancelled at the last minute and new date set.

Since motion on EEC Bill lost at council meeting I have raised a question of the portfolio holder, which hasn't been answer yet, asking for a commitment to continuing role for climate change officer and ecological officer. I thought climate contract ended in March but I understand it is next month and as such I am very concerned I haven't heard anything.

Jake”

Jackie spoke about the CEE motion being ‘trashed’. Officers are hugely supportive of this agenda but at a policy level it's not supported. It wasn't passed on the basis that 'XR

supports it' and 'the farmers are doing it all'. Llanfyllin town council, including the mayor, voted to support the CEE motion but then he voted against it in the PCC meeting.

Global day of action – 6th November

Jeremy will send an email to the group asking what's happening around Powys and will circulate the info.

AOB

Rolly – tree weekend 23/24th in Presteigne

Jeremy – we'll need some sort of AGM

Next meeting 16th Nov – noone volunteered to take the notes