

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
ALL WALES PEST LIAISON TECHNICAL GROUP &  
ALL WALES DOG WARDENS LIAISON TECHNICAL GROUP  
RHAYADER LEISURE CENTRE, RHAYADER, POWYS  
THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

**ALL WALES PEST LIAISON TECHNICAL GROUP**

Present: Rowan Hughes (RH), Mike Burtonwood (MB), Helen Cook (HC), Graham Williams (GW), John King (JK), Clive Bryant (CB), Sarah Brown (SB), Steve Morbey (SM), Tom Hayes (TH), Andrew Long (AL), Bryn Roberts (BR), Dave Rowlands (DR), Nick Jones (NJ), Nia Hughes (NWH), Chris Walters (CW), Stuart Willingale (SW), Clive Morgan (CM), Kristian James (KJ), Simon Swanton (SS).

1	<p><b><u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2006</u></b></p> <p>Error in e-mail address of Nia Hughes which should read <a href="mailto:niah@powys.gov.uk">niah@powys.gov.uk</a> . Minutes confirmed.</p>
2	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3	<p><b><u>DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED FORTNIGHTLY BIN COLLECTIONS ACROSS WELSH AUTHORITIES AND THE PEST CONTROL IMPLICATIONS.</u></b></p> <p>HC asked whether authorities has close liason with other departments regarding decisions that impact on their service. None of the authorities had experienced any formal consultation on these matters.</p> <p>RH advised that the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) view was that no fortnightly collections should be implemented where wheelie bins have not been provided.</p> <p>A proposal has been suggested in Pembrokeshire whereby general waste is collected fortnightly but food waste is collected weekly.</p> <p>Compost bins were issued in Pembrokeshire without adequate guidance, which has led to perceived increase in rat complaints. Guidance has since been issued to householders on the management of the bins.</p> <p>Wrexham are looking at fly tipping incidents in the wake of fortnightly collections and restrictions on number of bins provided according to the number of people living at the property.</p> <p>Conway have seen an increase in rat complaints in areas which still have weekly as opposed to fortnightly collections.</p> <p>Vale of Glamorgan have a problem with seagulls attacking bags. Cardiff have introduced 'sea gull proof' bins in Cardiff Bay to combat this problem.</p> <p>No problems reported in Denbighshire following a phased introduction of fortnightly collections.</p>

	<p>Pembrokeshire are to provide guidance on the use of composting bins for circulation to the Group.</p> <p>Wrexham have issued a press release in local papers to advise residents on the good management of waste.</p> <p>Agreed that the Group would provide a statement in which recycling was supported but that fortnightly collections should only be implemented where wheelie bins are provided. Additionally the provision of composting bins is supported provided that they properly managed. Agreed that a statement would also be included on bird feeding and good practice.</p>
4	<p><b><u>LOCAL AUTHORITY PEST CONTROL CHARGES 2006/07</u></b></p> <p>A summary of charges was circulated, and the current situation discussed.</p> <p>Since April 2007, Wrexham are charging a nominal fee for rats and mice despite having done this some 6 years ago and subsequently reversed the decision in light of significant reduction in complaints.</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan have suggested a policy whereby treatment of rats and mice is free inside a property and chargeable outside. Analysis of complaints found that some 75% of calls were outside. Decision has yet to be made on this policy.</p> <p>Cardiff are charging for rats since April 2007 with no perceived difference in number of complaints. The charge is £18 for as many visits as is required; fee of £5 also charged for missed appointments.</p> <p>Discussion took place on methods of payment and the trend is clearly moving towards authorities requiring payment prior to treatment.</p> <p>NWH asked whether authorities were being pressurised to withdraw the service because of financial constraints. Authorities reported that this was a constant threat but has not yet been imposed on any Authority.</p> <p>Bridgend have externalised the service and Rentokil now provide the pest control service on behalf of the Authority.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire also utilise Rentokil on occasions.</p> <p>RH requested that the survey details be verified and figures for 2006/07 be provided. Agreed that the 06/07 figures include populations and clarify the number of full time equivalents employed on pest control.</p> <p>RH also requested an update on current pest control charges.</p>
5	<p><b><u>BEST PRACTICE GUIDES TO PEST CONTROL</u></b></p> <p>Discussion took place on amendments made by Graham Williams (Wrexham) and agreed.</p>

**ALL WALES DOG WARDEN LIASON TECHNICAL GROUP**

Present: Rowan Hughes (RH), Helen Cook (HC), Graham Williams (GW), Clive Bryant (CB), Sarah Brown (SB), Steve Morbey (SM), Tom Hayes (TH), Andrew Long (AL), Bryn Roberts (BR), Dave Rowlands (DR), Nick Jones (NJ), Nia Hughes (NWH), Chris Walters (CW), Stuart Willingale (SW), Clive Morgan (CM), Kristian James (KJ)

1	<p><b><u>PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>Simon Swanton Senior Environmental Health Officer Torfaen County Borough Council gave presentation on Research conducted into Echinococcus Granulosus Infection amongst Stray Dogs in South East Wales.</p>
2	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>The Group reported an increasing trend for police to be reluctant to get involved with dangerous dogs and to a degree, general dog issues.</p> <p>There is a suggestion that the transfer of stray dog responsibility from police to local authorities is likely to take place in April 2008. However, nothing official is forthcoming and the Group expressed disappointment that the matter was continuing to drag on.</p> <p>A summary of the current position regarding police kennels was as follows:-</p> <p>Vale of Glamorgan – Police kennels closed.</p> <p>Wrexham – Police have arranged for a private contractor to act on their behalf.</p> <p>Cardiff – Some police stations are still taking dogs.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire – 1 police kennel left.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent – None.</p> <p>Denbighshire – Police are still taking in dogs.</p> <p>Conwy – Police still taking dogs and utilising private contractor as per Wrexham.</p> <p>Powys – Police still holding dogs pending transfer to local authority kennels.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire – 1 police kennel now – 3 have closed.</p> <p>Swansea – 1 police kennel at Swansea Central.</p> <p>A letter to be drafted on behalf of the Group to raise concern about withdrawal of police service.</p>
3	<p><b><u>NATIONAL DOG WARDEN ASSOCIATION</u></b></p> <p>A 2 day course is to be held in Birmingham details of which available on their web site.</p>

4	<p><b><u>BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS</u></b></p> <p>Changes reviewed and agreed.</p>
5	<p><b><u>ANIMAL WELFARE ACT</u></b></p> <p>Experience to date that animal welfare officers/trading standards are continuing to operate in the same way as previously and that there is no perceived increase in workloads.</p> <p>Training available on provisions of Animal Welfare Act – details circulated.</p>
6	<p><b><u>AGGRESSIVE DOGS</u></b></p> <p>Discussion took place on frequency of incidents of banned breeds and police enforcement.</p>
7	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>Dogs Trust Annual report shows an increase in the number of strays reported.</p> <p>NJ to draft questionnaire on the dog warden service in local authorities across Wales.</p> <p>Agreed that Dog Control Areas would be an agenda item at next meeting.</p> <p>RH to speak to Chief Veterinary officer to see if any research has already been done on the prevalence of Toxocava Canis in stray dogs as there is an opportunity to 'piggy back' onto Simon Swanton's study of Echinococcus Granulosus.</p>