

MINUTES OF MEETING

ALL WALES PEST LIAISON AND TECHNICAL GROUP AND ALL WALES DOG WARDEN LIAISON GROUP RHAYADER LEISURE CENTRE, RHAYADER, POWYS WEDNESDAY 15TH November 2006

ALL WALES PEST LIAISON TECHNICAL GROUP

PRESENT:

NAME	COUNTY COUNCIL	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Rowan Hughes	Vale of Glamorgan	rmhughes@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Clive Morgan	Swansea	clive.morgan@swansea.gov.uk
Stuart Willingale	Swansea	stuart.willingale@swansea.gov.uk
Steven Jackson	Torfaen	steven.jackson@torfaen.gov.uk
Nia Hughes	Powys County Council	nian@powys.gov.uk
Helen Cook	Wrexham County Council	helen.cook@wrexham.gov.uk
Jason Clerk	North Port Talbot Council	Jason.clerk@npt.gov.uk
Clive Davies	North Port Talbot Council	c.daviesz@pt.gov.uk
Lyndon Ross	Caerphilly Borough Council	ionesgh@caerphilly.gov.uk
Chris Waters	Caerphilly Borough Council	reynoldsn@caerphilly.gov.uk
Kristian James	Vale of Glamorgan	kjames@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Bryn Roberts	Denbighshire	bryn.roberts@denbighshire.gov.uk
Dave Rowlands	Denbighshire	dave.rowlands@denbighshire.gov.uk
Dave Cook	Blaenau Gwent	dave.cook@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Mike Burtonwood	Bridgend CBC	burtonj@bridgend.gov.uk
Dave Dier	Merthyr Tydfil	dave.dier@merthyr.gov.uk

Apologies

Will Lane – Cardiff City Council

Confirmation of Minutes of 12th July 2006

Minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Matters arising

NPAP

- No volunteer at present to joint NPAP

Charging and Pest Control Service Delivery

- Rowan has circulated current charging lists
- Torfaen - struggling to cope with non Public Health pests
- Wrexham – officers dealing with ten appointments a day in winter, problems during summer months as reduced number of operatives. Charging since April for mice – still finding way forward.
- Discussion about out of hours cover and using PCO or contractors to react to needs.
- Issues were raised about concerns about member expectations on charges and response times for individuals who contact them and PCO's are coming under some conflicting pressures in terms of policy and members demands.
- Caerphilly – Team of officers multifunctional duties:- dog warden, pest control, animals which aids retention of staff.
- Powys – Customer survey showed very positive response when reported to board it highlighted how important service is similar approach by various other authorities.
- Pembs – Contractual work can it support service as a whole? – answer is yes.
- Torfaen – questioned what happens with overgrown gardens consensus seemed to be put down test baits first before any notice.
- Pembs – Expressed concerns with cluttered garden – advice was to use S.215 Planning Act Notice.
- Query about emergencies of rat indoors only immediate remedy is either trapping, striking etc. Bait takes a little time, is it an emergency which demands an out of hours response. Decided it was really just to reassure people rather than physical removed.
- Vale - concerns about why might charge for one rodent species not another, mice are arguably more of a vector of disease than rats.
- Questions asked about whether Housing Department are paying for some element of pest control. Also concerns about repeat calls because of defective maintenance by Housing Department – agreed it would be beneficial to serve quasi legal notice.
- Merthyr adopted policy of charging if customers fail to provide access when an appointment is made.
- Charging policy in some Authorities is by invoices which remain unpaid these are not being enforced by any debt recovery arrangements ie written off.

Sewer Baiting

Merthyr, Camarthen, Denbigh, Wrexham not doing any sewer baiting. In Blaenau Gwent all sewer treatment payments from water authority goes direct to staff . Caerphilly pay overtime to PCO's to do sewer baiting. Possibility of forging a link with neighbouring authorities to get work done. Blaenau Gwent getting paid for each manhole they treat, no poof required by water authority up to a maximum figure.

Vale have also found that Welsh Water are currently more relaxed about which manholes are seen. Cardiff are undertaking the work on their behalf.

- Torfaen concerned about training on Chapter 8 and entry to confined spaces – some authorities have trained staff.

Risk Assssments

- Rowan still wanting to share risk assessments currently only Wrexham and Cardiff in circulation.

Mosquito Watch Programme

- Mosquito watch programme – aim to capture species and larvae found in and around Cardiff International Airport to send for identification – undertaken by Vale of Glamorgan. Other Authorities encouraged to be involved where appropriate. Good notes on NPAP website and via CIEH website. Concerns regarding introduction as global warming becomes problematical.

Performance indicators

Dave Cook Discussed Performance Indicators in Relation to our Best practice Standards.

One indicator to compliance with best practice standards. Dog Warden Service and Pest Control included from April 2008.

Sewer baiting good agreement on minor changes but did agree that GIS was important tool for future would be left: as best practice.

Discussions around Health & Safety rules regarding difficult access. Agreed to remove sector as a whole.

Discussion around receptionist giving advice on services not offered; could be leaflet or link to website for information.

All Wales Dog Warden Liaison Technical Group

Minutes Wednesday 15th November 2006

ATTENDANCE

Rowan Hughes, Vale of Glamorgan
Dave Rowlands, Denbighshire County Council
Bryn Roberts, Denbighshire County Council
Nia Hughes, Powys County Council
Chris Walters, Carmarthensire
Lyndon Ross, Caerphilly CBC
Stuart Willingale, City & County of Swansea
Clive Morgan, City & County of Swansea
Helen Cook, Wrexham CBC
Kristian James, Vale of Glamorgan
Tom Hayes, Pembrokeshire County Council
Dave Cook, Blaenau Gwent

1. **Dog Warden Association**

- No representation from the Technical Panel members at the most recent meeting.
- Only limited membership from group members.
- Desirability of representation on the group was referred to;
- Speaker may be invited from NDWA.

2. **Best Practice Standards**

Dave Cook led the group through the standards, a number of amendments were proposed.

3. **Best Practice Standards to be Performance Indicators Circa 2008**

4. **Responsibility for Stray Dogs**

Rowan indicated that an AM from Pembrokeshire had taken an interest in this matter and had met with officers from Pembrokeshire County Council. It was also indicated that Christine Gwyther had written to Mr David Miliband re this matter.

Tom Hayes indicated that this approach had yielded no new information as yet.

This view was reflected by other members of the group.

5. **Dangerous Dogs**

There was a discussion on the issue of dangerous dogs and the involvement of the police with such matters.

The view of the group was that the police have an essential role to play in such cases and in many cases should take the lead in such cases - the use of ASBO's in certain cases was suggested.

6. **Dog Control Orders**

It was pointed out that if a Dog Control Order has not been made, the provisions of FOLA would remain in force.

Only the Vale of Glamorgan indicated that they were considering a Dog Control Order.
