

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**The All Wales Pest Liasion Technical Group**  
**&**  
**The All Wales Dog Wardens Liaison Technical Group**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>TH</sup> January 2008 Rhayader Leisure Centre, Rhayadar Powys**

<u>ATTENDED BY</u>	<u>APOLOGIES</u>
<p>Kevin Edwards – Flintshire County Council            Ian Fennah – Flintshire County Council            Steven Jackson – Torfaen County Borough Council            Chris Walters – Carmarthen County Council            Lianne Martin – Conwy County Borough Council            Clive Pritchard – Powys County Borough Council            Nia Hughes – Powys County Borough Council            Bryn Roberts - Denbighshire            Dave Rowlands - Denbighshire            Dave Dier – Merthyr Tydfil            Andrew Young – Rhondda Cynon Taff            Mike Burtonwood – Bridgend County Borough Council            Clive Morgan – City &amp; County of Swansea            Stuart Willingale – City &amp; County of Swansea            Helen Cook – Wrexham County Borough Council            Chris Brereton - WAG            Caroline Cowan – Vale of Glamorgan            Rowan Hughes – Vale of Glamorgan</p>	<p>Nick Jones - (Conwy)            Andrew Long - (Blaenau Gwent)            Jackie Costello - (RCT)            Martin Gregory – (Powys)            Andrew Jordon – (Wrexham)</p>

NO.	NOTES OF MEETING
	<p>The above apologies were received.</p> <p><b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>1. Confirmation of minutes of meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007            Minutes were agreed</p> <p>2. <b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>2.1 RH to contact Pembrokeshire for an update on their composting scheme ongoing throughout the county, and specifically on the provision of appropriate guidance for residents.</p> <p>3. <b><u>OPEN DISCUSSION</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Composting</u></b></p> <p>3.1 The group agreed its support for composting in principle. It stressed the need for suitable composters with rodent proof bases and also the provision of appropriate guidance and advice for the public.</p>

NO.	NOTES OF MEETING	
3.2	The group agreed that not all areas may be suitable for composting, high density student accommodation was sited as an example.	
3.3	It was noted that in some Councils the officers responsible for composting and refuse collection services were in different Directorates and that co-operation and joint working across the Authority was essential to provide an efficient service. Some problems have arisen with lack of communication between departments.	
	<b><u>Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC)</u></b>	
3.4	This matter was identified as a high priority by Councils and WAG.	
3.5	<b>The group agreed its support in principle for Alternate Weekly Collections, provided waste was stored in suitable rigid containers and not bin bags or similar.</b>	
3.6	Again it was noted that some areas are more suitable for this system than others with potential problems in the high density areas.	
	<i>Further Feedback is sought from members of the group.-----</i>	
3.7	Wrexham - have experienced some problems with larger families producing quantities of side waste often put out in bin bags: this matter is being addressed.	
3.8	Denbigh - AWC have not created any serious problems. Additional waste is not permitted alongside rigid bins.	
3.9	Torfaen - the scheme has been rolled out area by area. Eventually it is intended that no side waste will be collected but at present a flexible approach is being followed.	
3.10	RCT - Politicians do not intend supporting the introduction of AWC at present	
3.11	Conwy - an educational and information led approach is being used to dissuade side waste tipping. Staff will knock on doors to inform and advise the public where necessary.	
3.12	The excess packaging of foodstuffs was identified as a contributory source exacerbating the problem. It was acknowledged that work is underway locally and nationally to address this issue.	
3.13	David Oldbury (guest speaker from Manchester City Council) Stated how black wheelie bins can act as potential incubators for flies, mosquitoes and other insect pests during warm periods.	

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4.	<b><u>Pest Control Survey and Charges</u></b>	
4.1	The group generally welcomed the production of annual statistics covering the whole of Wales.	
4.2	There were concerns however, that there appeared to be wide variations in the data often with no obvious explanation.	
4.3	It was felt that more guidance should be provided for completing the Pest Control Survey questionnaire. It was pointed out that to simplify matters and to minimise duplication the data required should be obtained from CIPFA and NPTA returns and reported using their criteria.	
4.4	On costs such as accommodation and officers time allocations were identified as problem areas when having to assess costs. Authorities used different methods for calculating and allocating budgets.	
4.5	The group agreed to continue to provide annual statistics but with more discussions and guidance prior to making the next Pest Control Survey return.	
4.6	Those Authorities which have not submitted figures for charging 2007 - 2008 were encouraged to do so as soon as possible. RH will contact them individually.	
5.	<b><u>Best Practice Standards</u></b>	
5.1	All heads of service have received the latest Best Practice Standards which include a comprehensive scoring matrix Authorities were reminded of the need to fulfil all minimum standards before proceeding to good standards and to fulfil all good standards before proceeding to best practice.	
5.2	It was agreed that Authorities would endeavour to complete the pest control scoring matrix by the end of the financial year (by April 2008) and forward the scores to RH for discussion at the next meeting of the group.	
6.	<b><u>Presentation</u></b>	
6.1	Mr David J Oldbury Group Manager Pest Control for Manchester City Council was introduced to the meeting and provided a most interesting presentation on the CIEH, NPAP Mosquito watch project and related issues.	
	The presentation was well received and generated a stimulating discussion. The meeting thanked David for his contribution.	
7.	<b><u>A.O.B</u></b>	
7.1	CB of WAG brought to the group's attention the problem of the Oak Processionary Moth which has been investigated at Kew Gardens. Like the Brown Tail Moth it can cause severe skin irritation .CG advised that further information can be obtained via the Forestry Commission Tree Health- Tree	

NO.	NOTES OF MEETING	
	Pest advisory notes. Group to be advised of next meeting which is likely to be in June / July 08	

**ALL WALES DOG WARDEN LIAISON TECHNICAL GROUP**

**MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008**

Attendance: Rowan Hughes (RH), Vale of Glamorgan; Caroline Cowan (CC), Vale of Glamorgan; Kevin Edwards (KE), Flintshire C Council; Lyndon Rees (LR), Caerphilly CB Council; Ian Fennah (IF), Flintshire CC; Steven Jackson (SJ), Torfaen CBC; Chris Walters (CW), Carmarthen CC; Helen Cook (HC), Wrexham CBC; Sarah Brown (SB), Cardiff Council; Lianne Martin (LM), Conwy CBC; Clive Pritchard (CP), Powys CC; Nia Hughes (NH), Powys CC; Bryn Roberts (BR), Denbighshire; Dave Rowlands (DR), Denbighshire; Dave Dier (DD), Merthyr Tydfil; Stuart Willingale (SW), City & County of Swansea; Clive Morgan (CM), City & County of Swansea

Apologies: Martin Gregory (Powys)  
Nick Jones (Conway)

1.	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>RH Dog Wardens have additional enforcement powers and responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act. RH to forward a presentation on the details of the Animal Welfare Act.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS</u></b></p> <p>RH asked that each Authority complete the Best Practice Standard Forms and score their service by the end of the financial year ( April 2008).</p> <p>SW however indicated that functions such as dog fouling may fall under other departments responsibility e.g. waste department. RH advised that Authorities be aware of this.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL DOG WARDEN ASSOCIATION FROM CAROLINE COWAN FROM THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN</u></b></p> <p>Risk Assessments for Animal Wardens available on NDWA website.</p> <p>DEFRA have still left us unsure whether a 24 hour reception centre is still required.</p> <p>Police to retain the responsibility for dangerous dogs.</p>

NO.	NOTES OF MEETING	
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	<p>NDWA – to send a letter to the Police reminding them of their responsibilities.</p> <p>Delegates at the meeting were unhappy with the response from DEFRA regarding questions relating to Section 68.</p>
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4.	<p><b><u>DANGEROUS DOGS</u></b></p> <p>HC stated that their Authority was experiencing a problem with the Police not being interested in the issue of dangerous dogs.</p> <p>A letter is to be put together by the Technical Panel reminding the Police of their duty to deal with dangerous dogs. The Panel will liaise with Chris Brereton (W.A.G.) to find out who to contact in the Police hierarchy within Wales.</p> <p>DD suggested that each Authority requires within their local Police Force a Dog Liaison Officer to liaise more closely with the LA Dog Warden Service.</p> <p>LR informed the group that he has spoken to the Police in his region and will not deal with dangerous dogs apart from to assist the Police. The Animal Warden Function is that of providing a stray animal service.</p> <p>RH suggested that should we identify a prohibited type of dog e.g pit bull type, then the Police should be notified in writing. DD added to this, suggesting all dangerous dogs should be notified to the Police in writing, addressed to the local Superintendent.</p> <p>RH posed the question ‘Should there be more dangerous dog legislation ? ’.</p> <p>HC replied it is difficult enough trying to get the Police to undertake their current responsibilities. Any additional duties would just not be adhered to.</p> <p>DD described a recent incident regarding dangerous dog almost mauling a dog warden. Any such incident should not be dealt with by a single officer.</p>
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5.	<p><b><u>SECTION 68 TRANSFER STRAY DOG CONTROLS &amp; DOG CONTROL AREAS</u></b></p> <p>Money allocated for the Transfer for the whole of England and Wales is £4million and is not ringfenced. It has been suggested money received will be based on per capita (population); however, the money is assigned to the particular Council and the relevant environmental health section will have to claim it for its correct purpose.</p> <p>HC indicated an Authority of Wrexham’s population should equate to approx £10,000.</p>
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**PROVISIONS IN PLACE FOR CHANGEOVER REGARDING SECTION 68**  
**April 2008**

	<p>Merthyr - Collection point from outside Police Station/Civic Centre, warden on standby 24 hours a day. <i>(Stray dog numbers around 300 and reducing)</i></p> <p>Swansea - Reception centre at Swansea Council Depot. Not to receive dogs after 9pm. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 1000)</i></p> <p>Denbighshire - Has private kennels, hopefully came to same agreement to take OOH dogs. Alternatively Dog Wardens to be on 24 hour rota. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 230-250)</i></p>
	<p>Powys - Kennels not an option because of the large geographical area. Has placed adverts for expressions of interest for reception centres at private kennels. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 250)</i></p> <p>Conway - Do not offer a 24 hour service currently but are considering this. Conway do have holding kennels for overnight; however, the question was raised whether the overnight kennels need to be constantly manned. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 300)</i></p> <p>Cardiff - Have Council owned, Council run, 24 hour service with security, CCTV etc.. <i>(Has around 1300 dogs through Council kennels; however these are not all strays)</i></p> <p>Wrexham - Are negotiating with English counties to provide a service up to 10pm. A collection service will be given by a private kennels via the Council call centre. Reception kennels 16 miles away from the centre of Wrexham is another alternative. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 600. Working with dogs trust neutering/microchipping)</i></p> <p>Carmarthenshire - The 2 kennels will collect dogs until 9pm and 10pm. Additionally there is an on call service 24/7. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistent around 450-500)</i></p> <p>Torfaen - Currently a 24 hour service; however may be axed in April. Strays will have to wait until the morning for collection. <i>(Stray dog numbers, suspect numbers are falling due to 5 years of microchipping)</i></p>

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	<p>Flintshire - No plans to operate 24 hours. Negotiating with their private kennels to see whether they will take dogs O.O.H. to same degree. Not able to fund a 24 hour service. <i>(Stray dog numbers definitely decreasing to around 300)</i></p> <p>Caerphilly - Considering providing a 24/7 service. <i>(Stray dog numbers consistently around 600-700)</i></p> <p>Vale Of Glamorgan - Private kennels will collect at most times of the day. Also speaking to Cardiff to investigate possibilities of using their kennels. <i>(Stray dog nos reduced by approximately a third since 2000)</i></p>
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6.	<p><b><u>PRESENTATION</u></b></p> <p>Caroline Cowan from the Vale of Glamorgan gave a presentation on dangerous dogs which has again come to the forefront after the recent fatal attack over Christmas.</p>
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CLM/HPH/LOU02

Group to be advised of next meeting which is likely to be in June / July 08