

Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

Managing the Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 12 July 2016 at 2.00 pm
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton EX16 6PP

Next ordinary meeting
Tuesday, 6 September 2016 at 2.00 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

Membership

Cllr R F Radford
Cllr D R Coren
Cllr Mrs C P Daw
Cllr R Evans
Cllr Mrs E J Slade
Cllr J D Squire
Cllr R Wright
Cllr J L Smith
Cllr F W Letch

A G E N D A

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

1 Apologies and substitute Members

To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).

2 Public Question Time

To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.

5 **High Hedges Policy** (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive a report from the Head of Housing and Property Services reviewing the existing High Hedges policy.

6 **Update from the Edible Food Waste Working Group** (Pages 17 - 28)

The group to receive an update from the Head of Communities and Governance regarding the findings of the Edible Food Waste Working Group.

7 **Update on Depot Move**

To receive a verbal update from the Head of Finance regarding the recent depot move.

8 **Update on Grass Cutting in the Towns and Parishes**

The Estates Manager will be in attendance to answer any questions and provide a verbal update on grass cutting in the towns and parishes.

9 **Identification of Items for the Next Meeting**

Note: This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

Gypsy and Traveller Policy
Waste and Recycling Scheme 6 monthly update
Performance and Risk
Financial Monitoring

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Monday, 4 July 2016

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or if you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Julia Stuckey on:

Tel: 01884 234209

E-Mail: jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on 17 May 2016 at 2.00 pm

Present Councillors

R F Radford, D R Coren, Mrs C P Daw,
R Evans, Mrs E J Slade, J D Squire,
R Wright, J L Smith and F W Letch

Also Present Councillor(s)

N V Davey, C J Eginton and R L Stanley

Also Present Officer(s):

Andrew Jarrett (Head of Finance), Andrew Busby (Estates Manager), Adrian Cook (Bereavement and Open Spaces Advisor), Stuart Noyce (Waste and Transport Manager), Suzanne Kingdom (Auditor) and Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

71 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr R F Radford be elected Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2016/17.

Cllr Radford then took the Chair.

72 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr D R Coren be elected Vice Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2016/17.

73 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no apologies.

74 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

75 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

76 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to the Group.

77 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK 00.04.00**

The Group had before and **NOTED** it a report * from the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2015-16 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

The Internal Auditor outlined the contents of the report.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Higher utility spends at the leisure centres due to increased usage;
- Residual waste to landfill;
- Performance figures for brown bin sales;
- The value of recyclable materials;
- Compulsory recycling and the work being undertaken by the District Officers which included letters to those found to be not recycling.

Note:- * Report previously circulated and attached to signed Minutes.

78 **MEETING MANAGEMENT**

The Chairman indicated that he intended to take item 11 on the agenda prior to agenda item 8.

79 **DEPOT MOVE**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a briefing paper * from the Head of Finance updating it regarding progress on the relocation of the Waste Service operation.

The Officer explained in late January 2016 the authority had been given notice from the landlord of Unit 16, Foundry Estate (the current Recycling depot). This notice period would effectively end in mid-June 2016.

Due to the short/medium term tenure of this premise the Property Services Manager, Waste & Transport Manager and the Head of Finance had for the past 12-18 months been investigating other suitable locations within the District. However, due to the very specific requirements of the operation, a site that would ideally suit all the technical, size, staffing and location demands had proved to be a significant challenge.

When Unit 3, Carlu Close, Hitchcock's Business Park, Uffculme was considered, due to the location and size of this unit, it was possible to consider whether to simply relocate the Recycling part of the Waste service, or make a more strategic decision to merge all of the Waste/Street-Scene operations under one roof. After a number of meetings to consider these operational issues, officers felt that the advantages of providing a totally joined-up service would be far more beneficial in the medium/long term.

The Officer explained that Unit 3, Carlu Close was a large industrial unit with a significant concrete parking area. From an operational perspective it was effectively a "blank canvas" that would require a complete "fit out" in order to continue existing

operations. This would require the re-location of operating equipment such as the bailer system, dog kennels, the fuel tanks, the bays (these were designed in such a way to make re-location relatively straightforward), the transfer of circa 90 operational staff from waste, recycling, cleansing and the District officers. In addition 9 porta cabins would be required to house all the staff and provide offices, washroom facilities, meeting space, dog kennels, etc.

The Head of Finance informed the Group that the total fit out costs were currently estimated at circa £310k and that Members should note that an estimate of £100k had been included in the 2016/17 revenue budget as a provision for the costs of a potential recycling depot move.

Operational service delivery would not be affected during the move and it was intended to commence operations from the new location from mid-June 2016.

The Officer concluded that entering into a 15 year lease to co-locate all of the Council's Street Scene operations under "one roof" was a crucial and long term strategic decision which would provide not only long term security of tenure for this key frontline service but would also help provide other operational and financial benefits to the service. Operating from one central base would allow for better supervision, a greater uniformity of operation, the ability to re-deploy resources more effectively and create a closer "team" culture.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Consultation that had taken place with staff;
- The official opening which would take place on Friday 8th July;
- Shared savings with Devon County Council;
- The rent was set for 5 years and would then be by annual review.

Members congratulated officers on the successful implementation on the new waste and recycling scheme.

Note:- Briefing paper * previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

80 REVIEW OF GRASS CUTTING 00.36.51

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a report * from the Head of Housing and Property Services which set out the Council's arrangements for 2016/17 in providing the grass cutting service on Devon County Council's highway verges.

The Estates Manager outlined the contents of the report, explaining that a budget of £15k income had been set prior to the results of the consultation process regarding parishes contributing to the maintenance of highway verges within their Parish.

The Officer explained that the value of the reduced area of highway grass verges for those town and parishes that did not wish to contribute had been estimated at £36k and that staffing levels had been reduced by one full time equivalent. The reduction would be agency staff so had not incurred redundancy costs. When adding contributions from town and parish councils the 2016/17 budget position had been improved by a further £34k.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The varying levels of contribution from Devon County Council;
- Closed church yards;
- The potential to generate income by taking on contracting work for areas such as parish playing fields;
- The need to rationalise equipment.

Note: - * Report previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

81 **NATIONAL ASSISTED BURIALS 00.49.52**

The Group had before it a report * from the Head of Housing and Property Services informing members of the Council's proposed procedure when dealing with a National Assistance burial.

The Bereavement and Open Spaces Advisor explained that National Assistance Burials had been arranged by the Bereavement Services section over a number of years without a written procedure but with an increase in the number of requests for funerals and with consideration to budgetary restrictions it was considered prudent to formalise the current procedure.

The Officer explained that National Assistance Burials were sometimes referred to as "Paupers" Funerals. Mid Devon may be informed by the Exeter Coroner's Office, a Nursing Home, Housing Association or a relative or friend when a resident of the district had died and there was no one prepared or able to make arrangements for the deceased's funeral.

The number of National Assistance burials carried out by Mid Devon had steadily increased over the past decade and there had been 17 since 2006.

Mid Devon had a statutory duty to 'cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority'.

It was proposed that all National Assistance funerals arranged by Mid Devon be by interment in either Crediton or Tiverton Cemetery, unless specific instructions had been left by the deceased. Burial plots within these cemeteries were double depth and had the capacity for two coffins, this would result in unrelated persons being buried in the same grave.

The officer explained that a will may state the preference to be buried in a family plot and that this would be complied with as long as the difference in cost could be paid by a relative or if there were sufficient funds in the deceased's bank account. If a will stated a preference for cremation this would be complied with but only a 'non service service' would be provided.

The current funeral director employed by Mid Devon was Le Roy Funerals who had offices in Exeter and Crediton. Le Roy Funerals won the contract in open competition between all the undertakers on the council's approved contractors list.

The officer further explained that in advance of arranging a National Assistance Burial a genealogical search would always be carried out, this would ensure that any next of kin were aware of their relatives' death and that they were offered the opportunity to make the necessary funeral arrangements.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Family members in receipt of benefit could make a claim for financial assistance to help pay for the funeral of a family member;
- The most recent funeral paid for by the authority cost £1378 which included a cremation;
- If there was any residual money belonging to the deceased it was sent to the Treasury Solicitor.

It was **AGREED** that reference to individual employee names should be removed from the report and be replaced by post names and contact numbers and that reference to Devon County Council care homes should be removed.

It was **RECOMMENDED**, that subject to minor amendments to the report regarding contact names and numbers, Cabinet recommend that Council approve the National Assistance Burial Procedure.

(Proposed by Cllr R Wright and seconded by Cllr Mrs C P Daw)

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank Adrian Cook, Bereavement and Open Spaces Advisor, for the work he had undertaken with the Group over a number of years and wished him well for the future.

Note: - Report previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

82 **TREE POLICY 01.01.26**

The Group had before it a report * from the Head of Housing and Property Services informing it of changes the current Tree Policy following a recent scheduled review.

The Bereavement and Open Spaces Advisor explained that there had been very few changes to the policy but that provision had been made regarding tree work to improve satellite TV reception and solar panel effectiveness.

The officer informed Members that a contractor had undertaken a survey of all trees on Mid Devon land and that this work was almost complete.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet adopt the revised Tree Policy.

(Proposed by Cllr J L Smith and seconded by Cllr Mrs E J Slade)

Note: - Report * previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

83 **START TIME OF MEETINGS**

It was **AGREED** that the start time for meetings remain at 2.00pm.

84 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Gypsies and Travellers
High Hedge Policy
Financial Monitoring
Performance and Risk
Verbal Update on the Depot Move

(The meeting ended at 3.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN

MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT PDG

12 July 2016

High Hedges Policy

Cabinet Member: Cllr Neal Davey

Responsible Officer: Nick Sanderson, Head of Housing and Property Services

Reason for Report: This policy is due for renewal in the current municipal year and Members are invited to review the existing High Hedge policy.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To continue to adopt the current High Hedge policy and processes outlined in Annex A.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: This report has no bearing on the Corporate Plan.

Financial Implications: Detailed in 6.1.

Legal Implications: None.

Risk Assessment: None.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The law giving Local Councils power to deal with complaints about high hedges came into force on the 1st June 2005 and is contained in Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (“the Act”) and the High Hedges (Appeals) (England) Regulations 2005. This provides local Councils to determine complaints by the owners/occupiers of domestic property adversely affected by evergreen hedges over two meters high.

1.2 The Council are aware of one high hedge intervention that took place between 2012 and 2016.

1.3 The law, however, does not require all hedges to be reduced to, or maintained at, a height of 2 meters.

1.4 Part 8 of the Act allows Councils to authorise officers to exercise powers of entry onto private land in connection with this legislation.

2.0 Role of the Council

2.1 The role of the District Council is to act as an independent and impartial third party in the event of a dispute. The Act does not intend Councils to negotiate or mediate between individuals but adjudicate on whether the hedge is adversely affecting the reasonable enjoyment of the complainant’s property. Account also needs to be taken of views and relevant factors that include the hedge owner’s amenity and that of the wider neighbourhood.

- 2.2 It is intended that complaining to the Council would always be the last resort and neighbours would be expected to have made every effort to resolve the issue amicably. The Council may reject the complaint if it is considered that insufficient effort has been made to resolve the matter amicably.
- 2.3 The Council are able to charge a fee for this service that is to be paid by the complainant. The fees set in 2012 are still seen to be reasonable charges for this service.
- 2.4 The Council may issue a notice requiring the owner or occupier of the land where the hedge is situated to take action to remedy the problem and to prevent it recurring. This remedial notice may be enforced through criminal prosecutions and/or by the Council entering the land and carrying out necessary work if the owner or occupier fails to do so.
- 2.5 The Act does not specify which service within the Council should carry out this function (such as Planning or Estates Management) and this currently lies within the Estates and Property Services team. It would, however, be necessary for the Council to adopt a multi-discipline approach which would encompass control, administration, monitoring and enforcement, if required.

3.0 Appeals

- 3.1 Under the regulations, the complainant and the owner or occupier of the land where the hedge is situated can appeal against:
- The issue of a remedial notice,
 - The withdrawal of a remedial notice;
 - The waiver of relaxation of its requirements.
- 3.2 In addition, the complainant can appeal against:
- A decision by the Council that the height of the hedge is not adversely affecting their reasonable enjoyment of their property;
 - A decision not to require remedial action even though the height of the hedge is causing problems.
- 3.3 Although the right of appeal for the above items is to the Secretary of State, all his appeals functions are carried out by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 3.4 There is no right of appeal for any other circumstance and the decision is not considered a case or complaints about the length of time to determine a case would be dealt with through the Councils' complaint system or the Local Government Ombudsman.
- 3.5 Annex A attached details the process of determining a complaint.

4.0 Resources

- 4.1 The requirements of these regulations are being met by the Estates and Property Services team but will continue to require a multi-disciplined approach across the Council with input from other services such as Legal and Planning Enforcement.
- 4.2 The Government advice proposed prevention rather than cure and, therefore, puts an emphasis on amicable settlement of disputes. There are several organisations that will provide advice on the most suitable means for resolving neighbour disputes and offer people practical help in putting together their side of the case such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Devon Mediation Service. Officers will, therefore, exchange information and work in partnership with these other agencies.
- 4.3 The cost of this mediation would need to be borne by the complainant and would not form part of the fee payable to the Council.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Act allows Councils to charge a fee for determining a complaint about a high hedge. The Secretary of State has not, at present, used his powers to prescribe, through regulations, a maximum fee. Each Council is free, therefore, to charge for this service as required.
- 5.2 It is for each authority to decide whether to require a fee; how much this should be; whether to set different rates for different groups of people (for example, those on low incomes or benefits).
- 5.3 It is also for Councils to decide whether or not to provide refunds. In certain circumstances, Councils might wish to return any fee paid, for example if the matter is subsequently settled without Council intervention.
- 5.4 All formal complaints must be accompanied by the right fee. As a general rule, each complainant will pay one fee, irrespective of the number of hedges or hedge owners that might be involved.
- 5.5 The Act does not prescribe the length of time to determine a complaint, however depending upon the number of complaints received a period of 12 weeks would not be unreasonable.

6.0 Fees

- 6.1 It is not proposed to increase the level of reasonable fees detailed in Table 1 and approved in 2012.

Table 1

Fee for determining a complaint about a high hedge	£350
Fee for persons receiving benefit	£175
Refund if complaint has been processed but subsequently settled	No refund
Refund if complaint and fee had been received but not yet processed and subsequently withdrawn	75% refund

- 6.2 We have also looked at fees in other areas for comparison and these are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2

	MDDC	EDDC	NDDC
Fee for determining a complaint about a high hedge	£350	£350	£350
Fee for persons receiving benefit	£175	£350	£350
Refund if complaint has been processed but subsequently settled	No refund	No refund	Partial refund (case by case basis)
Refund if complaint and fee had been received but not yet processed and subsequently withdrawn	75% refund	No refund	Full refund

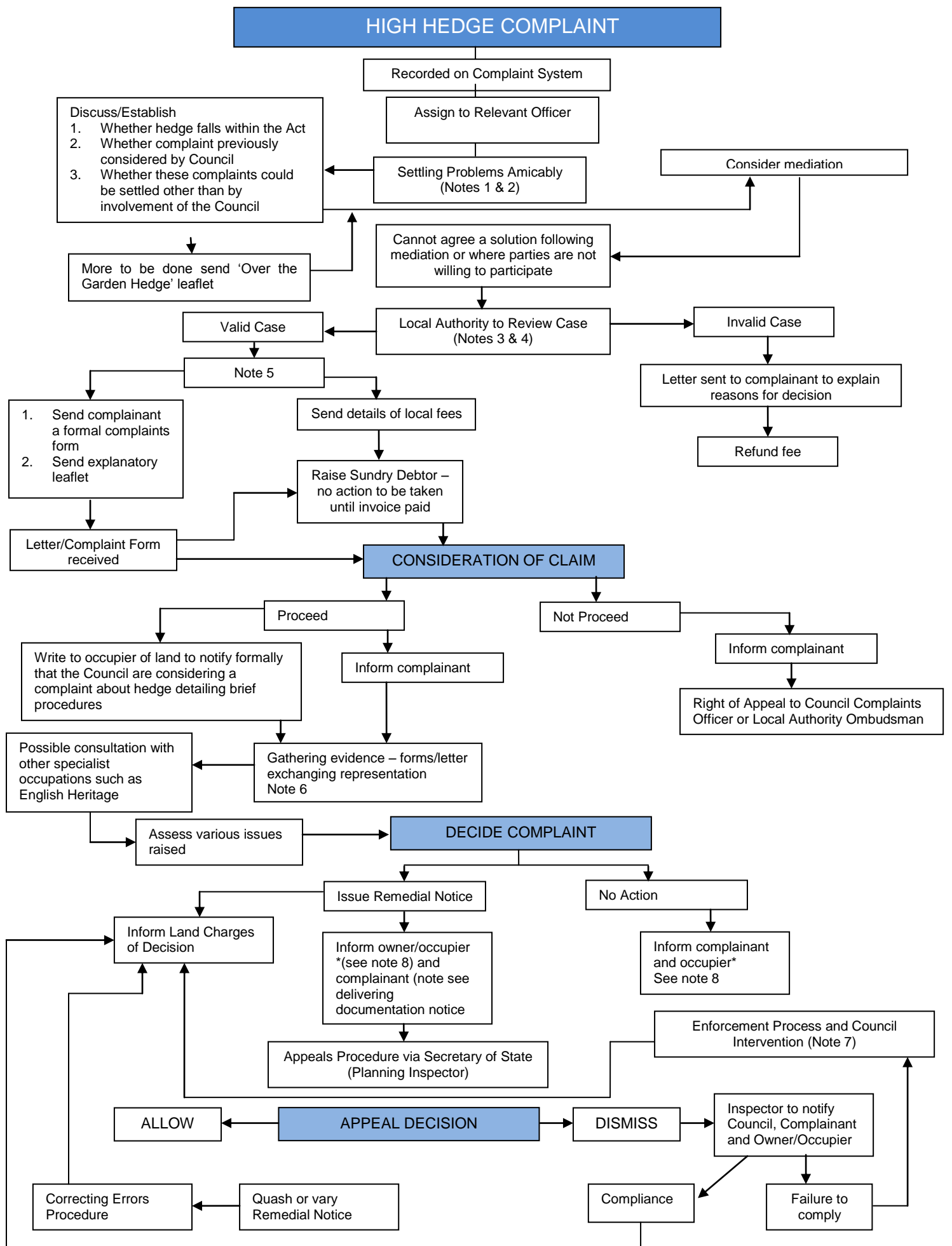
Contact for more Information: Andrew Busby, Estates Manger, Tel: 01884 234948
abusby@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report: Management Team and Councillor Neal Davey

Annex A

High Hedge Complaint Flowchart

1. The law requires people to have taken reasonable steps to try to settle their disputes for themselves before complaining to the Council.
2. Officers should advise on how to deal with neighbours in a way that is more likely to lead to an agreed solution.
3. Act as an independent and impartial third party.
4. Any complaint must relate to a high hedge and meet the definition.
5. When approached by someone wishing to make a formal complaint under the Act, provide the person with policy guidelines and a complaints form.
6. It is necessary to ask the owner/occupier to comment on the points raised and to provide additional information.
7. Councils have the power to enter land where the hedge is situated and carry out the works specified under the remedial notice and recover costs.
8. The Act requires the Council to notify the complainant and the owner of the land where the hedge is situated of their decision and the reasons for it, as soon as it is reasonably practicable. If they decide to issue a remedial notice, this must be copied to all parties. The Council should explain the rights of appeal against their decision and provide the contact details for the Planning Inspectorate.



MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY of a **MEETING** of the **EDIBLE FOOD WASTE WORKING GROUP** held on 17 May 2016 at 4.00 pm

Present Councillors

D R Coren, Mrs C P Daw, R Evans and
R Wright

Also Present

Officers: Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer)

1 Apologies

There were no apologies given.

2 Notes of Previous Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

3 Update from Officers

The Head of Communities and Governance updated the Group with regard to the Food Waste Reduction Bill. She explained that the Bill was still at the reading stage and had been since September last year. It appeared that MP's were not so keen to pursue this through Parliament since supermarkets had been seen to be making attempts to give waste food to charity and to stock 'wonky' vegetables.

Discussion took place regarding progress that had been made by the supermarkets and the lack of local demand for the food waste.

It was proposed that the Working Group stop working on this project until such time as it was believed to be necessary to reconvene.

(Proposed by Cllr R Evans and seconded by Cllr B Wright)

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY of a **MEETING** of the **EDIBLE FOOD WASTE WORKING GROUP** held on 8 March 2016 at 4.00 pm

Present Councillors

Mrs A R Berry, D R Coren, R Evans and
R Wright

Apologies Councillors

Mrs C P Daw and Mrs N Woollatt

Also Present Officers:

Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and Amy
Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance and
Monitoring Officer)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs N Woollatt and Cllr Mrs C Daw.

2 Notes of Previous Meeting

The notes were approved as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

The Head of Communities and Governance provided Members with information that she had found when researching the project. She informed them that the Food Waste Reduction Bill which was due to have its second reading in parliament on 4th March had been postponed.

The Officer talked through the following information:

Food waste reduction bill update

The Food Waste Reduction Bill had its first reading in Parliament in September 2015. Its second reading was due to take place on the 29th January but that was postponed and it is due to take place on 4th March.

According to the Parliamentary website this reading is due to take place on the 4th March. I have checked today and Kerry McCarthy's Facebook page is saying that it is 10th on the agenda and that she isn't expecting much debate.

The Food Waste (Reduction) Bill provisions:

1. Takes forward the recent Belgian and French legislative proposals obliging supermarkets to donate unsold food, which was inspired by a wave of popular support for new laws to end the scandal of supermarket food waste. Although the French laws have just recently been revoked (we hope, only temporarily) for

legislative procedural reasons – they ignited petitions for similar laws in the UK, and the EC also passed a resolution recommending for this law to be extended across Europe. This provision enshrines the strong moral case that food should not be thrown away when people are willing and able to take it.

2. Targets the huge waste generated by supermarkets further up their supply chains, by requiring large supermarkets and manufacturers to publish and transparently report their food waste arising's across the supply chain. Under voluntary agreements, it's not possible to see how well individual supermarkets and manufacturers are performing against the targets. An estimated 20-40% of UK fruit and veg are rejected by supermarkets before they even reach the shops. Just recently, Feedback uncovered some shocking practices by supermarkets which are forcing farmers in Kenya to waste 50% of their produce - from unnecessarily strict cosmetic specifications, to last minute order cancellations.

3. Requires large supermarkets and manufacturers to reduce their food waste by 30% by 2025. Draft legislation for the EC's 'Circular Economy' package set this target (final proposals are expected be announced later this year), which is also aligned to the proposed sustainable development goal target of halving per capita global food waste by 2030.

4. Reinforces the food waste hierarchy – reducing the environmental impact of food waste by reversing the current perverse situation which makes it cheaper to dispose of food nearing its use-by date for anaerobic-digestion, rather than providing it for redistribution – and to implement incentives (and disincentives) to enforce the food waste hierarchy.

5. Reflects the responsibilities on us all to reduce food waste across the whole food system – from individuals in our homes to global agreements.

Kerry McCarthy's website gives a links for people to support the Bill:
How can I support the Bill?

- Support the Bill on Facebook - www.facebook.com/WhatAWasteSupportTheFoodWasteBill
- Write to your MP urging them to back the Bill - www.writetothem.com

Food Waste bill France

French legislation regarding food waste was finally passed by their senate on 3rd Feb 2016. They are the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from throwing away or destroying edible food waste. Instead they must donate it to charities and food banks.

Now bosses of supermarkets with a footprint of 400 sq. metres (4,305 sq. ft.) or more will have to sign donation contracts with charities or face a penalty of €3,750 (£2,900).

France, so far, goes further than the UK, where the government has a voluntary agreement with the grocery and retail sector to cut food and packaging waste in the supply chain and does not have mandatory targets. A report published in 2015

showed that UK households threw away 7m tonnes of food in 2012, enough to fill London's Wembley stadium nine times over. Avoidable household food waste in the UK is associated with 17m tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
French campaigners now hope to lobby the EU to follow suit with legislation

Reducing Food Waste – Belgium

Pre-waste – coaching families to reduce food waste, Belgium.
Document attached

Food Waste Alliance – USA

<http://www.foodwastealliance.org>

Interesting website with articles and news. The section on measuring food waste was interesting.

WRAP – food waste reduction

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/food-waste-reduction>

Lots of useful info including:

Details on Coultard Commitment

Love food hate waste campaign

Anaerobic digestion

Global food waste reduction programmes

Packaging

FUSIONS – food use for social innovation by optimizing waste prevention strategies (EU)

Fareshare – Fighting Hunger, Tackling Food Waste

<http://www.fareshare.org.uk/>

Distributing food from supermarkets to charities.
Bristol is the closest hub to us

Food Cycle

<http://foodcycle.org.uk/>

4 objectives:

reducing food waste

reducing food poverty

training volunteers

building communities

There is a hub in Exeter currently being set up – trying to get more details

Recycle Devon

<http://www.recycledevon.org/>

NFU

Survey re food waste on farms. Devon branch of NFU have actively pushed for their farmers to complete the survey.

Survey still open but headlines so far are:

Respondents who gave estimates of their tonnages came to a total of 195,865 tonnes of fresh produce per year. As a weighted average, a colossal 11-18% of their crop was wasted on typical years, and 15-27% on extreme years, equal to between 21,296 and 52,219 tonnes a year.

Cosmetic outgrading for the farms surveyed ranged from 0-40%. The most popular identified cause of this was “consumers are fussy over appearance,” with about 4/5ths believing this is driven primarily by retailers and only 1/5 believing this is primarily driven by consumers. The next most common cause identified was “retailers use cosmetic standards as an excuse to reject produce when they can get a lower price elsewhere or their demand has fallen,” and then “supermarkets taking over a larger share of the UK retail market from wholesale markets and grocers has led to less outlets for lower grade.

Respondents viewed the biggest cause of supply and demand issues affecting waste as: overproduction leads to greater price volatility, weather produces gluts leading to price collapse, industry concentration in retail has led to less outlets for surplus produce, like traditional grocers and markets, and differences between buyers’ forecasts and confirmed orders making it difficult to find alternative buyers for produce before it deteriorates.

In a list of statements, the most agreed with were Farmers overproduce because there is pressure to always meet buyer orders, or risk losing contracts. It is difficult to find outlets for the surplus” and “Generally low farm-gate prices increase the risk of it not being cost-effective to harvest produce.” The most disagreed with were that “Costs incurred from on-farm wastage and returned produce, which arise from order forecasting errors, are compensated by the buyer” and “Buyers work closely with us to reduce wastage and improve efficiency”.

UK National Supermarkets

Sainsburys

Promote ethical social responsibility on their website. <http://www.j-sainsbury.co.uk/responsibility/our-values/respect-for-our-environment>

Sainsbury’s state “Establishing food donation partners has been a great way of [making a positive difference to our local communities](#) and also reducing waste. It is also a great way for us to better understand the needs of our communities. Arrangements are made at store level. If you would like to receive donations, contact your local store for more information. You will find contact details using our [Store Locator](#).”

Working with the charity foodcycle – Foodcycle hub in Peckham, London.

Sainsbury’s campaign for their shoppers – live well for less

Sainsbury's are looking to double the amount of British sourced food that it sells by 2020. Retail week online article 2011

Guardian Article

Sainsbury's hands Derbyshire town £1m to tackle food waste

Swadlincote, a market town in south Derbyshire, has won £1m from Sainsbury's to invest in finding ways to halve household food waste.

The supermarket will work with community groups and the local council next year to test ideas such as growing mushrooms in used coffee grounds, using artificial "noses" that detect whether food is safe to eat and introducing community cook-ups to find new ways of using unwanted food.

Families in Swadlincote could save a collective £1.2m a year by reducing food waste, Sainsbury's said, and local people would contribute to a book designed to inspire other places to adopt some of the ideas. The town beat 189 rival towns and cities that applied to take part in the trial.

Sainsbury's plans to spend £10m over the next five years to promote similar schemes. Mike Coupe, the chief executive, said: "Food waste is one of society's biggest environmental issues at the moment and there is a genuine passion across the UK to tackle it."

Tesco

Why it matters

Tackling food waste is important to Tesco for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, food waste matters to our customers. Research by the UK Waste Reduction Action Programme (WRAP) suggests that the average British family with children throws away £700 worth of food per year. Secondly, food waste adds significant costs to our business, so it is important that we drive down waste in our own operations. Thirdly, at a time when many people are suffering from food poverty it is unacceptable for any business to be wasting food unnecessarily. Finally, food waste puts unnecessary pressure on land and natural resources, and results in additional greenhouse gases emissions, so by addressing the problem we can reduce our environmental impact.

Our approach

The nature of our business means that there is some surplus food that we have stocked but have not been able to sell. In the UK, we use the following hierarchy to manage surplus food and prevent it from going to landfill:

- We try to minimize surplus, for example by reducing to clear foods close to their expiry date.
- If food cannot be sold, we offer it where possible to those in need by donating to charities. In the UK we divert all surplus fresh food, including meat and produce, from our distribution centres and online grocery centres to support food redistribution charity [FareShare](#). This amounts to the equivalent of seven million meals a year of surplus food, which FareShare uses to support over 1,700 community groups across the UK. In Ireland we are working with an organisation called [FoodCloud](#) so that charities can collect surplus food directly from our stores.
- We send all bakery waste to be converted into animal feed for livestock and our chicken fat and cooking oil is converted into biodiesel.

- If these options are not available, we recover energy from food waste through anaerobic digestion or incineration. We have achieved zero food waste direct to landfill since 2009.

To give us greater insight into where waste occurs across the value chain we have developed food waste profiles for 25 of our [most frequently purchased food products](#). We can use this insight to develop targeted action plans and to identify those areas where we should prioritise our activity.

Guardian Article – June 2015

Tesco teams up with FareShare charity to reduce food waste

[Tesco](#) is starting a scheme which could hand tens of thousands of tonnes of surplus food from its stores to local charities as supermarkets come under rising pressure to reduce waste.

The UK's biggest supermarket admits that it wasted 55,400 tonnes of food from its stores last year, about 30,000 tonnes of which was edible. Some food left over at its warehouses is already distributed to charities, but Tesco currently sends the vast majority of food waste from shops for use as animal feed or to be loaded into anaerobic digestion energy plants.

A new partnership with food redistribution charity FareShare will link Tesco store managers with local charities to hand over unwanted food several times a week. The scheme has already been tested at over 100 stores in Ireland and will go into an initial 10 stores in the UK including outlets in Glasgow, Belfast, Merseyside and London.

Morrisons

Morrison's is different from other retailers because we make as well as sell food. This gives us unrivalled opportunities to reduce waste in the supply chain and pass savings to customers.

We buy and process crops and animals direct from Britain's farmers. Owning our own manufacturing and packing facilities means the food we source is sent to stores or used in our own brand ranges – with very little going to waste.

Our efforts to reduce waste do not stop once food reaches stores. We prepare more food in store than any other supermarket and our butchers and fishmongers can prepare exactly the cuts our customers want – whatever the size.

Our mission to make life easier for customers includes guidance on how to keep food fresher for longer. This storage advice appears on packaging, online and in our regular magazine, helping customers reduce food waste and save money. We also support the Love Food Hate Waste campaign which offers practical advice for consumers and can help save money.

Through careful stock management and discounting products close to their best before date we are minimising the level of food that ends up as waste. We also work with charities to put this surplus food to good use in local communities. Across the UK, unsold food that is still safe to eat is made available and donated to local community organisations where possible. This includes fresh fruit and vegetables as well as products such as tins and packets.

Telegraph Article – November 2015

Morrison's to donate all unwanted food to charity

Morrison's will become the UK's first supermarket to donate all surplus food to charity
Morrison's has announced it will give away all its surplus food to charity instead of throwing it in the bin.

The retailer has become the UK's first supermarket to donate all unsold food to local community groups helping those in need.

It follows a successful trial in Yorkshire and the north east involving 112 stores, according to a report in the Times.

They found each of the stores could supply up to four trolley loads of unsold food a week to help feed the hungry.

"The challenge is finding the right community partners to work with. What we have available will vary," explained Stephen Butts, head of corporate responsibility for Morrison's.

"Ideally we are looking for groups that can cook the food, meaning they can blend it [with food from other sources]."

The new initiative will to be rolled out nationwide, with one member of staff in each store being responsible for working with the charity groups.

Legally, Morrison's is unable to donate food past its 'use-by' date but can offer food that is safe to be eaten and past its best-before date.

Marks and Spencer

M&S press release October 2015

M&S LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE SURPLUS FOOD REDISTRIBUTION SCHEME TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD CHARITIES

Marks & Spencer (M&S) today announces the launch of a new nationwide surplus food redistribution scheme which will connect all its stores with local food charities and accelerate M&S towards its Plan A target of reducing food waste by 20% by 2020.

Food charities keen to participate in the scheme can register [online](#) from Monday 12th October. In the initial launch phase, 150 of M&S's biggest stores will be ready to redistribute surplus food by December, followed by the roll out to all M&S's owned stores by Spring 2016. Redistributed food will include products nearing their expiry date including fruit, vegetables, bread, cakes and groceries, and will vary according to charity need.

Local Food Charities

<https://www.neighbourly.com/>

Searching for our local areas:

Tiverton – food bank being worked on for food redistribution

No results found for Cullompton and Crediton

Approved food

<http://www.approvedfood.co.uk/>

Really good website with lots of hints and tips about food

Perfectly good campaign – all about food labeling and the expiry dates.

Best Before

‘Best Before’ means your food is theoretically at its best before the date printed on the package. ‘Best Before’ relates to the optimal quality of the food (how it will taste, look etc.) and is not related to safety. Food that has gone past its ‘best before’ date is still good to eat, with dates often being subjective in nature.

Product examples: Tinned food, jars, packets, bottles, pouches.

Use By

‘Use By’ IS about food safety. It is illegal to sell foods past their ‘Use By’ dates and they could potentially affect your health.

Product examples: Fresh meat, raw fish & seafood, dairy products (excl. hard cheeses).

Sell By

‘Sell By’ and ‘Display until’ are very confusing but ultimately nothing to do with you! These are very confusing but ultimately nothing to do with you! These are instructions for the retailers. They state when items should be sold and/or taken off the shelves. These don’t relate to the product quality.

The Officer explained that she had a meeting planned with Morrison’s and was hoping to meet other supermarkets soon. Tesco’s had informed her that they were giving food waste to CHAT but were looking for alternatives as CHAT could not take it all.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The need to educate people to prepare food for themselves;
- TV programmes that had raised awareness of the issue;

BW updated the group regarding CHAT at Crediton and how they operated, as he was a Trustee. He explained that people had to be referred to could be helped out of a crisis on three occasions. CHAT work with people to establish the reason that they cannot afford food, such as drink or drug issues. Food banks were not allowed to give away out of date food.

4 Next Steps

Discussion took place regarding:

- AT to undertake further research with local supermarkets.
- An idea to work with PETROC and their catering department regarding a pop-up café in the market which used food waste.

- Crediton food bank was discussed as an example.
- The need to establish the extent of the problem – with regard to both the amount of food waste and the number of people in need.
- ‘Messy Church’ which most local churches hold and provide a meal to mothers and children.
- The possibility of persuading supermarkets to have a section for ‘non-perfect’ fruit and veg.
- The need to identify what is possible in Mid Devon.
- The possibility of putting pressure on local MP’s.
- AT to talk with local supermarkets and local charities to establish their plans and to ask about ‘wonky fruit and veg’.

It was **AGREED** that AT would undertake further research regarding the situation locally and would meet with local supermarkets. At the next meeting AT would update on progress.

5 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was **AGREED** that future meetings should be held following the PDG. Therefore the date of the next meeting was agreed for 17th May.

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