

## Meeting Minutes – Waste Minimisation

**Date:** March 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 18:00 – 19:00

**Location:** Pathfinder House, Huntingdon

### Attendees

Auriane Cirasuolo (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Ana Pongrac (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Oana Hughineata (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Cllr Alan Marnes (Southoe and Midloe P.C. councillor.)

Cllr Dave Shaw (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Cllr Janice Flint (Hemingford Grey Parish Council)

Cllr Alison Brown (Folksworth & Washingley Parish Council)

Cllr Yasmin Rogers (Folksworth & Washingley Parish Council)

Mr Richard Flynn (Huntingdon)

Mr Chris Jordan (volunteer)

Mr Peter Clark (Chair, Buckden Parish Council)

### Apologies

Tom Lemons

Deb Hellett (Kimbolton & Stonely Parish Council)

Nathan Hunt (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Nicola Hatton (St Neots Town Council)

Mary Gatehouse (St Ives)

Ann Barnes (St Ives)

Amanda Turner (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Nic Wells (St Ives)

### **1. Welcome (18:00)**

- Meeting opened and attendees welcomed.

## **2. Current Waste Trends & General Updates (18:05 – 18:10)**

### **Key points:**

- 47% of material collected year-to-date has been recycled or composted.
- Huntingdonshire ranked 41st out of 343 English councils (2022/23).

### **Discussion:**

- Performance is relatively strong but with clear room for improvement.
- Continued focus needed on increasing recycling rates and reducing residual waste in the first place.

## **3. Waste Minimisation Team – Current Activities (18:10 – 18:30)**

### **Infrastructure & Services discussed (textiles and WEEE banks):**

Questions were made around the banks which have been address on the day.

### **Green Waste:**

- Green bin renewal ongoing
- Compost scheme launched (residents pay £10 + delivery via GetComposting)
- Initiative shared with parishes

### **General sustainability:**

- Transition to HVO fuel across 95 vehicles
- Achieved:
  - ~82% reduction in fleet emissions
  - ~1,100 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> saved annually

### **Recognition:**

- HDC awarded Best Performer in Refuse Collection (APSE Awards 2025)

### **Non-Statutory Services:**

- Bulky waste collection (pricing tiers noted)
- House clearance, skip hire, trade waste
- Litter picking support (~200 groups supported)

- Reusable initiatives (nappies, menstrual cups)

#### **Other Activities:**

- Cartridge recycling with charity called recycle4charity promoted to all schools within the district. Schools receive an incentive when participating.
- Library of Things grant application, waiting for an update.
- Waste analysis for targeted communications, final steps are now happening.
- School talks on food waste, including with local Chef.
- SWITCH equipment rollout, we're happy to look at providing to residents or members who wishes to host a SWITCH event.

#### **Engagement & Communications:**

- Events: Eco Fair, behavioural change conference
- Community engagement and tailored communications ongoing
- Strong social media and printed campaign performance, most likely due to the imminent roll out of the food waste service.

#### **4. New Food Waste Collection Service (18:30 – 18:50)**

##### **Legislative Context:**

- Driven by Environment Act 2021 (mandatory food waste collection)
- Weekly collections required from April 2026

##### **Benefits:**

- Increased recycling rates
- Cost savings (disposal + household behaviour change)
- Standardised recycling system across England
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

##### **Scope:**

- Applies to:
  - Households and communal properties (from March 2026)
  - Businesses and non-domestic premises (phased rollout)

##### **Service Implementation:**

- Outreach to property managers and housing associations

- Site assessments and visits
- Delivery of bins and caddies
- Weekly collections aligned with existing schedules
- Monitoring participation and contamination rates

**Progress to Date:**

- ~55,000 caddies delivered
- 1,100 communal bins delivered
- ~30–70 weekly resident queries

**Communications:**

- Standard packs: letters + leaflets
- Pilot materials (e.g. Correx boards) to improve participation
- Additional materials: posters, stickers

**Operational Work:**

- Communal site visits to improve service efficiency
- Data collection on bin stores and access issues

**5. Q&A / Open Discussion (18:50 – 19:00)**

**Key themes raised:**

- Interest in how participation will be monitored and improved
- Questions around contamination and enforcement
- General support for food waste rollout, with emphasis on clear communication

**6. Upcoming Events**

- Multiple **Repair Café events** (March–April)
- Parish and community events (April–June)
- St Ives Green Week (June)

**Questions and follow up:**

Food waste lorry's capabilities.

Environmental benefits of compost VS anaerobic digestion.

Textile banks locations.

Green bin usage for communal areas.

Request for fortified earth for Parishes.

Requests around costs of services.

Southoe food waste challenges discussed.