

**MINUTES OF WISHNI STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2017
AT OFFICES OF HSENI, LADAS DRIVE, BELFAST.**

PRESENT: Jim King – Chairman
Martin Rafferty – HSENI
Denise Donaghy – HSENI
Pat McCollum – Pass International
Peter Johnston – McCreath Taylor
Tony Law – Mid-Ulster Council
Bob Inglis – Avenue Recycling
Les Doherty – Clearcircle Environmental NI Ltd
Russel Drew – Whitemountain Alpha
Prof. Alan Woodside – Ulster University
Ali Laverty – Re-Gen Waste Ltd
Danielle Crockford – Bryson Recycling
Jim McIvor – Derry and Strabane Council
Lynda Warburton – Waste Training and Consultancy Ltd
Alma Hanley – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Corin Goodall – Huhtamaki Paper Recycling
Wendy Doherty – RiverRidge Recycling
Peter Crossey – RiverRidge Recycling
Helen Lewis – NIEA
Howard Wilson – McKinstry Skip Hire
Ann Caulfield – McKinstry Skip Hire
Paula Coleman – Mid-Ulster Council
Keith Patterson – WRAPNI
Mark McCann – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Robert Lannie – Fire Safety Solutions
Justine McIntyre – John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd
Hannah Lennox – Belfast City Council
Jennifer Stephens – Belfast City Council
Nigel McKee – CM Skips Ltd
Graham Coulter – McKenzies (NI) Ltd
James McCormick – MacPac Refuse Bodies Ltd
Peter Kerr – LASAN
Lisa Chambers – Biffa Waste Solutions
Gordon T Boyd – GB Associates
Andrew Briggs – Granville EcoPark
Nicola Branagh – Quadra Consulting

APOLOGIES: Brian Pryce – HSENI
Ursula Walsh – Ulster University
Raymond Martin – CIWM (NI)
Heather Wilson – Biffa Waste Solutions
Anne Coyle – ReCon Waste Management
Aidan Faloon – Quadra Consulting
Nick Willis – Fire Safety Solutions
Kim Traynor – Traynor’s Ltd
Agnes Gray – Traynor’s Ltd
Tara Higgins Belfast City Council
Danny Patton ISL Waste Management

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

JK welcomed all to the meeting before inviting all attending to introduce themselves.

2. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

MR wished to discuss the replacement for Technical Competence and lighting at the rear of reversing RCV’s.

GB wished to discuss EU Skills and questionnaire.

TL wished to discuss the noise at rear of refuse bodies and the measurement of noise.

3. 2018 WISHNI AMBASSADOR AWARDS AND SAFETY SEMINAR

a. Application Process

It was agreed that the application process would remain the same as last year and applications would be available on-line via the HSENI website.

Closing date for receipt of applications would be 19th January 2018

b. Finance / Venue

MR asked those present for suggestions of a venue to contact him. It was explained that one large room or two separate rooms would be required to facilitate approx. 150 guests and between 20-30 exhibitors

Sponsorship of the event would again be welcomed for this year’s event. Minimum sponsorship has been set at £200 which will include displaying of company logo in event promotional material which would be on displayed in local trade magazines,

HSENI's website and sent out via mail shot to waste industry representatives. All sponsors will receive advertising on screens during the event and free exhibition space at the event.

Those organisations wishing to sponsor part of the event to a value greater than £200, such as buffet would be awarded the status of Platinum Sponsor and would avail of a more desirable exhibition pitch and longer and larger advertising on the day and within local trade magazines.

Exhibition stands would be available to all other organisations at a fee of £100.

c. Guest Speakers

Guest speakers would include a presentation from MRA Partnership looking at Vehicle Pedestrian Segregation, Occupational Health and Hygiene possibly by a representative of British Occupation Health Society, Bobby Carlisle looking at training, HSENI giving an update on the waste industry and the Student Ambassador.

JK asked for all organisations to become ambassadors and help develop best practice driving down the number of accidents within the industry. JK continued to say the purpose of WISHNI was to share best practice and to improve the industry by focussing on the target areas which were noted on the WISHNI card.

4. TOPIC FOR STUDENT AMBASSADOR

It was agreed that the topic for the Student Ambassador this year would be Workplace Transport with emphasis on vehicle-pedestrian segregation within the workplace.

5. UPDATE FROM HSENI

MR updated all on recent visits enforcement action taken by HSENI since the beginning of April 2017. To date 8 Improvement Notices have been served, along with 2 Prohibition Notices and 1 compliance note.

MR informed the group that within the last 3 weeks two major injuries had occurred within the waste industry both of which involved workplace transport. MR emphasised that these issues including those which required enforcement action are highlighted on the WISHNI cards and asked organisations to remind themselves of their content and ensure that their organisations were compliant with current legislation.

MR informed those present HSENI had successfully prosecuted a contractor for health and safety failings whilst working on a waste site resulting in the serious injury to an employee. Further details can be found on the HSENI website.

MR updated everyone on proactive visits that had taken place along with the NIFRS and the NIEA looking at minimising fire risk within waste industries. Feedback was positive from those organisations involved and it was hoped that this would continue to assist other waste facilities.

6. COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY

JK welcomed all those who were attending for the first time and asked them to comment on how and why they had become involved with WISHNI.

Some commented on how MR had attended site and provided them with information regarding WISHNI and had invited them along, others welcomed the increased presence from councils present at the meeting.

Others indicated that they wanted to be part of WISHNI for research into the industry and help deliver the message through specific training.

Some attending were new to the industry and wanted to help promote good practice within the sector.

JK reminded those attending about the WISHNI pages which contained a lot of useful guidance material and was free to download.

7. UPDATE IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS

PJ from McCreath Taylor informed the group about new technology available to assist with the reversing of vehicles. This was going to be on display at the NI Waste Expo on 9th November 2017 at Titanic Belfast.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MR asked if any organisations had encountered any issues regarding the effectiveness or lack thereof of reversing lights fitted to the rear of REL's/RCV's. This didn't appear to have been an issue encountered by industry but more to the fact that members of the public had raised concerns regarding the visibility of reversing lights on the rear of bin lorries.

GB discussed the EU Skills national occupational standard review looking at units which are to be changed. Feedback forms were available. GB will collect the completed forms and return if necessary.

TL asked if other councils use ear defenders whilst working at the rear of refuse vehicles. One council discussed their in-house monitoring of noise which had

exceeded 80 and 85 dBa other councils were asking employees to wear ear defenders and were getting mixed reviews from operators. They were in the process of trialling different ear defenders that would be more ideal.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of ear defenders at the rear of refuse vehicles and the need to ensure that background traffic noise wasn't blocked out.

HSENI's indicated that the wearing of hearing protection whilst out on the public road should be risk assessed by each organisation and the wearing of ear defenders should not increase the risk to the operative.

MR asked if any organisations had been asked to provide evidence of individual membership to WISHNI for the purpose of OCC (replacement to COTC).

No-one else had experienced this. GB and LW explained that people that attend WISHNI meetings would then be required to communicate the details of the meeting to their employees thus ensuring that key safety messages were delivered to all staff.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next steering group meeting would be taking place in the Training Rooms of McCreath Taylor in Lisburn. A date would be finalised in the coming days and an invitation would be sent out.