



CRAG AGM Minutes

16th February 2005

Chiswick Town Hall

Introduction. Andrew introduced CRAG and explained that they are a group of local residents committed to recycling and that the group had been running for two years.

Accounts - Jim talked about the accounts from the last year. Most money over the last year has been spent on the A-Z directory of recycling in the Chiswick area. In total we have spent £1750. Most of the money has come from grants for the A-Z. Part of this money was from BAA in two instalments. They are very pleased with the project and have sent a nice letter. At present there is £113 in the account and this will shortly be supplemented with a £1000 donation from the council.

Events - Graham talked about the events over the last year. This year has really been about getting out there and talking to the public. The group attended six summer events. The first was Chiswick farmers market on World Environment Day. 200 directories were distributed on the day. Next was Bedfont Park Festival, on a very sunny day in June. Also attended Chiswick Horticultural Society Fair and Cavendish School Fair. In October we did a stall in Chiswick High Road to fit in with

"The Big Recycle". Most successful in giving out directories were Bedfont Park Festival, Chiswick Farmers market and Chiswick High Road Roadshow.

Business Recycling- Jim talked about what CRAG has been doing in terms of business recycling. Up to now the group has been working on encouraging recycling in the local community but now we are turning our attentions to what the local business community can do. We have started a pilot project with the Natural Café on the Chiswick High Road. We've started by doing a waste audit over the course of a week to see how much is recyclable. We sorted through it and weighed the different categories. Louise, Graham and Jim did this. The café produces 193kg waste a week. This is about half recyclable and half not. Nappies make up proportion and there is also lots of vegetable waste. Most of this is quite acidic and there are a large number of orange halves. At present they do not recycle anything. Need to find them a solution to help them start doing this. They are very interested and have very little space. It's a difficult problem but one we are working on!

Recycling Directory update - Louise presented this part of the proceedings. Directory was launched a year ago and was put together so it wouldn't go out of date too quickly. We're currently thinking about an addenda sheet with info on contacts that have changed or anything that needs to be added. Will extend lifetime and directory remains a useful document. On the A-Z section of the website updates will be

indicated so people will know if a contact has changed. We've currently distributed half of the directories. We wanted to give it out to people who were actually interested rather than do a blanket delivery to all residents. Residents can pick up the directory at Holland and Barrett, As Nature Intended, Chiswick Library and the Natural café. It's quite a lot of work to keep these all fully stocked with directories. They are also distributed through local groups and by CRAG members passing them on to friends and neighbours. We still have sixteen boxes of directories and it's going to be harder to distribute them from now on because so many people already have them.

Presentation by council recycling team – Jayshree Taank. Jay talked about the impact CRAG's activities have had. We have diverted 14.256 tonnes away from landfill in the last year as a result of getting requests for 51 compost bins, which each divert 200kg/yr and 39 green boxes, which each divert 104kg/yr. Jay expressed the council's gratitude for all our hard work.

Presentation by Dan Green from ECT Recycling. Austria, Germany and the Netherlands are all recycling over 50% of their waste. In the UK this figure is 14% according to Friends of the Earth and 17% according to DEFRA. We really need to get better. There's all sorts of ways that this could be done and it would be best to follow routes that have already worked successfully in other countries rather than trailing new methods here. Zero waste model is being used in lots of places including Canberra in Australia, would

be great to be able to say that Chiswick was going to go zero waste. Brent and Ealing are now collecting kitchen, garden waste and cardboard to go for composting. This has resulted in a huge amount of waste being redirected from landfill. Need to put pressure on councillors to get extra schemes like this implemented in Hounslow. A question was asked about facilities ECT provides for businesses. ECT does have facilities for businesses. Provide facilities at £7 a pick up. Would be possible for small businesses to club together for one collection. Another question was asked about green box collection. It is very difficult to get staff to do the collection carefully. Very difficult to find staff to do this kind of work, increasingly staff are coming from the new EU countries in Eastern Europe. Supervisors follow them up by checking up on them. ECT does get problems but it is improving and they are trying to keep on top of it. Dan was asked whether ECT offset CO2 emissions from their vehicles. It's something that is not taken into account at present but it could be something that is presented to the council as part of the cost of contract.

After the formal meeting drinks and food were shared by members and visitors.

Next meeting: Wednesday

16th March

7.00pm

Conference Room

Chiswick Town Hall