

Meeting Minutes – Waste Minimisation

Date: 21 May 2026

Time: 15:00 – 16:00

Location: Online

Attendees

Auriane Cirasuolo (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Ana Pongrac (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Oana Hughineata (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Harriet Robinson (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Amanda Turner (Huntingdonshire District Council)

Cllr Alex Bulat

Sharon Brown

Cllr Stephen Claffey

Cllr Liam Dewey-Beckett

Cllr David Fryatt

Cllr Alan Hunt

Chris Jordan

Cllr Julie Kerr

Cllr Charlotte Lowe

Cllr Jon Neish

Cllr Paul Simpson

Cllr Warren Smith

Cllr Howard Tobias

Apologies

Peter Balicki
Cllr Margery Beuttell
Penny Cooper
Mrs Jennifer Gellatly PSLCC MCIBS
Cllr Martin Hassall
Irene Healiss
Tracey Hope
Cllr Nathan Hunt
Richard Slade
Helen Taylor
Cllr Nic Wells

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting opened with a welcome and introduction from the Waste Minimisation Team.

2. Current waste trends & general updates

The Waste Minimisation Team provided an update on current waste trends and performance. Key points included:

- 52% of material collected in April was recycled or composted.
- 434.28 tonnes of food waste was collected in April.
- There was a reduction of approximately 350 tonnes in refuse collected.
- Compared with August 2024, there has been 3% decrease in refuse and a 12% decrease in garden waste.
- Huntingdonshire was ranked 99th out of 321 English councils in 2024/25, which was later discussed (see Q&A section).

3. Current Activities

The team provided a brief overview of current waste minimisation activities, including:

- Textile and small electrical recycling banks.
- Bulky waste collection and other non-statutory services.

- [Litter-picking support.](#)
- [Reusable nappy and reusable menstrual cup schemes.](#)
- [School resources,](#) talks and recycling points.
- Communications work, including [social media](#) and available printed materials.
- Targeted communications based on waste analysis.
- HVO fleet transition and related carbon savings.

4. New Food Waste Collection Service

The team provided an update on the new food waste collection service, including communications, participation and operational learning since rollout.

The presentation noted that food waste tonnage has held steady at around 20 tonnes per day, while refuse waste remains on an overall downward trajectory.

5. Q&A – summarised

Key themes raised during the discussion included:

- Contamination in compost/fortified earth.
- Durability and placement of bin stickers.
- Benchmarking against higher-performing councils.
- Monitoring recycling and waste performance.
- Food waste caddies going missing in windy conditions.
- The need for practical resident communications around food waste caddy use.

6. Q&A - extended (Actions)

Q - An attendee asked about Huntingdonshire's current performance, noting that the Council had slipped in the rankings. He asked what was being done to address performance and improvement, including how benchmarking is being monitored and whether HDC had reached out to higher-performing councils to learn from best practice.

A - The team acknowledged the importance of monitoring performance and benchmarking against other authorities. It was noted that performance continues to be reviewed through waste data, recycling rates, contamination levels and service trends.

Q - The Clerk of Great Gransden Parish Council raised concerns about plastic and glass being found in the compost/fortified earth offered by the Council. She noted that, aside from this concern, users were otherwise happy with the compost.

It was noted that Great Gransden Parish Council has previously been involved in the Net Zero Villages project.

A – The team has gathered information and have already reached out to the processor to investigate.

Q - A Cllr raised concerns about the food waste service. He noted that, while most food waste caddies are being collected, some collections are missed and some caddies appear to be going missing, particularly in high winds.

A - The team agreed to monitor this challenge, which hasn't been raised yet, and to consider what practical advice could be shared with residents if this becomes a reoccurring challenge.

Contact: wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk