

*RoWToP*  
*Ross-on-Wye Town Plan*

**Report on Environment Meeting with Andy Tector, CHDC's Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards**

Meeting Date: 05/12/07 at 11:30 p.m.

Met By: Brian Atherton, following consultations with the Chairman and the other members of the Stage 2 sub-group, Rob Brain, Denis Claringbull and Dai Harries.

**1. Territory Covered by Andy's Department**

Air Quality; Rogue Traders; Enviro Crime (Littering, Anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, etc.), Public Health as affected by traders; Traveller's Services; Bereavement Services; Markets and Fairs; Waste Management.

**2. County environment policy**

This is under review, following the recent publication of new Government Policy (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/>). In his forward, Ben Bradshaw, the Government Minister for Waste says:

There are important changes underway in the way we deal with waste. We can see this in several different ways. First, we are making significant progress in diverting waste from landfill and in increasing our recycling rates. Second, public environmental consciousness is rising – in particular concern about the serious risk of dangerous climate change. Third, it has become quite clear that we have to raise our sights on waste policy by making faster progress in landfill diversion and recycling so as to reach the levels achieved by many of our European neighbours and by putting more emphasis on the linkages between waste and other policies and in engaging a wider range of players. That means taking account of waste in our broader carbon and resource policies, in our approach to sustainable consumption and production and to Government procurement policies. It means engaging more actively with people and organisations in production, retailing, education and many more sectors. It also means putting more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use; and it means motivating individuals and businesses to appreciate the environmental and economic benefits from waste reduction and in obtaining value out of what might previously have been seen as useless waste material. Finally, these ambitions will not be achieved without bringing into play a new range of policy instruments and tools. This includes better price mechanisms; smarter, more focused regulation; and voluntary agreements based around priority materials, products and sectors. This strategy shows how we intend to make these themes central to our future direction on Waste policy. In compiling the strategy we have greatly benefited from the responses to the consultation which we launched a year ago. There was a broad welcome for the direction we set out then, especially in proposing a more holistic approach to waste. This is a strategy for the whole community, not just for Government. We need to generate and maintain the desire to take responsible action on waste, in which we share a sense that what we do to reduce or better manage waste – as designers, as producers, as retailers, as purchasers, as consumers – will make a real difference to things we care about. Different people and different organisations in different parts of the country will play their part in different ways reflecting different circumstances and that is a good thing.

CHDC has not made any consequential decisions and consultation is at an early stage. Andy promised to include the Town Plan Steering Group in the consultations,

communications being routed through the stage 2 Sub-Group. That consultation is due to be completed and the review finished by September 2008. (N.B. this is a rather less pro-active explanation of the situation from that given by Cllr John Jarvis. That may, of course, simply reflect the on-going difference in approach between politicians and officers.)

### **3. Travellers**

- a. A transit site is being considered. In recent years, travellers from Ireland have increased. Wales has no facilities and so the first "port of call" is Herefordshire.
- b. There is a possible site at Madley but, as with Waste Management, the position is under review.

### **4. Air Quality**

- a. There are monitoring points around the County.
- b. The nearest place to Ross where the figures exceed guidelines is around Goodrich. Others are central Hereford and, to a small degree, Leominster.

### **5. Markets and Fairs**

- a. There is divided opinion and Andy is open to suggestions.

### **6. Enviro Crime**

- a. Current thinking is that issues such as littering, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour may best be dealt with by better cooperation and integration of appropriate Council services, Town Council services, Police and community action.
- b. Proposals and suggestions towards that, arising from the Town Plan, will be welcomed.