

Becoming Chartered

A candidates experience

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Background

- I have worked for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for 26 years.
- I started as a Refuse Collector, then passed my HGV became a Driver/team Leader, then moved into the office as a supervisor and for the last three years I have been a Senior Operations Officer.

When did I hear about the CIWM

- I first became aware of the CIWM when my career moved into the office and I started a HNC in Wastes Management (Distance Learning Northampton University) in September 2009.
- I joined CIWM as a student membership class.
- This allowed me to receive copies of the Journal and access online information via the CIWM website.
- I successfully completed my HNC in June 2012.

CIWM Membership

Upon completion of my HNC I decided to look into upgrading my Membership within the CIWM, I looked at all the different Classes of Membership but made a decision to go for Full membership and if successful become a Chartered Waste Manager with professional status by way of the letters MCIWM after my name.

The Journey to becoming Chartered

- I looked on the CIWM website to ensure I met the criteria in order to become a full member.
- I obtained the two sponsors I required.
- I printed off the guidance notes obtainable from the CIWM website.
- During 2014 I attended an interview preparation workshop.

Preparation

- Read the Journal.
- Look on the website at latest news etc.
- I Follow CIWM etc on social media.
- Try to attend any visits/seminars etc.
- The best thing I did was to attend the New Member Network Annual Event in April 2016, this event was held over two days and covered the latest topics within the waste industry it included a host of speakers plus workshops.

Preparing for the Presentation

I chose a presentation that dealt with a project that I had a lot of involvement with, the panel want to hear about your involvement and not about the project as a whole. My presentation was about the waste collection transformation within Dudley. It was mentioned at my pre interview workshop that the panel are not there to assess your IT skills they are there to assess your knowledge of the industry so on that information my presentation was done on hard copies, one for myself and one for each panel member.

Preparing for the interview

- Practice your presentation, and ensure you are comfortable on the project details, you will be asked questions on it.
- Read about your interviewers when you get sent the interviewer profiles.
- Research the latest news/topics within the industry, you will be assessed on your wider knowledge.
- Talk to your sponsors.
- Remember the basics.
- Relax.

The interview

My interview took place on the 18th May 2016 at Cory Environmental Stafford at 09:30, I arrived early and was told to wait in reception. Just before 09:30 the Chair of the Panel come and fetched me and took me to the room where the interview took place, I was nervous but as soon as I entered the room I was introduced to the panel by the Chair and my nerves went, they made me feel at ease. The chair told me the format that the interview would take and then I was asked to start my presentation.

The interview cont.

The presentation lasted 10 minutes, whilst I was speaking the panel were taking notes and when I had finished they would take it in turns to ask me questions on my presentation, one panel member commented on how he liked my use of I and we during the presentation.

Once that section of the interview was over they asked me questions on other aspects of the industry and to explain a piece of legislation, and also the “simple” question , what is the definition of waste? obviously the answers I gave led to other questions.

The interview experience

The whole interview process was a formal process in a relaxed atmosphere. I can't believe I put off becoming a full member for over 12 months because of the interview. If you do your research and prepare the interview is nothing to worry about. I don't think I would have done anything different, the CIWM website gives you plenty of information along with the pre interview workshops, as long as you follow the guidance and prepare you should be successful.

Benefits of membership

- I believe it lets people know in the industry that you are serious about the industry and are experienced.
- It is a professionally recognised qualification.
- It is evidence of your expertise.
- It is a demonstration of a professional attitude valued by customers and employees.