

Walleys Quarry Landfill

Liaison Committee Meeting

19th September 2019

Present:

Neil Goodwin (NG)
Sue Durber (SD)]
Marion Reddish (MR)
Darren Walters (DW)
Angela Drakakis-Smith (ADS)
Steve Rogers (SR)
Jon Clewes (JC)
Nigel Bowen (NB)
Chris Spence (CS)
Dean Broadhurst (DB)
Ian Barnett (IB)
Sam Boden (SB – notetaker)

Apologies:

Henryk Adamczuk
Amelia Rout
Elaine Moulton
Simon Tagg

Not in attendance (no apologies received)

Nigel Jones
Jan Siery
Tony Eagles
Brian Johnson
Dave Jones

1. Introductions

All members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies given for Elaine Moulton, Amelia Rout, Henryk Adamczuk (Chris Spence attending meeting in his place) and Simon Tagg.

3. Election of Chair/ Vice Chair

Simon Tagg elected as Chair.
Marion Reddish elected as Vice-Chair.

4. Minutes of last meeting

ADS queried point 11 – advising she queried EM's definition of road closure. NG advised that there is a right of way down Rosemary Street. This should be kept open or the operators apply to close the road.

Otherwise minutes approved.

5. Matters arising

Covered above

6. RED Industries Update - NB

NB – Red has acquired a new site in West Bromwich. Haz Environmental are a hazardous waste and industrial cleaning company. This is inline with the long-term strategy of growing the business. ERG business, which was acquired in 2018, has been integrated well.

NB (in response to SD) – only if material was suitable for the landfill would it come up to Walleys. Wouldn't anticipate this would be much.

NB (in response to ADS) – there is a haz cell allowed on the permit, however there isn't one at Walleys.

SB – Red Industries Landfill Communities Fund has awarded over £1.2million since the fund began. Three new applications approved – Eastwood Hanley, Port Vale Foundation, and Burslem Cricket Club. Next deadline for applications is 14th Dec.

MR – there may be a project in Thistleberry to deter travellers from using public community spaces that may be seeking funding. SB – this would need to be checked with ENTRUST (regulatory body for the LCF) to see if it would meet the eligibility criteria. If it does meet the criteria, the application would be reviewed. ADS and CS raised concerns as they feel this is a Borough Council issue. SB advised if it meets ENTRUST criteria then an application could be submitted and would be reviewed along with any other applications received.

SB – over 17,000 newsletters delivered to homes around the landfill site informing residents about the landfill, the community work in the area, and how to get in touch. Copies provided for resident's representatives, councillors etc. to distribute.

7. Site Update - DB

Inputs much the same.

Engineering works underway – expected clay work to be completed this week, temporary capping to be completed following week (weather dependent). Work progressing well.

Application to increase tonnages – additional info has been filed with the EA.

8. EA Update - SR

Complaints:

May 25

June 55

July 42

Aug 90

Sept MTD 56

Have conducted numerous unannounced visits and tours in the area.

Activity by the EA at Walleys recently:

17/05 – offsite odour tour

10/06 – review of leachate management plan

11/06 – review of CQA plan

17/06 – odour tour

22/07 – review of gas well installation

18/06 and 24/07 – indepth audit of gas collection system, management plan, condition of bore holes, gas engines etc. Brought in external experts. Review published – no significant concerns raised by audit team, happy that all is being managed well.

31/07 – quarterly monitoring review. One point noted, leachate at bottom of landfill sits higher than should be. Otherwise all previously raised notes addressed.

02/08 – offsite odour tour

19/08 – attended compaction trial to check quality of clay

28/08 – review of engineering works

04/09 – offsite odour tour

06/09 – offsite odour tour

AMU report estimated to be completed 10/10. Took some extra time as technical interpretation required. Don't know contents until published. Will be a public document.

Offsite odour tours – taken place various hours of the day, pre 6am, and by different officers. Not been able to substantiate the complaints. Not been able to substantiate the odour raised by complainants, even when officer is in area at time of the particular complaint being received. Some repeat complaints. Some very localised complaints – for example one complainant could smell in own garden but not in next garden.

Suggestions from group that recent increase in complaints may be due to tipping face being visible, so in people's minds more.

IB questioned why no odour had been detected by EA.

SR said would like to have been able to detect an odour as could then work to address whatever problem was detected. However, complaints have not been substantiated despite EA carrying out frequent visits. Some callers appear to be reading from a script as they are saying identical words etc. Have had reports of varying smells – rotting eggs, burning tyres, rotting flesh, tar. Complainants are rating a 6/6 severity, which would mean retching and unable to stay in the area. Reports are coming in many hours after the person says they have detected an odour. Odours being reported from the landfill when wind is in the opposite direction. Offsite odour tour extended to include a property that said they could detect a 5/6 odour 24/7 - when EA responded to a complaint, person wasn't at home. Without verifiable and accurate data being reported, very difficult to investigate.

IB suggested low winds in early morning or evening may lead to localised odour at these times. SR advised that complaints are coming in at all times of the day, not just mornings/evenings.

CS – advised could detect an odour when commuting but only in the Silverdale Road/ Cemetery Road area. Reported odour actually been better recently so surprised by increase in complaints.

AMU questioned by IB as not detecting actual odour. SR advised it was in place Jan-mid May 24/7 and includes monitoring hydrogen sulphide (which would indicate the eggy smell if present).

MR advised residents representatives, when speaking to people, to stress the importance of genuine and accurate reporting. CS suggested including information in the parish newsletter.

IB suggested people might not understand the 1-6 scale so are reporting 6/6 without understanding its meaning. SR to circulate what each number on the 1-6 scale means. This is in the public domain already and call handlers should be advising people of this when people call in to complain. *[SB – scoring system included at the end of the Minutes]*

9. NUL EHO Update – DW

Raised objection to initial increase in tonnages application. Queries raised about the gas infrastructure.

Complaints to Borough Council received over a number of years (under different operators too) – suggestion this could be in relation to leachate and heavy rain. JC advised not aware of any connection as leachate is around 20m below surface, so any rainwater would have to percolate through this first, which can take considerable time following heavy rainfall. Leachate treatment plant functioning and do tanker some offsite.

Borough Council has facility for complaints to be raised online. Will be refreshing awareness of this – so may seem upturn in complaints. Complaints received are being investigated (day time) where able.

Received application for housing estate on scrapyard/ where circus is. Expect permission to be granted subject to planning checks. Any issues raised have been explored through the appeals process.

10. Staffs Planning Update – NG

No complaints.

Consulted on amendments to permit (tonnages) – only comments that same conditions apply for number of vehicle movements.

11. NUL Planning Update -EM

Apologies sent.

12. Residents Rep and Local Councillor Comments

SD – no complaints directly received. Have seen Facebook activity including setting up Poolfields Residents Association.

CS – only times smelt an odour us along Cemetery Road/ Silverdale road – would rate 1/6. Lots of agricultural smells in the area.

13. AOB

Sue Durber resigning. Thanks to Sue from the other Committee members.

14. Date of next meeting

21st November @ 3pm. Venue: Quaker Meeting House.

Meeting closed – was stressed that genuine and accurate reporting of complaints is needed and this should be reiterated to people in the area.

Appendices – as provided by Steve Rogers:

The odour scoring system used by the EA is as follows:

Odour Intensity

0 – No odour

1 – Very faint odour (need to inhale into the wind to smell anything)

2 – Faint odour (you can detect an odour when you inhale normally)

3 – Distinct odour (there is clearly an odour in the air as you leave your car or enter the area)

4 – Strong odour (a bearable odour but strong, you could stay in the area for some time)

5 – Very strong odour (unpleasantly strong, you will want to leave the area quickly)

6 – Extremely strong odour (likely to cause nausea and a strong need to remove yourself from the odour immediately)