

Walleys Quarry Landfill

Liaison Committee Meeting

21st November 2019 – 3pm – Quaker Meeting House

Present:

Simon Tagg (ST)
Neil Goodwin (NG)
Amelia Rout (AR)
Brian Johnson (BJ)
Marion Reddish (MR)
Darren Walters (DW)
Angela Drakakis-Smith (ADS)
Sarah Dennis (SD)
Jon Clewes (JC)
Nigel Bowen (NB)
Henryk Adamczuk (HA)
Dean Broadhurst (DB)
Ian Barnett (IB)
Adam Coomer (AC)
Sam Boden (SB – notetaker)

Apologies:

Tony Eagles
Elaine Moulton
Dave Jones

Not in attendance (no apologies received)

Jan Siery

1. Introductions

All members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies received as mentioned above.

3. Minutes of last meeting

ADS advised note: I did not say that it was an NBC issue. I said it was an NBC responsibility. I also said that it would become a legal issue if Gypsies/Travellers were to be prevented from resorting to the area since this is a legal right. This needs to be minuted and corrected. Otherwise minutes agreed.

4. Matters Arising

BJ queried SR's comment in previous meeting regarding people 'sounding like they're reading from a script'. SD attending meeting as representative of EA – assume this was said as when looking at the system, some complaints are very similar/ reported in similar way.

5 & 6. Red Industries Update

DB:

- Business as usual
- Drilling works for gas extraction completed this week.
- Engineering to side walls – completed early Oct. Signed off promptly by the EA. Due to start tipping in this newly lined area in the next few weeks and this with the other newly lined area will be the tipping areas for around the next 12 months.

- ADS: any odours likely from this? DB: No, this has been clay work to line the side wall of the cell
- Taken delivery of new compaction vehicle

NB: Budgets being signed off for next year by the board. Expectation we will continue to invest in the site as we have done this year and previous years.

HA raised concern re vehicle movements/ obstructions:

- AC: Not aware of any RTAs. Do receive complaints re parking which are directed to the County Council unless there's a threat to life etc.
- DB:
 - Red have written to suppliers to advise them not to park in the layby opposite the entrance, not to park up outside the site, not to be a nuisance etc. Also out turning away drivers and speaking to them.
 - Drivers get an induction. We've also put hatchings at the site entrance to reduce any bottle neck
 - Have provided customers with suggestion of an alternative area to park (private car park)
 - Turn away drivers not abiding by our terms, will do early morning spot checks before 6.30am and move drivers on
 - Gates open at 6.45am for vehicles to enter (One gate may be open before this to allow staff cars onto site). First vehicle passes over weighbridge at 7am in line with permit. Room for approx. 12 vehicles between Weighbridge and entrance gates. Pushing back the time for vehicles to enter the gates to 7am is likely to cause more problems.
- AC: Without double yellow lines etc. outside, difficult to enforce. If there are repeat offenders causing a nuisance or drivers acting unsafely, the police can look to speak to the companies and drivers directly and send a warning letter. Any unsafe behaviour should be reported to the police (or to Red who can pass onto the police) – this could include photos, dash cam footage etc. Need to have details (number plate, company name on vehicle etc.) to enable any action to be taken directly with that company.
- ST: Urban clearway/ double yellow lines falls outside of County Council's £7k budget, can put a case forward for this issue to be looked at on a larger scale and see if this can be priority to look at. **NG to pass on comments made at the meeting [ACTION – NG]**
- Time slots would not work at the site and could make the traffic worse. SD confirmed not aware of other landfill sites having time slots – not an industry norm.
- **Red Industries to look at signage at the entrance to remind drivers of appropriate behaviour [ACTION – RED INDUSTRIES]**

7. Environment Agency Update

SD:

- Signed off engineering works on bore holes. Signed off for waste to be tipped in the new areas.
- Continued to conduct odour tours using gas monitor. Have personally been round this afternoon. Also conducting unannounced visits.

- Colleagues have been out in the early morning and not substantiated complaints.
- Have local colleagues who will be conducting evening/ night checks over the next few weeks.
- Waste acceptance audit planned before Christmas (normal part of regulation)
- Gas management audit done this year – no issues, minor repairs to external bore holes being followed up.
- Complaints:
 - Oct 83
 - Nov up to 19/11 = 49, up to 21/11 = 121 – had a high number of complaints Mon night/ Tues evening. Colleagues out on Tues – picked up an odour, when went back to the same place a short while later odour not there, transient. No odour detected at a level to cause pollution outside of the site.
 - Permit variation application – further information that had been requested was sent in end Oct. Draft decision will be advertised for four weeks. As a public body, tied to election guidance that this application cannot be advertised during election process. The draft may be advertised start of next year.
 - Air Quality Report is not in its final version – currently in draft stage. AMU was removed in June – analysis then carried out. Overview summary and full report to be finalised.
 - This is also affected by election guidance. So, report and summary cannot be published during this time. Will release this as soon as able to.
 - Awaiting final report – but on the draft report have seen so far, all results seem to be below WHO levels.
 - Have looked at wind speed, wind direction, other sources in the area (e.g. sewage pumping station)
 - In response to BJ query re identifying traffic pollution - Wouldn't specifically identify traffic times or traffic air quality etc., , monitoring this would need a specific traffic focussed study
 - IB said he believed there were significant issues with the position of the AMU. SD advised Air Quality Specialists identified the site as suitable and EA are satisfied with placement.
 - Looking to do an info leaflet for the local community to explain more about what the EA do.

IB asked how to complain about EA. SD advised can contact the EA's National Contact Centre and go through complaints procedure – details are on the website. IB said he didn't think the EA were doing their job as not substantiating the odour – SD advised officers, including herself, are out at different times of day and night. Not substantiating the odour complaints doesn't necessarily mean there is zero odour, but that it is not at a level likely to cause pollution outside of the site

With regards to substantiating an odour complaint:

- SD: odour must be at a level likely to cause pollution outside of the site (3/6) and considering actions/ operations carried out by the company on site.
- EA officers are on stand by 24/7. Complaints do get reviewed and actioned.

ADS: How many sites to EA see in urban areas and do these require special attention?

SD: There are lots of landfill sites with housing nearby or near where new houses are being built around an existing landfill. Everything the EA does is risk based, so look at level of interest and allocate resource where it's needed.

IB said EA complaints handlers are not providing callers with information on what the scale of 0-6 means. His partner called one evening and the call handler wouldn't explain what 0 meant or what 6 meant. SD advised that call handlers should be providing information on the scoring system, and will speak to the incident communication centre to look into that log for that call.

8. NUL EHO Update

ST:

- Council meeting held last night. Couple of questions regarding the landfill were submitted (copies of Q&A provided separately).
- Decided upon a Scrutiny Committee. Meeting to be held for people to give and hear evidence from a variety of parties regarding activity, allocated slot for public to raise questions in an ordered manner. Could be before Christmas, but depends upon election. This would be an organised meeting with an agenda and clear structure. **ST to send through the details of the Scrutiny Committee including the process, objectives etc. [ACTION – ST]**
- Report on the 'Stop the Stink' Facebook page regarding the council meeting was not factual and not a true representation. Some people left the meeting early before hearing the decision to hold a Scrutiny Committee and what this would entail.

With regards to Stop the Stink and its organisers – Mr Meakin and Mr Eagles have been invited to meet with Red and discuss concerns on numerous occasions, and also invited by MR, but no response. **Invite to send someone to the Liaison Meeting as a representative for Poolfields RA to be extended [ACTION – RED INDUSTRIES].**

Tony Eagles has been invited to the meetings but not accepted - BJ advises this may be due to time of meeting. Time of meeting to be reviewed (see section 12). **Invite to be sent again to Tony Eagles along with suggestion an alternative representative be sent if he is not available [ACTION – RED INDUSTRIES]**

DW:

- Borough Council's role is related to statutory nuisance confined to where people live and work (not open community spaces).
- Since March had 130 complaints (some may be duplicates of EA complaints as asking people to also report to the EA – communicating to minimise cross over)
- Officers have done their best to attend reportings (when within the working day). Last week went to one in Silverdale where complaint of 6/6 had been reported – officers

unable to detect odour after arriving at location within 10mins of complaint being made.

- Have established odours at Garners and Cemetery Road – would rate as a 2/6.
- Yet to establish any odour in Westlands area or Travellers site.
- Not yet established a nuisance which would have a material effect on use and enjoyment.
- Working with Public Health England (PHE) to see if there is any evidence to support/ refute people's concerns.
 - Waiting on air quality report. In meantime, speaking to PHE, EA etc. to go through issues and each party's role in reviewing.
- Raised concern with permit variation to increase tonnages based on technical information re gas infrastructure capabilities. New information has been received and is being reviewed. [Link to comments to be sent to ADS \[ACTION – DW\]](#)

Genuine concern and fear in the local community. Misinformation being circulated, frustration with not receiving results or anyone taking responsibility.

- EA putting out information leaflet to try to help provide information
- Scrutiny meeting could help with visibility and fact providing
- Liaison Meetings show an accountability and record of meeting
- Copies of minutes and permits on Red's website and NUL BC website
- BJ asked if Red could attend meetings (did not attend Knutton meeting previously) – NB advised concern for sending staff into a potentially aggressive environment, happy to consider attending a controlled and structured meeting. SD advised EA would likely not attend another 'publicly organised' meeting (like the one in Feb) due to people not listening and subsequent acts – but again would consider a controlled Scrutiny Meeting.
- Any suggestions with regards to how to disseminate factual information welcome.

9. Staffordshire planning update

NG: continue to make visits. No complaints received. Issues raised regarding highways concerns will be fed back.

10. NUL Planning Update

DW (on behalf of Elaine Moulton):

- Application for Hamptons estate is online.
 - ADS raised concern that proposed houses will be within 100m of landfill boundary despite the EA guidance that housing should be at least 250m away. Odours you can't detect at 250m can be detected at 100m.
 - DW advised 250m guidance was based on ground gas migration. More recent risk based approach looks at ground conditions – clay provides a good barrier for gas migration. There are ground gas migration measures to go in. Investigation into old mine shaft. Ground condition conducive to stopping gas migration.

11. Local Councillor/ Resident Rep comments

BJ queried capacity now and if future application likely to increase even further:

- Variation application not granted yet. EA have allowed Red through an enforcement position to increase to 400KT for this year only (company submitted application on

time but delay on this being picked up, so enforcement position issued to increase tonnages to 400KT for 2019). Decision on variation application for subsequent years not yet approved.

- NB advised reason for increase due to demand generally for waste disposal in the UK. He advised that the UK is a net exporter of waste sending ~ 2MT of general non-hazardous wastes to northern European states each year. Brexit is causing an increase in UK based demand as European facilities less willing to take UK waste and suitable capacity of alternative domestic facilities – with the exception of landfill - do not exist. Scotland's zero-to-landfill legislation may also lead to an increase in landfill demand throughout the UK as they don't have the facilities to deal with this material.
- NB: no plans to submit a further increase request. Red are limited by traffic movements as part of the planning permission, and no plans to request a change to planning permission.
- ST: if tonnage is increased to 400KT, this would mean the landfill could be filled more quickly.

12. AOB

- Red will consider Sumitomo's request to have a representative on the Committee as a representative from a local business. **Red to review and report back to the Committee. [ACTION – RED INDUSTRIES]**
- Request to move time of meeting agreed by members to better suit people with commitments during the day. Propose alternating the times – one in the evening, next meeting in the afternoon. Trial holding next meeting at 6pm.
- HA: Silverdale project to improve skate park facility including new surfaces etc. Est £93k. Will be applying to Red LCF for majority of funding – application expected in Dec.
- BJ: Council have bid for increased land use in certain pockets of Knutton – may increase housing and traffic along A34 and surrounding lanes.
- AC: Any information regarding planned protests or action, please advise the police – happy to attend to ensure no breach of the peace.

Meeting concludes 5pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th February – 6pm. Location TBC.