

Walleys Quarry Landfill

Liaison Committee Meeting

21st January 2021 – 4pm – Microsoft Teams

Present:

Simon Tagg (ST) – Staffs CC
Angela Drakakis-Smith (ADS) – Residents Representative
Henryk Adamczuk (HA) – Silverdale Parish Council
Nigel Bowen (NB) – Red Industries
Paul Lealman (PL) – Red Industries
Michelle Purkiss (MP) - Notetaker
Darren Walters (DW) – NUL Environmental Health
Elaine Moulton (EM) – NUL Planning
Neil Goodwin (NG) – Staffs CC Planning
Amelia Rout (AR) - NULBC
Sarah Dennis (SD) – Environment Agency
Aaron Bell (AB) – Local MP observing
Jon Philpin (JP) – Environment Agency

Apologies:

Marion Reddish – NULBC
Jake Wu – Silverdale Parish Council
Brian Johnson - NULBC
Jon Clewes – Red Industries

Non-Attendance:

Steve Meakin Poolfields Residents Association – Residents Representative
Graham Eagles Poolfields Residents Association – Residents Representative
Tony Eagles (Knutton Residents Association) – Residents Representative
Dave Jones – NULBC
Ian Barnett – Local Resident

1. Introductions – *Simon Tagg*

All members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

As above

3. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

None discussed

5. Company Update – *Nigel Bowen*

Presented by NB and PL, as per slides included with minutes.

6. Site Update – Paul Lealman/ Nigel Bowen

Presented by PL, as per slides included with minutes.

Questions raised:

HA – Is the working assumption still to continue to 2026? PL – Yes planning runs for active waste is until December 2026

ADS – At what point do you install new wells? PL – Wells may fail or move which would result in them being replaced. Also, as the waste mass grows further infrastructure is required. ADS – Do you wait until the gas meets a certain point? PL – No, new wells are installed as early as possible, it could be done while landfilling is still taking place in an area.

ST – While on site visit last week, we observed a mound which is coming to its end. How long will it be to get to the required height? PL – This depends on the waste input. There is currently 3 metres to go on the area by Garners and 6.8 metres to go on the centre of the site.

7. Environment Agency Update – Sarah Dennis

SD – Site visits and remote visits have continued including reports and assessments. These have included gas points, groundwater, further 6 wells to go in. Monthly updates are held with the site, the next one is planned for Monday. Annual review planned with CLP in February.

12 visits have taken place – they are to set locations plus areas where complaints have come from. Some odours have been noted at 1-2 out of 6. There have been no findings at levels of annoyance.

Video on social media showing a vehicle after leaving the site. This has been discussed with the site.

JP carried out a site visit and stood at the wheel wash for about an hour observing its use.

Complaints received in October – 225, November – 193, December – 500, these have been online and formal complaints

Variation application to increase leachate levels on site, amend capping design from clay to include geo-membrane, add additional gas engine has been duly made.

The EA will start making more frequent updates on their website.

Questions

ST – 500 complaints in December? SD – Yes. ST – Could you put this into context, other complaints nationally? Odour percentages? SD – Don't have access to the national data currently. 1-10 complaints not relating to odour, the number is very low. If a complaint is made about 3 things it will be logged as 3 complaints.

ADS – There are holes in the lining on the outside? Is that right? SD – No but I think I know what you mean. There are boundary gas monitoring boreholes to ensure the gas is not migrating out of the site.

ST – Officers have been out to complaints and marked as 1-2 on scale, how long after the complaint were visits made? How high were the reports from the residents? SD – Residents would have rated the odour as 5-6. Times for visits vary from 15 minutes to 1 hour after complaint. There was not always an odour. ST – Odour moves and in 10-15 minutes could no longer be there? SD – Yes it can be transient.

ST – Since Christmas have you seen an extended area for complaints, we have seen this. SD – All complaints are mapped and generally there are 2 main areas. There has been an increase around the Westlands and then odd ones in other areas. ST – What about Hempstalls, Cross Heath, May Bank? SD – Not specifically, main areas are the North and the East of the site.

ST – There was a big increase in December – being reactive to complaints is there a need for more monitoring equipment again to establish any change? SD – Air quality is under review, not just based on complaint numbers. When a decision has been made the group will be updated. ST – How long will that be? SD – In the next week or 2. ST – The odours are seasonal; the monitoring needs to be done before spring.

HA – As an observation I think December and January need to be covered in the monitoring, they were missed last time when the averaging was done. The odour is more persistent at this time. SD – There was no averaging. Please drop me a note and I'll chat with the air quality unit and we'll take it from there.

ADS – Do you look at dust when you are doing monitoring? SD – It is referred to as Particulates on the reports. PL – There are 4 dust monitoring points on site.

NB – How many exercises have been carried out up to now? SD – 2. NB – The results have been largely unaccepted by the residents. If you are going to do another exercise, how is the data going to be treated differently? SD – We need to communicate as a group. We can access the data during the study which wasn't possible before. We can't influence how people accept the results. Last time we tried by producing a full report and a summary. We are open to suggestions about reports. AB – If possible, it needs to be made public in real time on a web page. If the public can see real time data, it may help with influence and remove scepticism. SD – If a further study is done, I don't think it can be live fed. NB – Would the data be validated? SD – It would have to be checked before being published. ST – Having recent data would help people to understand and make it more relevant. I have had people on the phone over the Christmas period in tears, they can't open their windows, they are looking for a source and an explanation. PL – We (the liaison group) are accepting the level of complaints as fact but there is no synergy or substantiation – we would expect a link of complaints to outlying ones. SD – To be clear we can't use monitoring data to assess permit compliance.

ADS – We have had information from DW of complaints received but nothing saying where they are from. Is there another landfill site in Knutton? DW – If you mean the quarry behind the post office might become a landfill, the planning permission specifically excludes that. ADS – Are there any odours coming from that site? DW – Do you mean the clay quarry? ADS – Yes. DW – This is purely clay extraction, there is no waste. I have spoken to the coal authority and there is no H2S from mines.

HA – I would welcome an air quality report based on scientific study. The difference between now and previous studies is the amount being received on site.

8. Newcastle-under-Lyme Environmental Health Update – *Darren Walters*

Excel graph shown

This is anonymised complaint info. It shows dates, what is being reported, postcode, rate, how odour affects them. It does not show house or name.

We share this information with Red on a routine basis.

There is a new streamlined system in place – everything can be reported to 1 place now.

This shows all reports from Jan 19 to Jan 21

Most rating strong or very strong which is the interpretation of the resident.

It mirrors the trends from the EA. There has been a significant increase in complaints for Dec/Jan.

There is a greater number received during the night-time period. Odours typically affect in the property and reported to aggravate respiratory symptoms.

We would like to gain access to properties but unable to at the moment, so odours are being assessed outside the properties. Officers responding often note the odour has dissipated. The officers communicate with the complainant where possible. Visits are made between 15 minutes and 1 hour after complaint made. Spikes in complaints indicate a hardened public awareness including Facebook campaign and change in weather conditions. In my own experience the winter is worse. It is possible there is double counting of complaints with the EA.

Questions

PL – How many substantiations have been made? DW – I haven't got a specific figure but will share the information after the meeting. Any odours confirmed have been rated 1-2, maybe a 3 but none identified as a substantiated odour. We are being told it is different at night-time. ST – late evening, early morning is when we see more complaints and longer odours.

PL – Are substantiated reports marked with a smell scale? DW – Yes. PL – We don't recall being informed of any rated at a 3. DW – The visits mainly resulted in no odour present. PL – During the response visits, if there is no odour present are we assuming the odour has dissipated? DW – Yes, the officer will wait about 10 minutes and will try and track the odour. PL – So we are assuming the odour is there? DW – Yes, it seems to be a common complaint as rotten egg. The council role only extends to living and working in a statutory nuisance. Complaints from people 'passing through' are not recorded.

AR – Do you record whether the resident agrees with the officer's observation? DW – Yes

DW – there are other processes in the area that produce similar odour. Examples include filling gas bottles with H₂S (Hydrogen Sulphide). We are investigating to ensure finger is pointed in the right direction. There are 2 sites in Bradwell and Chesterton.

AR – Is the score that the officers record on each case? If not can it be? DW – The information is purely from the complaint system – we are working on adding additional information. AR – Will you keep us posted? DW – Yes as far as it doesn't compromise regulatory information.

NB – Have we already received this summary? DW – Yes, if not let me know and I will send it. NB – It would have been beneficial to receive it before the meeting so there was an opportunity to consider the information and our response. This arrived a couple of hours prior to the meeting. DW – Will do this in future but only got this information today.

9. Staffordshire Planning Update – Neil Goodwin

Not a lot to add.

There have been a couple of submissions including the habitat management plan which will be published when complete.

We have had 1 complaint for deposits on the highway which the company responded to.

ST – Highways issues include ST and AB writing to the council about changes to the layby and adding double yellow lines on Cemetery Road. Red are willing to contribute to making these happen to deal with parking and congestion.

10. Newcastle-under-Lyme Planning Update – Elaine Moulton

No further applications and not expecting any applications.

Nothing to highlight. There has been no planning activity.

11. Local Councillor and Residents Representatives Comments

Covered in previous sections.

12. Any Other Business

HA – I have written to Andrew Fear to suggest air quality monitoring at the junction of Cemetery Road and Silverdale Road.

ST – The scrutiny will conclude on the next few weeks with the report being imminent.

ADS – One occasion I drove down Cemetery Road and it was dirty. The next day I was driving behind the wheel cleaning machine. Another day I saw a lorry with no cover.

NG – No regulations apply to vehicles going into the site, only leaving the site.

NB – We are active in controlling customers. If you can obtain the registration details and pass them on, we can take it up with the operator.

SD – Vehicles carrying waste are required to be secure when full.

ADS – The uncovered lorry was going in to the site.

DW – On HA request to Andrew Fear – the Borough council has a network of air quality monitors with exceedances around heavy traffic areas. We have consultants looking at dark side on footpaths. There are no identified exceedances of particulate matter against the standards that currently apply. There are no exceedances for PM10 anywhere in the country at roadside.

13. Date of next meeting

TBC via email