

Hills Resource Recovery Centre Liaison Committee

Minutes of a liaison group meeting held at .Compton Bassett Village Hall on Thursday 12th January 2006.

PRESENT

Wiltshire County Council

Councillor Nancy Bryant (chair)

North Wiltshire District Council

Councillor David Evans

Compton Bassett Parish Council

Councillor Peter Szczesiak

Councillor Peter Barnett

Councillor Fran Creasey

Councillor Serena Henly

Councillor David Jackson

Councillor John Reis (represented by Mr Charles Reis)

Calne Without Parish Council

Councillor Derick Eadon

Cherhill Parish Council

Councillor Dave Grafton

Hilmarton Parish Council

Councillor John Henly

Friends of Compton and Surrounds (FOCAS)

Mr Michael Ransom

Hills Group

Peter Andrew, waste disposal manager

Andrew Liddle, aggregates production manager

Steve Burns, recycling contracts manager

Barrie Hedges, communications adviser

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2005 were approved. It was noted that Councillor Peter Barnett (rather than Councillor John Reis) had raised the issue of odour problems from the composting operation.

PLANNING APPLICATION

Peter Andrew provided an update on the planning proposals that had been introduced at the previous meeting, using plans and photographs which were on display. He explained the sequence of quarrying, landfill and restoration operations. The proposed extension area would provide a total of 440,000 tonnes of sand and create sufficient landfill void space to last until around 2016. Operations would then move into the previously permitted Old Camp Farm area of the site. It was estimated that the whole of the quarrying / landfill areas of the existing site would be completed and restored by 2023, though recycling operations would continue beyond. The proposals would be on public display at Compton Bassett Village Hall on 20th and 21st January and at the Calne Information Centre throughout the following week. Visitors would also be offered site tours on the 20th and 21st. Comments (see attached visitors' log) would then be considered prior to the planning application being completed and lodged.

In answer to questions, the Hills representatives clarified several points:

- Surcharging of the landfill was needed to cater for settlement of 25 to 30%
- The existing bridleway / footpath / cycle way on Low Lane would be temporarily diverted around the edge of the site
- The whole of the facility was a local resource catering for local (Wiltshire) needs
- Oak trees would be retained on the roadside to the east of the site
- Restoration would be progressive
- Hills does not own land to the north which has been identified as having potential for future sand extraction.

Action:

- The company will clarify apparent confusion over the use of the name "Low Lane". Councillor Mrs Henly said that Low Lane related to the Calne end of the lane. She had always known the Compton Bassett stretch as "The White Road", and there could be confusion.
- The company will consider new planting to thicken the screen on the road to the east of the site.
- Hills will welcome any further comments from individual councils prior to submission of the application.

LANDFILL UPDATE

Mr Andrew provided an update on several activities relating to the existing landfill operation:

- The company had circulated a mobile phone number (07789-690735) through which any concerns about the site could be quickly raised and dealt with. One

complaint had since been received about the letting off of a firework from the site. This had been dealt with internally

- £9,000 had been spent to further improve existing litter fencing around the landfill cells. This had been erected on top of screening banks and closer to working areas
- Litter picking was taking place around the edges of the site and signs were being cleaned.
- There had been no further complaints about smell following recent adjustments to the odour controls
- A new road was being built to the landfill area which should help to reduce mud being carried out of the site towards the A4 . The company was currently reviewing its wheel-cleaning facilities.

Action:

The company promised to maintain a watch on mud being carried onto the public road and to arrange sweeping accordingly.

AGGREGATES AND CONCRETE UPDATE

Andrew Liddle provided an update on aggregates activities, outlining the quarry phasing plan. He said that, following the departure of Tarmac Topmix, Hills had established its own ready-mixed concrete operation at the site and was currently constructing a new production plant. Overall traffic resulting from this operation was likely to be less than from Tarmac's activity. The plant would not be floodlit at night, a cause of previous concern.

RECYCLING OPERATIONS UPDATE

Steve Burns provided an update on the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Household Recycling Centre (HRC) operations at the site. The statistics he quoted included:

- The MRF had recycled 64,000 tonnes in the 2004/05 year
- It had achieved 70,000 tonnes in 2005/06, with three months of the year remaining
- Only 1% of the materials brought to the MRF were ultimately landfilled

Materials being brought to the HRC could reduce as a result of the planned construction of a new facility at Westbury. It was still providing difficult to identify a suitable site in Marlborough, a matter of concern to several councillors.

The success of the recycling facilities at the site had in turn helped Wiltshire County Council to become one of the top performing councils nationally.

The company was looking at introducing containers for the recycling of plastics at local banks. It was also talking to British Gypsum with a view to providing plasterboard recycling facilities.

COMPOSTING UPDATE

Peter Andrew reported that compost sales were going well, with notable successes in its use by Vitacress and at the Chelsea Flower Show. The company had invested £250,000 in new equipment to enable it to manufacture new grades. Sales in 2005 had totalled 10,000 tonnes, which included some 20,000 bags through HRCs.

OTHER ISSUES

Address of site

Following suggestions from members of Compton Bassett Parish Council at the last meeting, the formal address of the site was being changed to Hills Resource Recovery Centre, Old Camp Farm, Lower Compton, Calne. This reflected its actual location in Lower Compton and should help to avoid lorry deliveries being made via Compton Bassett.

N AAFI building

The building was now being refurbished by the MoD for use by cadets. Hills was still discussing a possible long-term parking arrangement for employee vehicles involving direct access from its own site.

Gymnasium

Work was underway on improving the landscaping of this area of the site following re-location of skips that had previously been stored there.

FUTURE LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that there need be no limits on the number of representatives wishing to attend the liaison meetings. In the case of Compton Bassett Parish Council, it was felt that all members may like to be able to attend.

LIAISON WITH AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES

Representatives felt that it would be helpful to arrange a liaison meeting with Aggregate Industries in order to achieve a wider picture of quarrying activities in the area. Barrie Hedges agreed to provide Councillor Bryant with the necessary contact details for the company.

OPENS DAYS

Members welcomed the plans for open days on 20 and 21 January. It was suggested that this might be repeated during the summer.

WEB ADDRESS

Members were advised that general information on activities at the site was available from the Hills Group website www.hills-group.co.uk.

NEXT MEETING

The next liaison group meeting will be held at Compton Bassett Village Hall on Thursday 30th March 2006 at 7.00pm. It must conclude by 8.30pm to enable local drama group rehearsals to take place the same evening.