

## **Hills Resource Recovery Centre Liaison Committee**

Minutes of a liaison committee meeting held at Cherhill Village Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Wiltshire County Council**

Councillor Nancy Bryant (Chairman)

#### **North Wiltshire District Council**

Councillor David Evans

#### **Compton Bassett Parish Council**

Councillor Peter Barnett  
Councillor Serena Henly

#### **Cherhill Parish Council**

Councillor Dave Grafton

#### **Calne Without Parish Council**

Councillor Barry Miller

#### **Spreckley Road Residents Association**

Ian Marsh

#### **Compton Bassett No 1 Residents Association**

Jemma Gurney  
Bradley Gurney  
Alan Knight

#### **Friends of Compton and Surrounds (FOCAS)**

Michael Ransom

### **CPRE**

Anne Henshaw

#### **Wiltshire County Council (officer)**

Jo Freyther, planning officer

#### **Hills Group**

Steve Burns, recycling manager  
Edwyn Dodds, waste facilities manager  
Andrew Liddle, aggregates production manager  
Barrie Hedges, communications adviser

## Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Szczesiak (Compton Bassett PC) Councillor John Henly (Hilmarton PC), David Rose (Wiltshire CC) and Peter Andrew (Hills).

### LOW LANE PLANNING APPLICATION

It was confirmed that further information requested by Wiltshire County Council had now been supplied by Hills and had been circulated to consultees, including the various councils represented on the liaison committee. It had also been advertised as being available through local libraries and council offices. The only exception to this was new ecological information, which had had to await additional surveys that could not be completed until the end of August. An update meeting between WCC and Hills was planned for 26<sup>th</sup> September. Note: The WCC planning representative at the meeting, Jo Freyther, has since advised that the no committee date has yet been set.

Several members of the committee expressed concern that the new (and substantially technical) information had been circulated with a very limited deadline in which to comment. Jo Freyther, was asked to establish whether this could be extended.

**Action:** It was agreed that Jo Freyther would consult with colleagues re the deadline for comments. She will liaise with Barrie Hedges who will in turn advise members of the liaison committee and, if possible, circulate a digital copy of the new information. Note: Jo has since advised that she is happy to allow an additional 10 days for comment.

### EXTENDED HOURS PLANNING APPLICATION

It was reported that the planning application submitted in March 2006 for extended opening hours is still being considered by Wiltshire County Council.

Steve Burns explained the changing pattern of waste and recycling collections across Wiltshire which had resulted in WCC asking Hills to extend the opening hours for specific facilities. The application (as now amended) specifies opening on weekdays until 8pm and on Sundays between 7am and 6pm. The landfill site would not be open on Sundays but the site would be open to receive materials ready for processing.

While two districts were now collecting on bank holidays, two others were knocking the collection day forward during bank holiday weeks. The county also now had a successful network of 10 household recycling centres which were open seven days a week and were at their busiest at weekends. This necessitated the flexibility to change bins, which would not be possible without the facilities at Lower Compton being available.

Mr Burns went on to explain that there were several initiatives planned which should reduce the volume of waste coming to Lower Compton from the West Wiltshire and Salisbury districts. Hills was also trying to identify suitable sites for on-farm composting in the south of the county, which would avoid green waste travelling to Lower Compton.

Some members of the committee were concerned that the longer opening hours were the "thin edge of the wedge" and that, once permitted, would open the way to more

extensive weekend operation in the future. While residents from other parts of Wiltshire benefited, it was those in the immediate area of the site who paid the price.

#### **LANDFILL UPDATE**

Edwyn Dodd reported that the current landfill cell is now being completed and is currently at its most prominent. It will be capped with clay in the coming weeks and the gas control system installed. While a permanent cap would not be added until next year, the company had taken the decision to seed the temporary surface with grass this autumn in order to reduce the visual impact.

Following discussion at recent meetings about settlement rates, Peter Andrew had provided research materials which confirmed that settlement of between 20 and 30 per cent could be expected over a period of some 30 years. Mr Dodd explained that, without surcharging, differential settlement could result in future drainage problems.

In the discussion that followed, members asked whether the fact that less putrescible material was now being landfilled would mean that settlement rates would generally be less in the future. On that basis, should the new Low Lane part of the site (assuming permission) be surcharged to the same levels? Mr Burns pointed out that, while less green waste was being deposited, it was also true of inert materials such as glass and construction wastes which did not decompose.

Planned traffic movements through the site were explained with the benefit of a map.

**Action:** The research paper on settlement rates will be circulated with the minutes.

#### **COMPOSTING UPDATE**

Edwyn Dodd reported that the company would, in the coming months, be extending the concrete pad used for composting and would also be shredding wood, which was recycled for chipboard manufacture and as a fuel for power stations.

Steve Burns said that it was likely that permission would also be sought for an in-vessel composting trial at the site. The trial would involve a container about the size of a large lorry trailer in which temperatures and moisture would be finely controlled to break down food waste in particular very quickly. This technology was welcomed by several members of the committee.

Mr Dodd said that a total of five community complaints had been received over recent months and all had been dealt with by staff. Three related to lorry movements and two to smell from composting, one of them occurring when the odour control system had been switched off in error.

#### **AGGREGATES AND CONCRETE UPDATE**

Andrew Liddle reported that there had been little change in these operations since the last meeting. The Hills Concrete operation was continuing to establish itself in the local market. Efforts were being made to conserve remaining permitted sand resources

pending a decision on the planning application for Low Lane.

### **RECYCLING UPDATE**

Steve Burns reported that construction work was underway at the materials recycling facility (MRF) to add new staff and office facilities. The growth of the kerbside collection operation in particular had resulted in many new jobs being created, though recruitment was a problem in an area with near full employment.

Recycling figures achieved across the county were creditable. Between April and August, some 49,600 tonnes had been recycled from total waste arisings of 117,000 tonnes. With a recycling rate of 42.3 per cent, Wiltshire was much envied by other authorities. The recycling target for the full year of 76,000 tonnes should be easily achieved and would pave the way for a target of around 85,000 tonnes next year. At the same time, the county was (contrary to the national trend) seeing its total waste arisings falling slightly.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

Mr Marsh said that he continued to be frustrated in his efforts to achieve a response from the Ministry of Defence over land near the entrance to the Hills site which needed to be more adequately fenced to prevent danger to young people. He was provided with a new contact.

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Mrs Gurney said that residents in the Gloucester Road area were very concerned about the need for a speed limit through Lower Compton. At present, there was no limit which meant that drivers could legally pass through the village at 60 mph. A petition was being raised and support had also been promised by Hills. She was advised that the request would need to be taken before the WCC Regulatory Committee and was urged to secure support from the various parish councils in the area before progressing matters. It was felt that a Pelican crossing would also be needed. The liaison committee was fully supportive.

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Councillor Evans advised that a meeting would take place on 4 October to discuss diversion of the Sustrans cycle route which would be affected by the Low Lane proposals.

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Edwyn Dodd advised residents in the Gloucester Road area that Hills had now established its ownership of a small area of land near their homes. Residents had previously approached the company to ask whether this area might be subject to further planting with a view to providing more effective winter screening. The residents were asked to write to the company with their proposals.

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At the end of its first year, there was general agreement from community representatives that the committee was a facility which they valued and enabled them to maintain a constructive dialogue with the company.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
The next meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2007. Subject to final confirmation, it will be at Compton Bassett Village Hall.