



Hills Community Liaison Committee

Minutes of a Liaison Committee meeting held at the Hills Waste Solutions MRF meeting room 13 March 2008

PRESENT

Wiltshire County Council

Jo Freyther (Planning)

David Rose (Planning)

Compton Bassett Parish Council

Councillor Serena Henly

Councillor Peter Szczesiak

Calne Town Council & Without Parish Council

Councillor Colin Viner

Councillor Shauna Bodman

Cherhill Parish Council

Councillor David Grafton

FOCAS

Michael Ransom

CPRE

Anne Henshaw

Hills Group

Steve Burns

Cliff Carter

Andrew Liddle

Apologies received

Councillor N Bryant, Gemma Gurney, Councillor F Creasey

PREVIOUS MINUTES UPDATE *Jan 07*

Steve Burns reported the management change in the company structure explaining his new role for the Landfill operations

LANDFILL UPDATE

Steve reported on the current work programme for the installation of 24 gas extraction wells in the landfill area which will eventually be connected into the power generation plant. In addition to this report it was also mentioned that while this procedure was carried out it was inevitable small amounts of gas was expected to be released. The result of this work programme will be a noticeable improvement to the visual appearance of the site. We are currently on the upper level of cell16 and this may account for minor noise levels emitted from the plant.

Members confirmed that the odours had improved albeit Yatesbury have suffered recently with strong odour hanging in the air when the weather had been static.

The recent high winds was discussed at length with the members and Steve confirmed the emergency procedures were in place to recover the material blown around the area and would be ongoing until all litter was recovered, this would involve the hire of a 'Cherry Picker' to remove the plastic from the local trees! Members were also reassured that we have dedicated staff clearing from around the sites on a programmed schedule.

Due to high winds Viridor have closed their facility in the past, this was felt inappropriate for the household waste we manage on behalf of the Wiltshire residents and is a fine balance between keeping the streets of the county clear of waste and maintaining the local area adjacent to the Landfill site.

Anne suggested the use of an area below the 'face' of the landfill when we were aware of 'high winds' this would prevent a high level of wind blown litter escaping the netted area in place. This suggestion will be considered.

Steve confirmed that the earthmoving operations were nearing completion on cell 17 and that this would be available for receipt of household waste end of July. A programme of works will be available for

next meeting.

Management of the site continues to improve and the introductions of new operational procedures were assisting the site to improve standards.

Cllr Bodman agreed things had improved but the local residents needed to be specific on any issues raised regarding odours.

David Rose confirmed improvements with odour levels and that these seem to be under control. PPC application in end of August, but we were 3 years away from any further extraction of material (Sand). Earthworks and other preparatory works are expected to commence later this year.

COMPOSTING UPDATE

Steve confirmed the operation has again been awarded PAS 100 status and that the new control system in place for dust suppression and odours was performing well. The Management team had visited other sites in the country to compare management of operations on the site and were encouraged to see that we are carrying out our operations similar to that nationally.

Outlets for our compost product are increasing now that we are approaching spring, this included the recent Heathrow landscape project.

The company are still in the process of sourcing outlets regarding 'On Farm composting' in the south of the county. Members asked regarding available land around the Ratfyn proposal, Steve confirmed this had now been shelved and no further action was expected in relation to this site.

ARREGATES AND CONCRETE UPDATE

Andrew reported that there had been little change in the operations since the last meeting. The Low Lane application was still going through consultation regarding the planned footpath diversion. Andrew confirmed that we would like to do some ground works this summer and next year consider water works. Footpath and Bridleway will be fenced and the hedge would remain during this work. The powerline installation would be buried beneath ground level to minimise environmental impact.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Steve Burns reported on the progress regarding the waste/recycling contract and handed a copy of the report that is included with our quarterly report to the County Council.

Waste arisings trend continues to go down.

Recycling figures achieved across the county at the end of January hit 93,959 tonnes and is on course to exceed last year's performance. Recycling rate of 42.72% had been achieved so far this year.

The County Council are still pursuing a new Household Recycling Centre for Marlborough which if successful would help reduce the waste coming through Honeyball HRC.

Councillor Viner raised the subject of setting up 'Charity' stores at the HRC's, he had visited a site in Stratford where the scheme was well received and that the local community made good use of the material available.

Steve explained the County Council's stance on this type of scheme and that no plans were in place to have such a scheme due to the available space and issues relating to managing one. However we do have a number of local charities who work with us on diverting materials for reuse in the community.

OTHER ISSUES

Jo Freyther reported on the progress of the footpath diversion and that the deadline for comments was the 10th April, Cllr Henly stated that she had not received details of the planning application nor the recent application concerning extending the operating hours, although local parish members confirmed receipt.

Steve confirmed the intention of the recent planning application was *not* to open the landfill from 6am nor was it to allow us to receive vehicles earlier than at present. With the District Councils wishing to collect waste during bank holidays and the increased use of the HRCs we needed to ensure available tipping time for these operations. The main thrust of the application is to allow the landfill site to receive waste collected by the District Councils on Saturdays after Bank Holidays, and to make provision for the busiest weekends on the HRCs.

Anne Henshaw and Cllr Szczesiak raised their concern regarding the Welsh Lorries parked over night in the lay-by on the A4 who continue to use the site as a toilet before arriving at the landfill, was there anything Hills can do to prevent this as they are our contractors. Steve would see what he could do.

Cllr Henly asked for confirmation of vehicles on the O licence and why

was this not raised at the last Liaison meeting, Steve apologized for the oversight this was due to lack of communication within the waste department. There was no intention to withhold information, we are operating 42 vehicles from Lower Compton.

There continues to be a problem with motorcycles, Steve will raise again with the local community police officer and this area will likely be fenced in the near future.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 17th July in the Upper level meeting room MRF Lower Compton site.