

PURTON WASTE & RECYCLING OPERATIONS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a liaison committee meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2006.

PRESENT

Purton Parish Council

Councillor Godfrey Fowler (Chairman)
Councillor Ron Harris

North Wiltshire District Council

Councillor Helen Dixon (also representing Wiltshire County Council)

Ps & Qs

Dr Richard Pagett

Braydon Parish Meeting

Mrs Tricia Portch

Wiltshire County Council (officer)

Henry Newbery, Planning Enforcement Officer

Hills Group

Peter Andrew, Waste Disposal Manager
Edwyn Dodd, Waste Facilities Manager
Garry Johnson, Projects Manager
Brian Fitzpatrick, Assistant Waste Facilities Manager
Barrie Hedges, Communications Adviser

Apologies

Councillor Geoff Greenaway (NWDC and Purton Parish Council)
Councillor Tony Price (Purton Parish Council)
Mike Webster, General Manager, Hills Waste

PARKGATE FARM

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Parkgate Farm site, where development of the first hazardous waste landfill cell and the approach road were underway. Edwyn Dodd and Garry Johnson explained the complex engineering process involved in order to create a secure cell to the rigorous requirements of the Environment Agency. The process was administered by an independent engineer and the final cell would need to be verified by the Agency before an operating permit would be granted. At an expected input of around 50,000 tonnes per annum, the first cell would have a life of around two years.

Action: As she was unable to attend the tour, Councillor Helen Dixon will contact Garry Johnson to arrange a visit at a later date.

TRAFFIC

The company had been conscious of the potential problems created by delivery of plant and equipment to the new site at a time when two key roads in the area were closed. At one point, it seemed likely that large vehicles would need to pass through Purton village. The company had raised the issue with members of the committee while also seeking a solution in consultation with Wiltshire County Council. Ultimately, it had been possible to persuade Network Rail to allow low loaders to cross the rail bridge near Gallops Farm. This meant that vehicles could access from the West Swindon direction and approach the site via the B4553 and Cricklade Road.

Peter Andrew said that the company would be advising customers to approach the site from the West Swindon direction once the site was operational. This should be fairly effective given the relatively small number of customers involved in this more specialised operation. Large contractors' vehicles would not need to access the site again until construction of the next landfill cell in around two years' time.

Action: The company will continue to monitor the situation.

COMMUNITY LIAISON

As agreed at the last meeting, Hills had produced a community briefing document for the new Parkgate Farm operation. This had been circulated to members of the committee and posted on the Hills website www.hills-group.co.uk. Councillor Dixon had also arranged for it to appear in the Purton magazine. Members of the committee were not aware of any subsequent adverse comment.

It was agreed that this added level of community liaison was helpful and that the company should continue to provide updates for the Purton magazine at key stages.

Action: The company will provide updates via Councillor Dixon.

ODOUR INCIDENT

Peter Andrew said it was understood that consideration by the Environment Agency of

the September 2004 odour incident was not yet complete. Members of the committee expressed concern that it had taken so long to complete the investigation and that they hoped the outcome include new procedures at the EA which would prevent such an incident recurring. Peter Andrew explained that new Waste Acceptance Criteria would assist greatly. The company now employed a specialist to assess incoming waste and his remit included checking for potential odour problems

RESTORATION PROGRAMME (PURTON LANDFILL)

Peter Andrew said that plans were in hand to complete restoration of the original Purton Landfill site which would include measures to deal with differential settlement. As part of this exercise, the company would also be considering landscaping improvements.

RECYCLING OPERATIONS

Peter Andrew read a report prepared by Hills' Recycling Manager, Steve Burns. This showed that 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.

Questions were asked about use of the public facilities at the Purton Household Recycling Centre by businesses. Mr Andrew said that the company was launching a new service which would enable businesses producing mixed building waste to take it to the company's site at Blunsdon for recycling. This would be at modest cost.

The company was also looking at how best to respond to the need for new recycling facilities for computers and other electrical equipment which could no longer be landfilled under new regulations.

FOOTPATHS

Councillor Harris had visited the site prior to the meeting and discussed the desirability of footpath improvements where they crossed Hills' land. Mr Fitzpatrick would now draw up a schedule of proposed improvements which would be circulated to members of the committee. This would include the new Parkgate farm area. The process would be undertaken in liaison with the WCC Rights of way Officer.

Action: Hills will circulate the schedule as soon as available

MILLENNIUM HALL

The technical problems with the floor at the Millennium Hall had been raised once again with Hills' Managing Director, Alan Pardoe. It is hoped that it will be possible for the company to make Landfill Tax funds available to assist. It was agreed that the Trustees of the hall should be asked to submit a formal letter, schedule of work required and costs to Mr Pardoe for consideration.

Action: Trustees to be asked to submit letter, schedule and costs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Henry Newbery introduced himself as the planning enforcement officer for WCC and said that he welcomed the liaison being undertaken through the committee. It was his job to ensure that the operator complied with planning conditions. He had received no complaints to date on that front but urged members of the committee and the wider community to contact him if they had any concerns.

Action: It was agreed that Mr Newbery's contact details should be circulated with the minutes. They are as follows:

Henry Newbery
Planning Enforcement Officer
Wiltshire County Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JD

Tel: 01225 713436

Email: henrynewbery@wiltshire.gov.uk

Peter Andrew said that Hills would like to extend to the Purton site the use of a recently introduced 24-hour mobile contact number for use by any member of the public with concerns about the site.

The number is: 07789 690735

Dr Pagett asked for an email contact address in support of the helpline. The address to use of ccarter@hills-group.co.uk

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will take place on Thursday 15th February 2007 at 4pm. It is likely, subject to conformation nearer the date, to be held at BP's offices adjoining the site.