

Notes of Clayton Hall Landfill Site Local Liaison Group – Chorley Town Hall
Wednesday 17 April 2019

Present: Cllr Mark Clifford (MC) Chairman – Chairman of Clayton le Woods Parish Council
Cllr Eric Bell (EB) – Whittle le Woods Parish Council
David Clough (DC) – Residents' Committee
Sue Clough (SC) – Residents' Committee
John Neville (JN) – Environment Agency
Neville Whittham (NW) – Chorley Borough Council Representative
Steve Grieve (SG) – Interim General Manager – Quercia
Mike Harvey (MH) – General Manager - Quercia
Simon Green (SGr) – QSHEE Manager – Quercia
Amanda George – Note taker - Quercia

1 Minutes of last meeting

MC asked if all were happy with the notes of the last meeting and all agreed.

2 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

SG asked to address the meeting before starting on the agenda and advised that Chris Turner and Matthew Barlow had both left the Company to pursue their careers outside the organisation. SG advised that he had been covering the role in the interim and that MH would be starting his employment as General Manager the following week. SG also introduced Simon Green who was the Company's new Quality, Safety, Health and Environment (QSHE) Manager. Both MH and SGr had many years in the waste industry. SG asked MH to give an introduction. MH said that he had worked within the waste industry for over 25 years starting his career as a regulator and had spent 15 years running landfill sites, quarries and transfer stations.

3 Current Situation on Site

3.1 Odour Control and Complaints

SG advised that there had been 3 complaints in February, 1 in March and 13 up to 12th April. SG reported that these were complaints by individuals e.g. one individual could have contacted the EA several times over the same issue and not per incident and therefore the number the EA have recorded could be different. SG stated that the complaints were in connection with off-site odours in Feb and March with the exception of one which was in connection with odour from healthcare waste. The odours reported in April were from waste being deposited as some of the waste being taken now was putrescible and would have an odour. This had been coupled with an easterly wind which carried the odour over Spring Meadow, etc. SGr dealt with all complaints and spoke with 6-8 individuals to explain the situation. SG reported that when the site had been covered at close of play on Friday then there were no further complaints. SG confirmed that the odour was not H₂S or landfill gas.

MC also confirmed that he had been on site recently and in his opinion the smell on site had been the best it had ever been in terms of odour. SG asked MC if he could

repeat this explanation once DC/SC joined the meeting.

SG advised that the company may increase this type of waste going forward therefore there would be the possibility that odour from the waste would be more prevalent particularly with easterly winds.

MC asked for confirmation that each load to site was being covered up. It was confirmed that this has never been the case as too much cover material would be used and that the site was covered up at the end of the day. SG confirmed that SGr had instructed more cover to be applied the previous week due to weather conditions. MC asked about healthcare waste and SG replied that type of waste had to be deep buried and that each load would be individually covered.

3.2 Engineering Works

SG explained that a contract was due to be awarded to extend the cell lining works at the base of the site and also the restoration/capping (14,000 sqm). The capping expected to start late May/early June in 2-3 stages over the summer.

3.3 Waste Inputs

SG confirmed that volumes were down and the company was trying hard to rectify this situation and he was hopeful that a new contract would start in June. SG stated that should the contract be awarded and the volumes change significantly that the liaison group would be advised. (Action MH)

At this point DC/SC joined the meeting and SG recapped what had been said previously with regard to recent odours. SC questioned a smell that had been reported the other night and SG replied that there was no reason why that particular odour would have been any different to the odour that a landfill generally emits.

3.4 Communications

MC asked if the site update issued prior to the meeting had been put on the website and SG confirmed it hadn't but would be.(Action SG)

MC asked if any further communication was planned or whether it would be left at every three months. SG confirmed it would be every three months unless there was a situation that needed to be communicated earlier.

4 Environment Agency Update

4.1 Multiagency Group

JN advised he still informed people as and when required.

4.2 Inspections/Data

JN advised of a couple of items regarding better managing the waste inputs and the way in which the site wall falls but went on to say that these did not affect gas

control. JN did state that as a result of the recent complaints then the EA may look to increase their visits slightly to reassure the public that the site was still under surveillance although not as frequently as last year when there was the odour issue.

4.3 Complaints

JN advised that there had been some complaints in Feb/March but there had been an increase in April (27) which the majority were on 11th/12th which probably corresponded to weather conditions.

4.4 Communications

JN reported that an update was sent out in March and still planned to send another in June. JN will look to review the frequency of communications in June because in his opinion this Group should be the hub of communication going forward. DC asked about the website and JN said that he would be looking to stop the website from June but that anything that was contained within it would be available on a Freedom of Information Request.

5 Local Community Groups

5.1 MC asked about the odour suppressant machine moving to an electric supply and asked when it was used as he had noticed during his visit that it wasn't operational. SG stated that the machine should be used during working hours and that there had been a problem with it when MC had been on site. SGr said that the company was looking to relocate the machine closer to the tipping face.

MC referred to an issue regarding the footpath and litter making its way off site and asked about the fencing. SG confirmed that the plan was to upgrade that stretch of fencing. (Action SGr).

SGr also commented that when winds were high tipping would be stopped.

DC mentioned about some vandalism to fencing and SGr stated that some work had been done as a temporary measure.

EB asked about birds on site and how the number of birds had reduced recently but asked if this was likely to increase with new contracts and if it did what could be done i.e. could it be covered more quickly rather than allowing the birds to be on their all day. SG confirmed that there was no food waste currently in any of the loads but that may not be the case for the future and which would attract more birds. If this did happen a range of methods would be used, as per the permit, to reduce the numbers which could include covering the waste more quickly and using bird scarers, etc.

NW stated that he had been out and about recently speaking with residents and comments regarding the site had been minimal with nothing of significance to note.

DC noted that it had been disappointing that there had been a few complaints in April. DC had emailed a few questions to SG earlier from one member; one was to do with high activity at the end of the site, when will the topography be completed,

why are smells now starting and had the EA not got Quercia “pinned down to be 100%” compliant.

SG replied with regard to activity at the north end of the site which is where the company as looking to cap and restore and as such there would be plant working in that area and as stated previously would increase from June onwards. The complete restoration would not be complete until 2027/28 when the site would be finished but that gradually operations would move away to the south from the area that was affecting people now. SG stated that the concern over smells had already been covered but stated again that if more waste was taken in then these odours were likely to be more regular but it would be a waste odour and not related to landfill gas.

MC asked about the grass seeding and SG replied that it would be reseeded once the soiling and regrading was complete.

MC stated that the last question asked by DC was in regard to the EA. JN replied that the EA had categories regarding grading of issues, Cat1 being worst, Cat4 being minor breaches. JN referred to last year where there were Cat1/2 issues which attracted EA attention. JN said he couldn't comment on recent events due to compliance reporting but said that the EA had not seen significant non-compliance.

6 **Any other business**

6.1 SG referred back to last year and the EA investigation of which the result was still unknown. He said that Quercia had considered its options and had now offered an Enforcement Undertaking. The purpose of this was to try to provide environmental benefits directly those communities which had been affected. Therefore, instead of potential fine/costs being levied by a Court funds would be provided for local schemes through Quercia . This is still being considered by the EA. Part of this undertaking also was that the company had proposed measures over and above what had been recommended for the site to improve environmental performance and also to reimburse the EA for the additional costs it had incurred.

SG stated that he was aware that some in the local community would want to see the company prosecuted no matter what and he understood that however this was a legitimate way to try and directly benefit the local communities. There was a brief discussion and some members thought that this was a sensible and worthwhile idea. SG went on to say that this Undertaking had been submitted in March but as yet a response had not been received. EB asked if this was something that had happened before and SG replied it had and had been applied in many cases throughout the UK.

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

3 July 2019, 6.00pm, Town Hall Chorley