

Notes of Clayton Hall Landfill Site Local Liaison Group
Wednesday 22 February 2022, 6.00pm

Present: Cllr Mark Clifford (MC) Chairman – Chorley Borough Council Representative
Paul Carter (PC) Environmental Health Chorley Borough Council
Neville Whitham (NW) – Clayton le Woods Parish Council
David Snape (DS) Lindsay Hoyle's Office
David Clough (DC) – Residents' Committee
Sue Cough (SC) – Residents' Committee
John Neville (JN) – Environment Agency
Gary Whitehead (GW) – General Manager – Quercia
Amanda George (AG) – Note taker

Apologies: Peter Auwerx (PA) – Whittle le Woods Parish Council

MC thanked Quercia for donating money for the Clayton-le-Woods Christmas Light switch on.

DS asked if Quercia fund local projects directly from Quercia. GW confirmed that c.£83k was donated to the Lancashire Environmental Fund generated from landfill tax with 10% of that being donated by Quercia.

1 **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2 **Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

3 **Clayton Hall Landfill Update**

3.1 **Odour Control and Complaints**

There were zero complaints in Q4 2022; there were however 15 in January 2023.

There was a further odour issued related to the work being carried out by United Utilities to replace water pipes down Dawson Lane. Quercia reported the odour to the EA.

MC said that he had received a complaint from a resident regarding a vibration overnight but that stopped at 4am each morning. GW confirmed that the site was not operational overnight and that there was nothing on site that could cause vibration. DC asked how many complaints had been received and MC replied 3-4.

GW reported that on 18 December the thermal cameras, installed after the fire in July 2022, picked up a hot spot. Lancashire Fire Service attended and doused the area and left within two hours. It was agreed with the Fire Service and EA to continue to douse the area and not to excavate the area to try and locate the cause of the fire prior to Christmas to minimise the risk of opening up an area that may release an odour. Works to remediate the site did take longer than expected due to adverse weather conditions and concerns for the safety of all concerned.

3.2 **Engineering Works**

No engineering works have been carried out due to the works needed to be conducted due to the hot spots.

3.3 Waste Inputs

GW confirmed that during January the MRF remained closed and that there were no inputs to the landfill. MC raised a concern that residents were worried that Quercia would start to take in putrescible waste. GW answered that the company would do its best not to do that, but that at some point the company would have to consider all waste types on the permit and that could include putrescible waste.

Following GW verbal update, DC asked if the lithium battery could be in the waste stream. GW reiterated that the lithium battery was a hypothesis but could never be confirmed.

MC asked if the hot spots could be linked to the incident in July 2022 and GW again reiterated that this would never be known.

MC stated that he was very unhappy with the independent reporting from the press in December which blew the incident out of proportion and caused panic. DC seconded this comment stating that the press had even used photos from July 2022.

NW commented that issues like the hotspots could occur anywhere (*ie on any landfill or waste facility*) particularly in view of the fact that lithium batteries are now wide spread. DC agreed with this stating an example of disposable vapes that are just thrown away without the batteries being removed.

MC asked if the verbal update that GW had given could be included in the update that would be circulated. GW said he would do that. **GW**

3.4 Communications

MC stated that during and following the recent incident that the communication from all concerned to update him had been very good and thanked all those concerned.

4 Environment Agency Update

4.1 Multi Agency Group

Nothing to report.

4.2 Inspections/Data

JN confirmed that since the end of December the EA had made weekly visits to site to ensure that the correct measures were in place and that the last visit was approximately ten days ago.

JN reported that the EA officers that had attended site could not detect any odours during their visits.

4.3 Complaints

JN confirmed the numbers reported by GW and that there were two from Quercia regarding the odours related to the work being carried out by United Utilities.

JN also confirmed that the EA's national technical expert whose field of expertise was landfill engineering and also landfill fires could find no evidence as to what had caused the fire.

JN reiterated that the EA continued to ensure that Quercia continued to take the right measures.

DC asked for an update on the Enquiry and JN replied that he had nothing further to add from previous meetings. DC then questioned the length of time as it was now five years and JN advised DC to continue to ask the question.

5 **Local Community Groups**

DC asked what would happen if the site wasn't full by the time that it was meant to close. GW said Quercia had an obligation to make sure the site was correct and in line with the planning permission.

MC, based on the issues with the leachate treatment following the fire in July which crashed the system, asked if there were any issues following the use of water in December/January. GW replied that a different process was being used and that this was working well.

MC referred to capping and asked if there would be any issues with regard to capping if the site was left dormant. GW confirmed that there is a plan in place to cap a substantial part of the site even if no waste is taken in.

6 **Any other business**

There was no other business.

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 7 June, 6pm, Town Hall