

Notes of Clayton Hall Landfill Site Local Liaison Group – Chorley Town Hall
Wednesday 27 June 2018 – 6:00pm

Present: Cllr Mark Clifford (MC) Chairman – Vice-Chairman of Clayton le Woods Parish Council

Steve Grieve (SG) – General Manager – Quercia
Ian McSpirit (IMcS) – Senior Operations & Technical Manager – Quercia
Cllr Eric Bell (EB) – Whittle le Woods Parish Council
Cllr Matt Lynch (ML) – L Hoyle Office
David Clough (DC) – Residents' Committee
Sue Clough (SC) – Residents' Committee
Jackie Swire (JS) – Environment Agency
Amanda George – Quercia – Note taker

Apologies: M Green (LCC), J Neville (EA)

1 Minutes of last meeting

MC opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and then asked if all agreed to the last set of minutes. ML queried 4.1 9th paragraph and said that it didn't make sense. After discussion it was agreed that this sentence "ML said that it clearly said there was a pecking order of 1, 2, 3 with area 1 most affected and it was good to see that the evidence stacks up but didn't see how it could be used, it confirmed what was known, but it didn't evidence anything" should be removed. All agreed.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Action Group Questions

ML stated the L Hoyle had met with the EA and Dr Sakthi Karunanithi last week regarding a small number of complaints that have been investigated and found not to have originated from the landfill and which was accepted. ML stated that the only issue he had was that this had been stated to constituents with one constituent strongly disagreeing with this with regard to Bluebell Woods and stating that it could be clearly smelled and from his experience the smell was from the landfill but that no doubt Quercia would deny this. ML stated that this was the EA that was saying that they had investigated it and found it to be something other than the landfill. ML said that he would raise it at this meeting with a view to investigating it and if the results could be given to him he could get back to the constituent. ML said that he had had to shut his windows last night because of the fire on the moor but the problem is that residents are still sensitive with what has happened. ML asked how it should be communicated when smells are not coming from the landfill. MC asked what ML's opinion was to Clayton West as his understanding was that there were still issues. MC had said he had spoken with John Neville who had dialled into the fixed monitoring which registered 8ppb and that some of the odour was the landfill and some was not. It was noted that burning seemed to be a topic that was reoccurring and said that the recent burning was related to the moors but questioned why the smell of burning had happened over the last few weeks. JS stated that when these issues came up on Facebook herself and a colleague investigated the areas stated but could detect anything. DC said that he did not think that it was the landfill as that was a very distinctive smell but that it wasn't

causing any real issues. SG stated that there was a difference in odours between rotting waste and methane. DC said that there were occasionally some smells coming from the recycling plant but definitely not the sulphurous smells. EB stated that there will always be a smell from a landfill but he wasn't sure as to what level an odour should be investigated. EB stated that if residents thought that there would never be a smell that that would never happen because it was a landfill. JS said she thought that that expectation had been set but the fact that there had been severe issues over the last six months had made people more sensitive. JS said that she had received an email from M Bennett stating that recent levels had been very low apart from the blip on Sunday night and that had correlated with the monitoring which peaked at 10ppb and she expected to receive complaints at this level. Part of the issue too was the good weather and people wanting to be outside more. SG stated the EB had made a good point in the difference between what was a normal odour compared to abnormal.

MC asked if there were any specific questions and SC replied regarding the noise of the bird scarer. IM replied that the equipment had been bought off the shelf to scare birds, it could be turned off but then the birds would return and confirmed that it was on during working hours. IM asked if there were complaints outside the working hours and SC said she didn't know.

MC said that there were a few complaints regarding noise out of hours but this would be discussed later and asked if there were any more questions.

DC replied that had been about dust and SC added there had been questions about seagulls. MC stated that what he and EB had witnessed when they were last on site were crows and had only seen one seagull. EB stated he couldn't understand why people complained about birds on the landfill when they didn't complain about the hundreds of crows in a field next to the landfill. SG stated that farmers didn't have an obligation under a permit to control then such as Quercia did and because of this it was on the company's radar and that the company would take whatever action was necessary in order to control the birds and comply with the permit.

3 Current situation

3.1 Progress on site

IM stated that the caps were in place and working well. Monitoring continued. Gas lines had been modified to be self-draining and seemed to be working well. The depth of edges had been increased and were being hydrated 3-4 times a day. The gas production was running consistently. Waste acceptance continued but not at the volumes liked and was not aware of any complaints relating to this. The lining works were continuing to progress and helped by the recent weather conditions. The plastic lining was hoped to be started by Tuesday next week. SC asked if this would cause smells and IM said it wouldn't. IM explained that there was a possibility of odours in June but because 90% of the joined piece was in place this hadn't happened and all that was to happen now was to dig into clay and not waste.

MC raised the question about working out of hours. After discussion it was confirmed that working hours were Monday to Friday 7.30am-6.30pm and Saturday 8am-12pm. SG stated though that if there was only 15-20 minutes of work left to do

in order to finish a task then that would obviously take place. IM urged people to still make contact using the residents' helpline and then it could be acted upon immediately particularly in the evenings when the helpline was manned until 8pm.

3.2 Odour Monitoring Results

JS confirmed that there had been a number of complaints at the weekend that had correlated to the spike in readings but never went about 10ppb but for a while they had been between 6-10ppb but once above 5 people would begin to smell it. IM confirmed that they had been on site until late trying to find the source of it but that one couldn't be identified. IM confirmed that everything had been the same in terms of weather, wind etc and explained that sometimes this was possible in that a reason could not be identified. MC asked if it was possible for landfill sites to "burp". IM confirmed that they could but that would be related to atmospheric pressure and there hadn't been a change in that. JS confirmed that on Sunday there had been 20 complaints but that these had related to the previous night and that on Sunday there had been 11 relating to the Saturday but apart from that the EA were only receiving an occasional complaint. SG stated that the company would continue to monitor but that it was still a landfill and sometimes things like this just happened without explanation.

MC asked if there were any more questions and IM confirmed that the company continued to do its own monitoring and that there had been a couple of odours detected on site that he didn't believe related to the landfill and that these had been communicated to the EA, partly to confirm that the company as still conducting its own monitoring but also to raise the issue that there were odours external to the landfill. SC asked if Quercia were going to continue with the monitoring and IM confirmed it would until the company was comfortable with what was happening and that monitoring was happening several times a day.

MC asked JS about any other complaints and she confirmed that there had only been one other blip which was shorter and reached 8ppb however she couldn't say for sure how many complaints as she had only returned from holiday. However in between the blips there had only been the occasional one or two complaints.

MC asked if Quercia had recent direct complaints and IM confirmed that there had been one at the weekend to the helpline. IM suggested to DC that the number be given out again so that residents were reminded to use it. SC said she would put it back on Facebook. SC stated that residents were not calling the EA because their complaints were not going anywhere, EB asked if this could actually be because there were no smells.

3.4 Regulatory Control

MC asked what was being planned? JS stated that she hadn't had chance to liaise with John Neville who went on holiday the day she returned. JS confirmed that monitoring had been scaled back although there were still members of her team ready to respond if needed and that there was still a strong presence on site. IM confirmed that the EA had been on site at 7am on a Sunday morning as they had seen cars on the car park and called to see if they could come along and see what was happening. JS said that she felt that the situation was much less chaotic now

and that they had taken a little bit of a step back.

MC stated that the community announcements had been scaled back but that he thought one was planned this week and asked JS if some of the things asked of Quercia to improve the site could be included. SG commented that at the beginning there were approximately 8-9 items on the gas report received from the EA and confirmed that the company was still working on them diligently over the next few months, deep wells were still planned in September/October but said it would be helpful to the group if there was a better understanding about the different measures that had been taken by the company and were being regulated by the EA and suggested that perhaps this happen at the next meeting. JS said that she would get Matt to put something together. (Action EA/Quercia)

4 Communications

4.1 Multi Agency Group

MC stated that operation Merlin had now ended but acknowledged there was no LCC present at the meeting and asked JS if she was aware of anything and JS confirmed she didn't attend but knew it had been stood down but couldn't comment further. SG stated that he been notified of a meeting on Monday/Tuesday this week and assumed the outcome would be known at the next meeting.

4.2 EA Website

MC reiterated that the update had gone to bi-weekly. JS commented that there had been no update as there had been little going on in terms of enquiries of the reduced service all seemed to be working well at the moment but if this changed it could be revised.

4.3 Social Media

DC stated that the queries had already been dealt with and that activity had been a lot quieter. MC stated that one comment on the Buckshaw website had said that there had been too much information and asking for it to be scaled back. There was speculation that this could be to do with the attention and potential falling house prices.

4.4 Communication Plan

SG confirmed that everything was still in place and that the company's role was to respond via this group and apart from a lack of calls through the helpline thought that the company was responding reasonable well to the regulator and residents. SG confirmed that the company still wanted to do everything it could to communicate as quickly as possible. SG confirmed that the company website hadn't been updated since 8 June but that an update was expected on there today. SG stated that the company was still happy to have people visit the site. EB confirmed that over the next few months particularly for residents at Spring Meadow it would start to improve as areas are being grassed and that would make a difference for people who had been affected from a long time.

5 Future Plans

5.1 Site Developments

MC asked about site developments and SG stated that it had been covered earlier in the meeting, things are progressing well and the expectation for completion is in line with the plan.

5.2 Waste Input Plan

SG stated it was disappointing that the company had not reached the expected level of inputs. This was because the company had been out of the market for a while and commercially the company needed to be careful how it re-entered. Tonnages were expected to increase but at a slower rate. IM confirmed that waste analysis still continued for all waste coming onto site. DC confirmed that he had visited the site the other night and there was nothing that he could see to cause issue. EB raised a point that the site could now take longer to fill because of the slower input of waste. SG confirmed that if the rate of waste inputs were reduced the site would take longer to fill.

6 Community Support

6.1 Landfill Communities Fund

MC again declared his interest in the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. SG said that there was nothing to add since the last meeting, his understanding was that the group was to consider which projects would be appropriate and that some money had been set aside by LWT and a decision was awaited before they responded with any assistance.

MC said that he had met with C Sinnott to see what CBC had to say and he asked CS if Clayton le Woods and Whittle le Woods were to take the initial offer was there a reason why they shouldn't such as a legal reason and it was confirmed there wasn't. MC then said that he had taken the decision for Clayton le Woods, he couldn't speak for Whittle le Woods, to take up the initial offer of work with Quercia for work on Cunnery Meadow refurbishment. This prompted a lively conversation between MC and ML. It was agreed that this was for discussion/decision outside this group and that in future this item should be removed from the agenda.

SG said that the original agenda had been put together by him as a start but that perhaps now would be a good time for a review, ML agreed. SG said that he would suggest some new heading to MC. **Action: SG**

7 Any Other Business

7.1 There was no other business.

8 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25 July, 6pm, Town Hall. There would be no meetings in August.