

**Notes of Clayton Hall Landfill Site Local Liaison Group – Chorley Town Hall**  
**Wednesday 19 September 2018 – 6:00pm**

Present: Cllr Mark Clifford (MC) Chairman – Vice-Chairman of Clayton le Woods Parish Council  
Chris Turner (CT) – General Manager - Quercia  
Steve Grieve (SG) –Quercia  
Matthew Barlow (MB) – Landfill Manager – Quercia  
Cllr Matt Lynch (ML) – L Hoyle PM Representative  
Cllr Eric Bell (EB) – Chorley Council/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  
Amanda George – Quercia – Note taker

Apologies: Angela Barron

MC thanked everyone for attending and welcomed CT, General Manager – Quercia, to the meeting. CT introduced himself and his background.

1 **Minutes of last meeting**

MC asked for a change to how Neville Whittham is listed on the notes and in future is to be referred to as Chorley Borough Council Representative.

ML referred to a paragraph referring to a conflict of interest regarding MC and stated that it should say that ML said there “may be” a conflict of interest. MC argued that ML had stated he “had” a conflict of interest and which he disagreed with. After discussion the note was left as recorded. MC stated that his had now been taken off the agenda but again would always declare his interest with the Wildlife Trust and the Parish Council.

2 **Matters Arising**

None were raised.

3 **Current Situation on Site**

3.1 **Odour Control and Complaints**

MB reported that works had been successful for a number of weeks. There had been a small number of complaints which when investigated did not relate to the landfill but to utility work being carried out. Two drives a day continued around the full perimeter of the site plus additional drives should a complaint be received. There have been reports of burning smells and MB stated that this was not coming from the landfill. EB queried complaints made directly to Quercia as they should also be made to the EA to investigate and if they weren’t made to the EA questioned the legitimacy of the complaint. SG stated that Quercia wanted to maintain its stance that it was doing all it could to ensure complaints were investigated thoroughly due to the sensitivity following on from the odour issue. JN stated that should any burning of waste at the landfill be found it would prompt a significant

response from the EA. JN stated that there could be fires on landfills but that they were usually declared events.

SC asked if a fire would be allowed at Clayton Hall given the proximity of houses. MB confirmed that there would not be any fires at Clayton Hall. JN stated again that if there were a fire at the landfill the EA would take a very significant stance to the point where there could be site closure.

MC stated that residents had mentioned in the past that there were fires because there was a flare stack and a generator. MB stated that this was controlled combustion.

### 3.2 Engineering Works

Cell construction works have been delayed slightly due to change in weather from hot and dry to wet. Contractors are still on site and continuing with capping works on the eastern flank. There are still some deep wells to go in to help with gas extraction. MB confirmed the site facing Whittle and Spring Meadow will be reseeded week commencing 1 October. DC stated that the residents would be happy to see this.

SC asked with the decline in weather whether the problems incurred last year would start again and MB confirmed that they wouldn't. SG confirmed that Quercia continued to work hard with the EA to ensure that previous problems did not recur.

### 3.3 Waste Inputs

Levels continue to increase and now at 500 tonnes of inert waste per week much of which is frag and dust.

EB asked if there had been complaints down Dawson Lane with regard to wagon movements and MB replied that there had been a complaint but it was explained to the person that it was the only access to site. MC stated that he had received a report of a car being "almost wiped out and pushed off the road" but the complainant couldn't remember anything in connection with the vehicle. MC assured the complainant that any reports of this type of driving would be investigated by Quercia and dealt with accordingly.

ML asked if there had been any secondary issues on Dawson Lane such as litter. MB replied that hadn't. ML said he understood that a complaint had been received by CBC regarding litter and that someone had been in touch with Quercia. MB said that there had been a visit by someone from LCC who had been on Dawson Lane to look at litter but also to look at pest control on site. MB stated that the litter that had been found was from McDonalds. CT stated that Quercia would notify drivers to be vigilant and reminding drivers of their obligations with regard to sheeting up, etc correctly and asked for a sign to be put up on the weighbridge. **ACTION: MB**

### 3.4 Communications

MB stated that Quercia continued to be proactive with the EA and stated that this had been noted by the EA. SG stated that as winter approached the company would

not become complacent and continued to communicate even though they may not be much to say.

MB then referred back to an item on the last notes to do with site security and stated that patrols had been increased and that as a result three youths had been caught. MC suggested that it would be good if the company became involved in briefings at local schools to gain greater engagement with regard to recycling, landfills, etc. MC stated that there had been reports of people using the footpath carrying guns and this was being dealt with via the appropriate authorities. DC confirmed that 2-3 years ago he had witness this with small bore rifles.

#### 4 **Environment Agency Update**

##### 4.1 Multi Agency Group

JN reported that it had been difficult to get the MAG (involving the EA, LCC, CBC and Public Health England) together due to holidays and that telecom updates had been held and confirmed that all were still involved.

##### 4.2 Inspections/Data

JN confirmed that the monitoring station continued at the Community Centre which was monitoring methane, H<sub>2</sub>S, sulphur dioxide and dust. There had been an issue with the monitoring station caused by a power cut and resulted in the equipment having to be sent to France to repair. JN reported that there had been no levels reported that were a concern.

JN stated that the data that was currently being collected was showing background levels which were as expected.

JN reported the weekly inspections of the site including gas control, extraction and containment and that the gas contractor is on site regularly and there is good communication between the contractor and Quercia. JN stated that the system that Quercia was using was actually better than the documented procedures that should be used so although a compliment in one way but it was still outside the documented system.

##### 4.3 Complaints

JN report 4 in August, 4 in September with two mentioning gas and two bin/bleach but these were in line with what would be expected from time to time.

##### 4.4 Communications

JN mentioned that last time there had been a discussion where the community had felt "fobbed off". JN had looked into this and thought that it was the community trying to understand what the EA were doing and wanting more information concerning the investigation. Again JN reported that information on this was limited due to the judicial process although the EA had tried to include more information in the last update. SG confirmed that he on behalf of Quercia had attended an interview under caution in early September so the formal investigation was under

way. JN stated that it would be a matter of months before there was any further information with regard to this.

JN confirmed that the monitoring would remain until December. MC asked if there were as problem whether the monitoring would continue and JN said that there would need to be an understanding as to why the problem had occurred and if there was a longer term issue rather than say a liner being ripped then further monitoring would be considered.

In order to give the community confidence JN stated that the Clayton Hall recovery was still a key issue for the EA

## 5 **Local Community Groups**

5.1 DC stated that it had been a lot quieter with no issues on the Facebook page. There had been comments about the replacement fencing but DC reported that the fencing hadn't moved at all. DC talked about the burning smell that had been reported and confirmed that he went to the area concerned and couldn't smell it.

5.2 MC asked if there were any other questions from the public. DC referred to a complaint about a resident with breathing problems and whether it was the tip and DC had a concern that some would not report health issues to their doctor because they assumed it was the tip. DC stated he was informing people to go to their doctor.

## 6 **Any other business**

6.1 SG said he had received a communication from Councillor Perks wanting clarification regarding the landfill community fund and how it worked in respect of any projects that the local community put forward to Quercia. SG explained the process to Councillor Perks but wanted the Group to be made aware that Councillor Perks is happy to assist with this process.

SG went on to ask if anything progressed on this. MC stated that there was confusion to what funds there are. Clayton le Woods has approached the Lancashire Environmental fund and applied for a grant of £30k. SG stated that when ready to receive any assistance from the Lancashire Wildlife trust go through either SG or CT to take forward. MC noted this but also stated that it had now come off the agenda.

6.2 EB commented that since the liaison group restarted in March the Quercia representatives, in his opinion, had been honest and open about the site, its problems and actions and he wished this to continue even though there has been management changes. He was assured this approach would continue.

## 7 **Date of Next Meeting**

6.00pm, Wednesday 31 October 2018, Town Hall, Chorley

