

Notes of Clayton Hall Landfill Site Local Liaison Group – Chorley Town Hall
Wednesday 3 July 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
Craig Miller (CM) – Environment Agency
Neville Whittham (NW) – Chorley Borough Council Representative
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.

3 **Current Situation on Site**

3.1 **Odour Control and Complaints**

SG reported that a couple more complaints had been received since the update had been issued, so 31 complaints in total with the majority being related to odour and a couple relating to birds. All had been investigated by SG including the waste type that had been taken in, where the complainant is located, wind speed/direction, etc and nothing to note had been found and the conclusion was the odour was coming from another source. EB asked if the complaints were from the same location/person and SG replied that Quercia were not made aware of that, only that there had been a complaint.

MC stated that he had been on Spring Meadow and Higher Meadow and had smelled what he described as a “funky smell” not sulphide though.

MC also stated he had spoken with MH about this smell and requested the need for more odour suppression. He requested the suppression units be turned onto their maximum settings.

EB asked why the increase in complaints. MH replied that this could be from the trommel fines (soil/brick) which had an earthy smell and until recently non-infectious clinical waste but this smelled of disinfectant.

MC asked if the smell could be coming from the plant. MH replied that it was only paper, plastic that goes into the MRF so unlikely. There may be the odd bag of waste that gets through but it’s not food waste.

CM stated that people would notice more odour because it was the summer and people would be spending more time outside.

MC asked about the birds and the theory that the scarer caused the birds to fly which in turn encourages more birds. MH replied that the permit required the company to keep the birds off the tip face which is what the scarer does and the reason it is intermittent is so that the birds do not get used to it at a set time. A question was asked about the kite that used to be used and MH said that the company would start to use this again to see if it had any effect.

MC raised a complaint that he had received regarding the broken fence. MH reported that there had been minor vandalism but that this was nothing new to any landfill. MC asked if anyone was out checking late at night. MH said that the site was a 24/7 operation and when it was closed there was onsite security. MC suggested the number of incidents be passed onto the police. MH said that it would be treated as a civil matter. EB said that it would never stop no matter what you did if they were determined they would get in. MC asked what could happen if anyone tampered with the gas extraction and MH replied that if this happened the plant would stop. CM said that the only advantage to reporting to the police is that it would build up a case which would have at some point to be investigated based on numbers. POST NOTE: The fence was repaired on 10 July 2019.

MC asked if the broken digger had been moved and MH replied it had been moved and would be taken off site by the end of the week.

3.2 Engineering Works

MH reported that 3B/C was being capped but had been delayed due to the weather.

MC asked whether there was any work being undertaken that would create dust and therefore the need for dust suppression. MH replied that it shouldn't be needed for the initial capping work.

3.3 Waste Inputs

MH reported that between 2000-2100 tonnes were being taken per week. MC asked when the site would be full and MH replied this was dependent on the density of the waste, the less dense the shorter the lifespan of the landfill. MH went on to say that denser waste would involve more putrescible waste.

3.4 Communications

MC asked who was receiving the complaints and SG replied that they were going via the EA. DC stated that there had been a few on FaceBook.

4 Environment Agency Update

4.1 Multiagency Group

CM reported that the site was updated as and when.

4.2 Inspections/Data

CM reported that the EA was on site every 3-4 weeks looking at leachate, gas, etc but that the EA was primarily focussing now on procedures. CM stressed that that the EA was maintaining a more frequent presence than other landfills as a result of what had happened.

4.3 Complaints

CM reported that the complaints were in line with what Quercia had reported other than a couple had stated an "egg smell".

4.4 Communications

CM stated that the Citizen Space would be closed in August however all information would be retained and could be accessed through a Subject Access Request.

5 Local Community Groups

5.1 DC reported that residents had commented that the Environmental Undertaking was a "cop out". CM replied that the EA had received an offer and that no decision had been made as yet. CM went on to say that should the EU go ahead then the local community would receive the funds.

5.2 NW stated that he had seen the Neales logo at the Clayton le Woods fayre. MC stated that a call had been put into local companies to support the event and Neales had sponsored the stage, it was pure sponsorship and not related to anything else. This was reiterated by CM who stated that it was totally separate from the Environmental Undertaking.

5.3 EB said that Steve Grieve had never got back to him concerning the Lancs Wildlife fund. MH said that this is something that the company didn't have any control over but that he would speak with Steve Grieve and get back to EB.

5.4 DC reported that there had been a few good comments received such as "they seem to be getting their act together".

5.5 SC asked whether capping would be done during normal office hours and referred to potential noise. MH replied that it would be done between 7.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 8am-12pm Saturday. MH said that any noise would only be required for short periods of time given the task that needed to be carried out. MC asked how long it would take if the weather was good and MH replied 8-9 weeks and added that he'd also like the gas wells sunk too. MH said if this was done a notice would be issued as there would be quite a large rig involved and there would be drilling into waste although the diameter of the hole would only be around about 50cms. MC asked when the drilling was likely to start. MH said this had been discussed with the gas contractors and it could be mid-August but nothing has as yet been booked but once it was then an update would be sent out.

6 Any other business

6.1 There was no other business

7 Date of Next Meeting

2 October 2019, 6.00pm, Town Hall, Chorley