



ENVIRECOVER COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP (CLG)

Minutes of the first meeting, held at the HZI site office.

Tuesday 25th November 2014, at 17.00 hrs.

Attendees

Caroline Macdonald (CM), OggaDoon PR
Louise Brooks (LB) – Councillor at Hartlebury Parish Council
John Jordan (JJ) – Clerk to Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council
Laureen Moyes (LM) – Chair of Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council
Peter Holden (PH) – Chair of Hartlebury Parish Council and CLG Chair
Cllr Nigel Dowty (ND) – Local member Wychavon DC
Richard Williams (RW) – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS)
Rob Brasher (RB) – Associate Director, Jones Lang LaSalle (agent for Hartlebury Trading Estate)
Sarah Dennis (SD) – Environment Agency
Andrew Bendall (AB) – Site Manager for Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI)
Richard Woodward (RWw) – Waste Services Manager, WCC
Toni Forde (TF) – Worcester Regulatory Services (WRS)
Mark Bishop (MB) – Planning Development Control Manager, WCC
Ian Barber (IB) – Marketing Director, Severn Waste Services
Maurice Broomfield (MBr) – Member Worcestershire County Council

Apologies

Javier Nicolas (JN) – Mercia Waste Management
Phil Merrick (PM) – Head of Community Services, Wychavon DC

Invited but no response

Chair and Clerk of Elmley Lovett Parish Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of the group introduced themselves. It was noted that invitations had been sent to representatives of Elmley Lovett PC who were not in attendance.

Gillian Sinclair has moved elsewhere in FCC group and is replaced by Javier Nicolas from Mercia Waste Management.

Andrew Bendall has replaced Chris Mortlock as Site Manager at HZI.

Louise Brooks has replaced Angela Preece as the second Hartlebury Parish Council representative, by agreement with O&DPC to have three councillors and one clerk (rather than two councillors and two clerks).

2. Actions from last meeting

All actions achieved and minutes approved.

Q LB: Is the time lapse working? Is the position of the camera right?

IB: We have moved three websites into one; this has the time lapse uploaded to it. The time lapse is a sequence of pictures taken at 11.00 am each morning on rolling monthly basis. This is uploaded weekly. Lobster (the time lapse video company) will be providing a properly edited video by end of November which has not yet been seen.

Q LB: Can there be real time video instead, is that easier?

IB: The idea is to show the story and Mercia is happy to do the edit job.

LB: Perhaps we could have both.

3. Update from Mercia/HZI (including Powerpoint presentation)

- Ecology surveillance has continued as we need to maintain what we have achieved so far - Stuart Rampling has been appointed as the Project Ecologist.
- Site maintenance is on-going; particularly the site drainage to ensure the site is always fit for purpose.

Earth works

- The majority of main works are complete; approximately 20,000 cubic metres remaining to be removed (out of approximately 75,000 in total). This equates to approx. 2,000 lorry loads removing earth over next 3-4 months.
- The main period of excavation activity is January/February.
- Principle element is the permanent draining work over next three months.
- HZI have now installed an additional wheel wash station and increased the number of road sweepers to two in response to wet weather (covering Crown Lane, up to A449 and Oak Drive as necessary).

Q LB: Where is the drainage water going?

AB: From the sweepers it is going to a licensed tip. From the site, the natural drainage progresses along an outfall across the site which is filtered through the lagoons in line with the scheme approved under planning.

Q PH: The last 20,000 cubic metres, is this the extra 9 metres required for the bunker?

AB: Yes and from the sides of the excavation which are currently supporting the installation of the secant pile retaining wall to ensure no integrity issues.

Q JJ: Is all the clay/earth going to Hill and Moor landfill site?

IB: The default disposal point is Hill and Moor. We had aspirations for the brick making quality clay to go to the brickworks but we couldn't do it. Recently, we have been struggling at Hill and Moor with the volume which has had the ensuing consequences with normal landfill traffic, increased mud on highway to level that was unacceptable. HZI decided to spread the disposal impact using three alternative disposal points. SD checked the paperwork for receptor sites.

Q JJ: Residents are complaining about truckloads of soil onto farm down Cow Lane near Sytchampton village hall, is this being used?

SD: The three sites being used for disposal are Hill and Moor, Dudley and AB properties Prestwood Drive, Stourbridge - all are permitted to receive waste.

Q LM: But we've been telling folk about that Hill and Moor is the disposal point which is not correct.

AB: In order to reduce the impact on any single site we chose to use other sites.

Q LB: About the brickworks – did you have an agreement and how much would be taken to the brickworks

IB: We hoped to take 20,000 – 30,000 cubic metres but we couldn't do it due to Great Crested Newts (which are a protected species) blocking the route.

Action on checking the receptor sites (IB)

JJ: Could we have the relevant information so we can communicate?

PH: There is a credibility issue on all sides here. If information is not good/accurate or up-to-date, it will be questioned by local people.

Piling

- The main excavation secant sidewalls are near completion (which has been the main use of concrete deliveries to date).
- The -8m level bunker piling is going well; we will need to pile the main permanent access ramps into January then piling will be complete.

Capping Beam

This is a steel reinforce concrete beam along the pile tops

The new 'construction' visitor entrance nearly completed.

Looking forward

- Our plans are to finish the capping beam and main excavation. Then to install the permanent drainage works and ground anchors (to secure the top of the secant pile retaining wall). Next is the piling of the ramp area and construction of the -8m ground slab. The vertical build commences around late February to construct the admin block, stair core B and bunker walls.
- The bunker floor is 8-9m below the -8m level (i.e. -17m in total from ground level).

Q LB: How much waste would that store?

IB: Enough for up to 5 days storage.

Action AB to respond with planning details.

AB: The bunker has an applied induced draft so that odour doesn't escape out side of the building.

Construction of storage and parking area

IB: Mercia has taken leases out for the cabin space yard and building currently in occupation, and additional space for storage and parking in nearby units, due to parking needs for number of personnel working on site.

Q LB: Are all the 400 people employed on the site local people?

AB: Some but not all as they need to be experienced construction workers and HZI procures from across Europe. We are still in the procurement phase for some parts of the construction e.g. boiler from Poland who will bring their own team. Some catering staff, security etc. may be local. However, in my personal opinion it is likely to be a small percentage.

Extended working

- (See update number 5)
- This was extended for a further two weeks after monitoring by WRS. This was reviewed and permission for 7 days working until 11th January was granted – this is provided the site complies with necessary environmental conditions.

LB: There have been comments from some residents complaining about the noise at night.

AB: The site has not yet worked through the night.

LB: The noise can be heard during daytime.

PH: What are your hours of operation?

AB 7.00 am – 7.00 pm but this Sunday for example stopped at 3 pm due to work patterns. If we are casting concrete the work hours may be longer but always within the allowable time constraints.

PH: Is this temporary arrangement likely to turn into permanent one?

AB: Our objective is to finish the construction as quickly as we can within the boundaries set down by the planning permission. If 7 days a week helps us to achieve that then we will look to support this provided the works are completed within acceptable levels.

LB: Residents don't feel that this is being regulated well, there is no trust in this therefore 7-day working adds to it. Noises are being heard and Councils have ignored the issues. Regulators - this is a very major concern.

RW: We understand and our role is to balance the concerns of residents against facts of the situation. One element we consider is seasonality (cited projects around Worcestershire that require a level of unsociable working). With regard to this project, the most problematic is from the noise perspective. The impact is less if longer hours are worked during the winter period (as opposed to summer period). The noisy phase of work will be less intrusive and likely to take less time than if it is dragged out. We would rather see extended hours in winter period so there is less impact in summer.

LB: I have a concern that it will go into summer period.

RW: Looking at the facts, the EMP set out the construction technique for the piling. We undertook a BSI formal assessment for noise for the activity and projected noise impact to nearest residential properties (this is published on [web site](http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk) – <http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk>). Standard BS 4142 rates noise 10+ justifiable noise problem; 5+ as marginal problem. This site: actual ratings were -17, -19 and -17. You can hear noise but unlikely to rise to 'justifiable' complaints; WRS happy to hear from residents about this as legally obliged to look at these. We will continue to work on this as different phases happen. We take a precautionary approach with interim periods of consent.

LB: WRS do you work at weekends?

RW: Not received any complaints from the public yet. We engage with contractors as soon as possible. We can monitor at weekends if needed.

Slip forming

- Slip forming is a 24/7 operation for one 30-day period for the walls and one 7-day period for the stair core during February and March.

PH: Will this be affected by weather?

AB: If we have a 'normal' winter, we should be able to continue - once started, we will want to finish. HZI will take additional measures to ensure it is completed if temperature drops too low.

Xmas break

- Site is closed from 20th December 2014 - 2nd January 2015 inclusive.

- There will be minor maintenance works plus a stand-by crew reacting to extreme weather if needed. The site will have 24-hour security.

Local economy

- HZI is registered on 'Find it in Worcestershire' website as the company would like to use local businesses where possible.

Point of clarification

- Nothing has changed from planning that was approved in terms of build.

PH: At this stage, are you working off the plans as submitted, exactly as paced through?

MB: Yes, no modifications.

LB: Any changes planned?

IB: There may be some minor design changes e.g. fire escape doors which can't be envisaged by any developer prior to planning consent. The Contractor brings in their design elements of engineering detail and design.

4. Feedback from Mercia

IB: There has been one issue in relation to traffic due to under-performance from one of sub-contractors. This was reported back through the chain, driver offered his apologies.

AB: The driver was also reprimanded and a note is on his record. If there is a repeat incident he may lose his job. It's not often we have this ability to track and trace, so it is great we can use it.

IB: There is progress on the water main on site with road closure information sent. This is to be completed in New Year. It started from the north where ground conditions are harder so Severn Trent have opened a second front (from the south) so working their way backwards. The pressure test is in early January.

5. Open Day

IB: We agreed to hold a 'drop in' opportunity for people to come and chat and ask questions about the construction within the next month or so. We have discussed the need for a second session if desire dictates depending on level and type of discussion.

Mercia, HZI and Interserve have illustrations to show. The idea is to see what comes out and we will have an enquiry list. The promotion is in agreement with the local Parish Councils.

CM: To promote it, we have it advertised on our website, issued an update, submitted an advert for the Hartlebury Parish magazine and will be designing some posters to be put up around the villages.

JJ: We have put the update on our notice board and website. We can also use the posters and we have circulated the update.

IB: The posters are here on Thursday morning – will email JJ and PH when done to collect.

LB: I think you need to do a second one after Christmas and leaflet drop the local area in Hartlebury and hamlets. Lots don't know what is going on.

PH: Let's see how this one goes and review the enquiry log.

6. CLG - Topic One (other environmental & construction activities)

LB: There is light pollution from Hartlebury Trading Estate – not necessarily Mercia – can I have site contact details for that please? I am concerned about light for construction and operation and would like to see information about this.

AB: The lighting we've got now will change as construction progresses. There will be some lighting higher than now but mainly inside the buildings. We are very much aware of the impact of lighting and will make sure it is functional but minimise the environmental impacts.

LB: Regarding the operational lighting, what is the plan at night outside?

IB: There is nothing on the stack.

RW: There are limited commercial flight paths in Worcestershire.

LB: Would like to know what kind of lighting when operating.

AB: Most is at ground level with higher lighting inside a fully clad building once the plant is complete all in accordance with the planning permission.

LB: The Regulators have no control over lighting on site.

IB: The planning condition requires the developer to submit detailed lighting design. This needs to be done well before the plant is commissioned. Lighting is there to ensure safe operations but not unnecessary lighting as we are mindful of foraging bats.

LB: Can we have air quality monitoring now for a baseline so it can be used to compare when the plant is in operation?

RW: Wychavon Council have a duty to maintain Air quality in accordance with government quality objectives as part of the air quality management strategy which has been in place now for nearly 20 years. The baseline for the air quality at Hartlebury will be well established as part of this process and will form the baseline data for any additional air quality impacts that the new plant may give rise to. If any negative air quality impact is identified following commissioning of the plant this will be identified and addressed as part of the 3-year phase of update and Screening Assessments that the Council have to undertake.

LB: It's not an air quality area that's why we want base line.

RW: The installation is regulated by the EA, the baseline is long established and understood. EA regulates the plant's IPPC permit in relation to commercial activities which may be separate. The 3-year phase emission is considered with background level impact. The background air quality has been monitored for the past 20 years.

PH: I suggest we log this as under another topic for a future meeting. EA and WRS are asked to give briefing on how it works.

7. CLG - Topic Two (Local economy)

IB: Mercia has a contract in place with Western Power Distribution (WPD) to connect to national grid. We expect to export around 16.5 MW, generating at 11KV and stepping up through a transformer to 66 KV The power will go under Crown Lane to the first set of overhead cables then to 66 KV Upton Snodsbury connection. WPD plans a substation on the trading estate and has planning permission. The wayleaves are in place up from the overhead circuit to trading estate site. We have to lease small section of land to WPD as they put their kit in. Separately, we agreed with WPD 350 KVa supply providing some of the construction power requirements.

PH: Is the RBabling to be done? Is further construction in the trading estate needed?

IB: The substation is not happening and our connection is bypassing that. The work across the fields will be across the bottom end of Crown Lane.

RB: There is no timing as yet as WPD not come to trading estate.

PH: To confirm, people will see a trench being dug across the fields, on the south side of Crown Lane.

IB: Yes

IB: Regarding heat usage, there was some work on off-take opportunities during planning. It's a condition in Environmental Permit to review the opportunities. Government recently provided a framework for Local Authorities to look at direct heat opportunities. Wychavon DC have got some funds to look at renewable heat opportunities and this site was referenced.

LB: So there are no customers for the heat? You wouldn't do it unless subsidy from Govt?

IB: That's correct there are no customers for the heat, our focus is on electricity. If we can look at heat we will do.

RWw: Wychavon funding is from Defra and the Local Enterprise Partnership to look at Heat District Networks, Geothermal, EfW and Anaerobic Digestion. It is a desktop study for potential users and suppliers across Worcestershire.

PH: Was the maths done to calculate the heat passage to the village?

IB: There are not many schemes that do this. Two Combined Heat and Power schemes are known in the UK Sheffield and Nottingham.

LB: One of Mercia's parent companies, FCC, owns and operates the Nottingham EfW plant so should know about Combined Heat and Power (CHP).

PH: Our next meeting will focus on the first issue in our Post it Notes with a presentation from EA and WRS.

8. Dates for next meeting

Date of next meeting is Tuesday 27th January 2015 and Tuesday 24th March 2015.

9. AOB

RWw: The leaders of both councils were here today for photo shoot for the local press.

LB: Additional publicity is not welcomed by the residents and they are having difficulty in selling houses due to this.

SD: The permit will come up on searches when house buying.

LM: Can you confirm the latest in soil movement (destination) and extended working hours, please? If anything alters, please give us prior notification.

PH: The changes to the working time came out quickly just before the hours started. Is there anything being discussed that we need to be alert to?

IB: We got the information out as soon as we could. There is nothing substantial being discussed at the moment.

RW: We are in weekly contact with HZI.

PH: We need to routinely check the website.

Meeting closed.