



ENVIRECOVER COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP (CLG)

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

Monday 23rd November 2015 at 17.00 hrs.

Attendees

Caroline Macdonald (CM), OggaDoon Communications
John Jordan (JJ) – Clerk to Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council
Ian Barber (IB) – Marketing Director, Severn Waste Services
Steve Aldridge (SA) – Planning officer, Worcestershire County Council
Sarah Dennis (SD) – Environment Agency
Cllr Nigel Dowty (ND) – Local Member, Wychavon District Council and CLG Chair
Richard Woodward (RWw) – Waste Services Manager, Worcestershire County Council
Eve Jones (EJ) – Member of Hartlebury Parish Council (substitute for Andrew Murcott)
Richard Williams (RW) – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS)
Kate Stott (KS) – Education Officer, Severn Waste Services
Phil Merrick (PM) – Head of Community Services, Wychavon District Council
Mark Lane (ML) – Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council (substitute)
Maurice Broomfield (MBr) – Ward Member, Worcestershire County Council
Javier Nicolas (JN) – Technical Manager, Mercia Waste Management
Sheridan Tranter (ST) – Chair of Hartlebury Parish Council

Apologies

Lisa Paterson – Director, Jones Lang LaSalle (agent for Hartlebury Trading Estate)
Doug Ingram (DG) – Chair of Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council
Mark Bishop (MB) – Planning Development Control Manager, Worcestershire County Council sent substitute Mark Lane
Martin Belke (MBe) – Construction Manager, HZI
James Homer (JH) – Chairman of Elmley Lovett Parish Council (via Sheridan Tranter at the meeting)
Nicolas Wright (NW) (Clerk to Elmley Lovett Parish Council)

Invited but no response

Pablo Zarate (PZ) – Resident Civil Engineer for Mercia WM

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions made.

Eve Jones is now one of HPC representatives replacing Andrew Murcott.

Action: CM to update the terms of reference to reflect this change.

Actions from last meeting

Action 1 – IB has not heard from JH re: ground water drainage discharge rate. IB has searched and can't find it. We need JH to find the source. Sometimes the readings can be mis-read a 1 l/s as opposed to 11l/s.

Action: JH to source information.

Other actions are ratified in the minutes.

EJ: The additional height of the bunker is said to be 8 metres in the July minutes.

IB: For clarity, there is no additional height what is being constructed is as approved by the planners.

Action: IB to check

Update on lighting from the site

ND: I raised it at the last meeting. Following that there was some testing on the go but now we seem to be back to the norm. I went to Waresley Park on a Friday afternoon to visit and could see where the residents have concerns. You can see where the problem is from strip lights round the handrails. We understand about H&S – could there be some sort of screening around to soften it? There have been complaints from all round – Hartlebury, Elmley Lovett etc. I have asked them (the complainants) to speak to the regulatory services.

RWi – WRS has a regulatory responsibility for light that is causing a nuisance - that is different with those causing light pollution. This is a new feature on landscape that is short-term requirement to be lit up for H&S purposes. I can see why residents feel what they do about it as it probably does feel like it is for the long term. We need to communicate to a degree as this is only temporary. We understand your position and that you can only hold hands to a certain level.

Following the latest communications, I've printed off some information from Defra which is a briefing note with an explanation on light and light pollution, on what you can and can't do. And I've photocopied information from regulatory point of view, which provides the detail for the briefing note. Light nuisance is serious as you are alleging that a crime has been or is being committed and that there is criminal evidence. This is the same as any other crime in that everything about criminality counts e.g. there is evidence etc. You need to commit so much when making a complaint.

Complaints have to come from the representatives – we need detail if wishing to investigate. I'll leave information with you (community representatives) and please get in touch if you need to.

EJ: I'm wondering why so much lighting is needed for site maintenance?

RWi – From a regulatory Perspective WRS can only deal with directed light that is causing a nuisance to a property owner such as floodlights shining into bedrooms. Lighting in a local area that is causing sky glow or is a temporary feature of the landscape due to construction works cannot be actions using nuisance legislation. Under the circumstances we have encouraged HZI to ensure that all their site lighting complies with the ILE best practice guide for artificial light installations so that Andrew Bendall could check the site for compliance.

ST: Why not use diffusers?

RWi: I can't answer that unless it is a nuisance.

ND: It is down to individuals to put in a complaint otherwise WRS can't act.

RWi: Nuisance is a broad term. For example, astronomers find light pollution a nuisance. When we look at it in law, one looks at the man on Clapham Omnibus i.e. what would average man put up. However we need to bring in locality. Therefore

we need to judge here, consider the fact it is a trading estate and mixed residential area. The law draws a line as far as light pollution and light nuisance is concerned.

Update from Mercia/HZI – see appendix for update from HZI

IB: The next CLG meeting, we expect to have a new plant manager to give the update. Martin Belke is new HZI Construction Manager and provided the update for today.

EJ: I've got some questions about the HZI website and some documents published there. I refer to the £120m costs as stated in the press but also that HZI have not given the correct figure in their reference document. The figure for the cost of the Incinerator was stated at the CLG meeting to actually be £195m.

The details that need to be amended or added can be seen in the Reference Sheet, which can be readily obtained from the Reference section of the HZI website. Details of the £195m cost can be found in the WCC 'Statement of Accounts 2013-14' available from the WCC website. Also, that the output 18 MW net not gross and there aren't any APC residue values given.

IB: We agree the gross electricity output is 18MW and 16.5 MW net export. Regarding APC residues, the value is about 8,000 tonnes.

Action: EJ to send link to IB

Action: IB ask HZI

EJ: Is the excavation work using heavy equipment?

IB: No there is a small excavator only, due to the size of the hole, going straight into a dumper at first. Now, we've got a conveyor belt which then loads into the dumper.

EJ: Will work result in traffic movements at night?

IB: No.

PM: I've been on site several times in day light and the first time, recently, at night and I didn't sense light as a statutory nuisance. The focus of residents to HZI/Mercia is for bits of housekeeping and is not with WRS.

ND: There are appropriate channels with planning, WRS etc. Let's keep to them.

PM: If it's an issue with residents, I don't think that WRS and the statutory route will get folk anywhere.

ST: Since the light has come back on, it is brighter as more is being reflected off the new structures.

IB: There are strip lights on the boiler. There is also a lot of white canvas that is screening the welders, consequently, there is a reflective glow. However the screening canvas will be removed very soon and the permanent building, under construction now, will enclose the boiler.

RWi: Please have a look at and take note of weather conditions as these can make lighting appear worse than it is.

Feedback from Mercia

IB: There has been very limited feedback and queries. A couple of concerns have been raised by trading estate tenants about mud on the roads, which have been cleaned up, and irregular parking, due to delivery of four silos earlier than expected which have been stored in the car parks. That is now resolved. We are working with the Estate and their agents over their prospective new tenants to find out more about the facility. Externally, I had an enquiry from a house buyer who wanted to

talk to us about possible issues. Following the meeting, they went away satisfied and issued a note of thanks.

Richard Williams was thanked and left the meeting

Presentation on commissioning phase (see attached presentation)

Delivered by Sarah Dennis, EA and Ian Barber, Severn Waste

The following section references comments made during the presentation

IB: Pre operational condition PO2 regarding heat take off at the side of turbine; there is 3MW potential – substantial enough to heat whole trading estate if conditions are right. We did have initial discussions with the brick makers but the heat use was not right at the time. We've met with Worcestershire County Council sustainability people and consultants, Mouchel, to look at heat for the area. There is potential for a rudimentary heat mapping exercise and we expect to share information if the timing is right. The present owner of the estate is more development minded than previous ones. We have to re-visit the heat use opportunities every couple of years as a condition of the permit.

IB: Pre operational condition PO4 there is a separate commissioning team employed by HZI. There will be a core operations team on board to get familiar with the plant. Every element needs to be working before we accept waste e.g. steam testing etc. We need to give community warning of what is happening, why, when and how long for. We will increase communications.

JN: There will be testing of the flow through the boiler and also testing of the requisite safety systems and relief valves. We will be working during the commissioning process to keep noise to an acceptable level. We will see normal vent once testing done but it may be more than normal when testing.

IB: When we agree commissioning programme will come back to CLG probably mid 2016 to take you through it and present it.

SA: There are two conditions on the planning permission which relate to commissioning. These are condition 4, which requires the operator to notify the County Planning Authority the start date of the commissioning phase at least five working days before commissioning commences and Condition 16 which relates to a permanent lighting scheme

SD: A variation for surface water discharge has been submitted and is within an internal application queue for determination

Action: SD to supply.

Topic next meeting

ND: Do we want another presentation or the public event encompasses our next meeting?

IB: We've talked about a drop in session at the end of January – we can focus on what want for that from the community. Should we do it here or at the parish hall? We can have photos on loop and the time-lapse sequencing.

Action: on PCs to suggest focus and dates and venue etc.

Richard Williams and Caroline Macdonald left the meeting.

AOB – notes supplied to CM post-meeting

EJ: "We fully understand that any monitoring could pick up changes that may not be due entirely to the incinerator. That was not the point being made by us. The Communities concern would be any cumulative changes to the air quality locally. Air quality is considered in other areas, to provide a measure of reassurance to potentially affected residents that their health is not being compromised. It is really important to establish the background levels before an incinerator starts operation. Relevant studies have not been carried out and data is patchy for actual health effects. Richard Williams had made comments at a previous CLG meeting that the background air quality has been monitored for the past 20 years. Where are these results of the monitoring to be found?"

ND: The regulator had held two meetings with Hartlebury PC since it was raised at CLG in November 2014 and the one meeting included the Environment Agency. I suggest that Cllr Jones speak to the Clerk to see copies of appropriate PC minutes.

The meeting closed.