



ENVIRECOVER COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP (CLG)

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

Tuesday 27th January 2015 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
Richard Williams (RW) – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS)
Andrew Bendall (AB) – Site Manager for Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI)
Richard Woodward (RWw) – Waste Services Manager, Worcestershire County Council
Mark Bishop (MB) – Planning Development Control Manager, Worcestershire County Council
Ian Barber (IB) – Marketing Director, Severn Waste Services
Maurice Broomfield (MBr) – Ward Member, Worcestershire County Council
Mark Lane (ML) – Planning enforcement and monitoring, Worcestershire County Council
Steve Aldridge (SA) – Planning officer, Worcestershire County Council

Apologies

Javier Nicolas (JN) – Mercia Waste Management
Cllr Nigel Dowty (ND) – Local Member, Wychavon District Council
Sarah Dennis (SD) – Environment Agency

Invited but no response

Chair and Clerk of Elmley Lovett Parish Council
Phil Merrick (PM) – Head of Community Services, Wychavon District Council
Rob Brasher (RB) – Associate Director, Jones Lang LaSalle (agent for Hartlebury Trading Estate)
Toni Forde (TF) – Worcester Regulatory Services (WRS)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of the group introduced themselves.

2. Actions from last meeting

PH: Any amends?

LB: Under the item titled 'Local economy' there are two amendments. Firstly, IB's response regarding heat use, IB confirmed that there weren't any customers to use the heat. Secondly, LB had stated that one of Mercia's parent companies, FCC, owned the Nottingham EfW plant so should know about Combined Heat and Power (CHP).

Minutes were amended and approved.

IB: Could we review the minutes in a shorter time scale and getting them uploaded more quickly?

PH: We will circulate promptly with a deadline.

PH: The update on actions from the minutes are covered in the agenda.

3. Update from Mercia/HZI (using a still from the second time lapse camera)

AB: We have an additional camera, diagonally opposite to the original camera, by the trees with a better view of the excavation.

Update since last time

- Maintenance is on-going.
- We have moved from daytime weekday working to include weekends to increase production.
- The haul roads are made from hard core which accumulates a mud layer - this is scraped daily to keep it serviceable. The principle excavation is essentially complete.
- The ramp for trucks is from ground level 0 to level -8 that will be removed in due course and be replaced with a second temporary ramp and then the permanent ramps.
- The secant wall which acts to hold material back is now complete and we are just starting to remove the rest of the mudstone remaining in the excavation.
- It is now likely to be February through to March for the main lorry transport movements of the remaining excavated material (as opposed to January to February as originally forecast).

PH: Are you now removing soil from inside the secant wall?

AB: Yes. The concrete piles are approximately 17 m deep and the earth in front is being removed. We needed to put anchors back into the soil as part of the permanent works and this is on-going. Also, we've started to construct elements of the permanent drainage. It is still likely to be three months work so it will probably be the end of February before we finish the drainage at this level.

PH: Is the permanent drainage operating now?

AB: No, the drainage is being pumped up into settlement ponds. It will work once the plant is fully built.

PH: Regarding the groundwater – what is the volume leaving the site?

AB: The volume increases after significant rainfall but we are monitoring and it is currently within the limits allowed to discharge.

IB: The contribution of groundwater is miniscule compared to rain fall.

LB: What is the volume you are allowed to discharge?

Action for HZI to provide records.

- Piling is complete with the exception of a handful to go under the ramp – to be done after the ramp is removed. We need to install 30-40% of ground anchors which act as a type of guy rope to the piles.
- The capping beam is on top of the pile – this is a concrete block with steel reinforcement. 80% is now complete and we are likely to finish in next 10 days or so.
- We have new buildings for the site office – the old site is used for parking now which will then be moved to the corner from mid-end March where a building has been removed for parking and storage.
- The bottom ash tank area has been excavated using the same principle as with the piles. We are starting to build the internal walls.
- The waste bunker has just started to be excavated; it is the same principle as with the main excavation piles. It is excavated to 7.5 metres, essentially the base of the waste storage facility called the bunker. The bunker walls are to be constructed using a technique called 'slip forming' which requires 24 hour working. Piling for the bunker is completed, secant walls are completed and the base has an additional 54 'tension' piles. These do not support the floor in a traditional sense but keep the bunker pinned to the ground due to hydrological pressure.

Next few months

We will continue with the environmental management, maintenance and finalising the installation of permanent drainage.

The ground anchors are being installed. Where we install drainage pipes, we will start to complete the bottom of the excavation with the reinforced concrete slab works.

The bunker is preparing for slip forming at the end of March/early April which is about 20 days of 24 hour working.

The additional slip forming for the stair well will be 5-6 days of 24 hour working but not directly following on from the bunker.

PH: What is the height of the slip forming?

AB: 28 metres to the top of the bunker. The final height of the slip form will be dependant on whether the final few metres is constructed out of a steel frame and precast concrete or slipform concrete. This remains a detailed design decision to be finalised. Once slip forming is completed, we will begin placing the mechanical equipment on the reinforced concrete slab at the base of the main excavation. The vertical build is timed to start at the end of March.

PH: What's pushing back the timing?

AB: This is largely due to procurement delays as we needed to re-negotiate one or two contracts to ensure they are giving what we want for the construction in terms of sequence build. There are some minor delays with managing rainwater as we've re-dug some of the drainage channels.

The initial part of programme had an aggressive build plan. We've not been able to get some parts going as we would have liked but there is no overall impact on programme. We have built in three months of 'float' in terms of construction and commissioning which is needed for the variables and unknowns in construction. I'm happy with where we are at the moment.

New parking is to be developed so hoarding will be in place over next two weeks. The first deliveries of steel arrive in early April.

Regarding the extra working patterns, construction has gone well, working most weekends with the exception of Christmas. We've now applied to work until 2.00 am and have just started to do so on a probationary basis which is being monitored. Once proved to be acceptable this will be approved in time packages by WRS.

PH: Are there different tasks in night time?

AB: Yes, the noise management procedures inform our subcontractors what they can and can't do. Permanent supervision is provided to ensure adherence. In general, normal activities are acceptable but we don't allow waggons on and off site beyond normal working hours except in an emergency. Much of the present work is taking place in the main excavation which also absorbs sound. The working hours are 6.00 am - 2.00 am. After 7.00 pm there is a focus crew of around 12. The peak so far is 80-90 people during piling; at the moment, there is around 65 operatives however HZI is inducting every day so the numbers are increasing again probably up to 110-115 people during construction of the base. When we are slip forming, there will be 140-150 working in shifts. During the installation of the process plant, there will be 200-250 people, peaking at around 300-400 personnel in total on the site.

PH: Will you be routinely speaking to WRS on a regular basis?

AB: Yes.

LB: Where is the permanent drainage?

AB: The drainage scheme is set during planning approval.

IB: The drainage scheme has two elements: Diverting any drains and watercourses across the site, and managing incident rainfall. The contractor now appointed is developing the detailed scheme which will require approval of the planning authority as a minor amendment to the scheme approved for planning, before they were appointed

There is no foul effluent from the completed plant other than 'domestic' sewage from the offices that will go into the estate's foul sewer. Any dirty water from the plant from say boiler maintenance or cleaning around the ash bay area will all be directed into a tank in the site. This water will be used to quench the ash from the plant and will essentially evaporate, so there is no need for an off-site discharge. Quench bath volumes have been calculated.

For incident rainfall the scheme accepts water into 'attenuation lagoons' that slowly release water into the estate drainage system at field. Some provision is made to harvest some rainwater for use on the site.

LB: It's the quench water we are most concerned about due to contaminate. Not discharged anyway?

IB: Yes it is not discharged but recycled and re-used.

LM: The weather been good, what if it becomes cold and snowy?

AB: It won't halt but might hinder the construction e.g. for concrete, we need to take temperature and measures such as insulation to stop concrete from cooling too quickly. There will also be a need to increase safety measures.

4. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference had been circulated and only one comment was returned regarding the procedure for appointing successive Chairs.

CM: The suggestion, which has been talked through with PH and IB, is that the community have the first choice to appoint any subsequent Chairs. If the community are not able to find a willing volunteer, chairing of the CLG will default to OggaDoon.

This was agreed by all.

LB: I feel we need more representation from the local community as we currently feel out numbered.

PH: The CLG should note that there is an up coming election for both active parish councils that will precipitate a change of personnel in any event therefore we will need to discuss community representation at some point.

LB: Could there be 'non-elected community' involvement to provide more continuity. We could have people who would like to be involved actually involved and have their questions answered.

PH: What are people's thoughts?

LM: Members of parish councils are a good way to represent our parishes as we have been elected to do so.

LB: Yes but wouldn't hurt to have others involved. My opinion is to allow others.

AB: This is not a voting forum, requiring even representation. The key is that you are here and can feed back to the community as a whole using the experience of the parish councils.

RWi: That is the role of the parish council.

LB: But we would have people who are directly affected sat round the table.

PH: There are already.

LB: Just have more here on a continuity basis.

SA: This might be difficult to draw the line to get others involved that is, who has more right than others?

LB: There might be others who want to be involved.

JJ: It would be quite difficult to determine the criteria for appointing non-elected community representatives. Unless all interested parties were allowed to participate it would be difficult to select one person over another. If all interested parties were allowed to participate, the Group may become unmanageable. The Parish Councils were seen as being representatives of the local community and currently had two places each. Should a Parish Council wish to appoint a non-elected community representative to take one of their places, that would be a matter for them.

IB: We have some sympathy with LB. We've always taken the view that the preferred conduit should be through elected bodies i.e. parish councils and it would be disrespectful to them if we establish contact with groups of people outside of that. Parish nominees are not a problem in principle but from outset, but they must recognise that they are there as nominees of the PC as an authority. They will have a public duty to discharge and will need to report back. The Parish Councils should arrive at how the community should be represented.

PH: To sum up, the community has nominated who should be the representatives and we have flexibility – the Parish Councils can have say 2 per PC. Outside of this forum, the PCs will chat to Elmley Lovett PC to see if they are taking up places. We might want to have a shadow group as we are going into a period of change.

Action on Parish Councils to discuss and agree on community representation.

5. Feedback from Mercia

IB: We held an Open Day in early December with 40+ people attending. It worked well supported by HZI and InterServe, visitors got value as we did. We are happy to do another one if needed.

AB: HZI are happy to support. However there were one or two residents who attended who did not want to get anything out of the open day.

IB: Mercia has received an enquiry regarding traffic movements round Ombersley and Holt Fleet Bridge which has been addressed.

Regarding public queries on the whole project, we've only had one that came in today from an individual who is considering buying a house in the village. This has been addressed.

We've assisted in providing information back to Worcestershire County Council to clarify points where Freedom of Information requests and the full County Council meeting has asked.

Severn Trent dug up telecoms cable for Forest Gardens before Christmas. Nothing to do with Mercia.

We are having continued conversations with a tenant on the estate about mud on the road but all others happy with conditions.

AB: I've spoken personally to this particular tenant who is provided with regular updates – he has been happy with our performance for a while but does let me

know if anything happens. We have put on a second road sweeper and are sweeping Crown Lane temporarily to make sure everything is how it should be.

IB: Worcester News had an article about a Road Traffic Accident inside the Trading Estate which gave rise to a diesel spill. At about 7.00 – 7.20 am one of the haulage sub contractors was taking soil off the site driving out towards the exit and was hit on side from another tenant's truck. This happened close to the lagoon and the driver alerted the police and Environment Agency who swamped the place with booms and buckets to prevent an environmental hazard from happening. The Trading Estate are happy with what was done.

Severn Trent are progressing their work in getting water main through to us. We think it will be mid March when it is installed. They are 200 m from back gates at end of Walton Lane with the mains coming in through that gate.

PH: Are you routinely sweeping Crown Lane?

AB: No. We routinely sweep Oak Drive, then down to Crown Lane. We recognised at this time there had been a lot of rain fall, and saw a brown hue on the road. This could be due to the brick works but we decided to put the sweeper on. We are monitoring another part of Oak Drive where our trucks don't go to compare performance. We will monitor Crown Lane and sweep when we need to.

PH: RWo what were the Worcestershire County Council questions?

RWo: The questions from the full council were focused on what materials are going to third party EfW facility, the design and air quality.

6. CLG – topic 3

PH: Can we summarise on movements since the last meeting regarding the presentation.

IB: The air quality monitoring and environmental permits is on our topics list. We had a discussion last time about differing roles between the EA and WRS etc. I suggested where there is a lack of understanding in the community on who does what etc. we would be happy to dedicate a small section of one of our agendas to give to regulators about this and how they relate. Since then, WRS has had a conversation between themselves, and the EA, to see if this is the right forum. Because it was raised in the WCC about air quality, which might not be part of this project, is it better to go to another forum that is a bit broader? Some of the issues and communications could have been conflated. WRS and EA felt it was not right to do here but to have the conversation/presentation elsewhere. I may have been wrong to suggest to use up CLG time, therefore Mercia is happy to see delivered in another forum. To be clear, we were talking about:

- 1.the regulators roles and
- 2.air quality and emissions.

EA/WRS feel that this can be done directly to the Parish Councils. For Mercia, it is about the construction process and operational part. If you want to hear about operational part, we are happy for arrange Mercia experts to come and address the CLG perhaps further down the line.

PH: Would this be separate or part of?

IB: Within the next 6-9 months, it can be can be part of this procedure.

LB: Air quality is a concern of the local people and we need background air quality monitoring now and then comparison when the plant is up and running. When we see little or no difference, there is no need to panic. Plymouth EfW has undertaken air quality monitoring for local community as a baseline. Why not issue prior to as well as after?

IB: What is background now could vary week to week. We are very concerned about being seen as monitoring the activities of other tenants on the trading estate.

LB: The regulators should be regulating it. So your company (Mercia) won't pay for background monitoring now?

IB: I'm struggling to see justification if the regulators are happy.

RWi: I took the request back to the WRS office and spoke to the person delivering air quality monitoring with Wychavon. There is already some correspondence with the Parish Council and he feels that this question has already been addressed as far as Local Authority concerns. Fine dust elements have been assessed and already comply with the Government's air quality objectives. This has been part of air quality monitoring from 1998 to 2005 - what is the concern – dust?

LB: The dust from the brickworks is variable. The smell of ammonia towards Harvington could be problem. We want a base line of what the air quality generally is now compared to when the Energy from Waste plant is operational.

RWi: Dust that we can see is an irritant that is not considered to be damaging to health (if not in work place). Fractions of dust are extremely fine can cause health problems. Particulates are under 10 microns and now 2.5 microns in size. Dust monitoring is difficult as it is a particulate compared to emissions which is a gas. Dust is a national responsibility and not allocated to local authorities. PM10 or less particulates are associated with diesel fumes. If you look at dispersion of dust in the UK it gets worse as you go north east across the country due to the prevailing winds from urban polluting sources. Looking at Hartebury, dusts have concentrations from all kinds from all sources. If we monitor given concentrations, there is a huge variety of sources including tankers from the sea. It is constantly changing according to meteorological conditions. If we do it after the plant is running – can't tell the difference where from. [Cited Severn Valley Railway and their dust particulates]. The cost is around £90-100k for equipment and £30-40k for calibration, as it needs to be done for a considerable period of time. Government will not fund additional sites for dust monitoring unless exceptional circumstance.

LB: What we want is baseline monitoring – this is being done in other areas. Why not here?

RWi: There are dangers in visiting matters that have been addressed over two years; we will need to raise the matter at Wychavon District Council. WRS does what WDC asks them to do who will need to fund this.

PH: There seems to be a parallel process here with one suggestion for WRS and EA meet with local people/ reps to talk through this process, and then a second suggestion and as a result re-run through the DC. We need to know the difference between construction and operational phase.

LB: In Plymouth the company has funded the monitoring. Take this on board, that community spirited company would like to help fund this.

RWi: Information exists on the Internet about air quality monitoring – I will send the link through. We do know what the base line data is in respect to a number of pollutants. We have problems with pollution with road traffic not industrial processes.

Action RWi to provide link and assist to set up a separate community liaison with WRS and EA.

PH: I've noted the offer to run a second public event at another point. More notice would be good, possibly early summertime in May/June.

7. Dates for next meeting

24th March 2015

23rd June 2015.

8. AOB

IB: I would like to clarify from members that the updates are well received in terms of content and frequency.

JJ: Yes, we are happy with the updates and circulate them where possible; just keep us informed.

Meeting closed.