

Walleys Quarry Landfill Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

21st March 2019 4pm

Present

Ian Barnett (IB)
Neil Goodwin (NG)
Marion Reddish (MR)
Susan Durber (SD)
Darren Walters (DW)
Steve Rogers (SR)
Dave Jones (DJ)
Brian Johnson (BJ)
Simon Tagg (ST)
Angela Drakakis-Smith (ADS)
Amelia Rout (AR)
Nigel Bowen (NB)
Jon Clewes (JC)
Dean Broadhurst (DB)
Sam Boden (SB)

Apologies

Henryk Adamczuk

Other invitees (not in attendance)

Elaine Moulton
Jan Siery
Nigel Jones

Action points/ follow up for next meeting noted in red.

1. Introductions

ST welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Introductions by each person.

Ian Barnett to be allowed to partake in this and future meetings – approved by all.

2. Apologies

Henryk Adamczuk.

Organisers of Knutton meeting were invited but declined to attend.

Tony Eagles – need to look to invite next time as a Knutton Residents Association representative. Email needs to be provided to Red.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Amendments – Laura Draper was in attendance. ST apologies for missing previous meeting.
Minutes otherwise agreed.

4. Matters arising

Nothing from previous minutes.

5. Red Industries update

Landfill Communities Fund:

On track to exceed £1 million awarded by end of April (since July '17).
New applications being reviewed 26th March – more info in next meeting.
Next application closing date 11th May

Finished projects since last meeting:

- Burslem Scouts – fencing, fire doors, outdoor space. Very pleased with results and had positive comments.
- All Saints, Joiners Square – tables and chairs purchased for community space – continuation of renovation project.
- Halmer End – Kitchen complete. Already seeing a difference with Minnie's Tearooms and community groups using.
- Newcastle Cycle Club – nearing completion of new changing rooms.
- Wolstanton Bowling – roofing repairs complete securing future of club house. Viewing rail installed.
- Leycett CC – new training area and netting installed – final finishes to be made, expected completion in next few weeks

Projects awarded in Feb 2019:

- Silverdale CC – training area refurb
- Porthill Park CC – security fencing
- Newcastle Ladsandads – toilet block

Any community groups in local area looking for funding should get in touch with Sam Boden to discuss their project and check eligibility.

Request for more info about eligibility etc. -this is available on Red's website www.redindustries.co.uk/landfillfund/ and groups can contact Sam Boden who will speak to them personally about their project.

Request for more feedback regarding unsuccessful applications. – Red have a large number of applications and not all applications will be successful. However, **feedback will be taken onboard and will review notification process.**

MR and AR advised applications expected from organisations in their area.

Some concern with groups finding matched funding or organising various pots of funding – groups should speak to Sam Boden who can talk to them.

6. Site update

Waste inputs remain at same levels as over past 12 months – est 5,000 tonnes per week.

Landfill operations continue in line with permit.

Tipping in low area of site (Cell 1), been there approx. 10 days.

Submitted CQA (Construction Quality Assurance) plan to EA to do install gas wells to existing fill area to extract gas for electricity generation. SR confirmed this has been agreed and gas wells installed.

lifetime for disposal in new area.

Clay going on to site for lining and engineering works. Sides of 'valley' have 1m compacted clay around edge or sidewall of quarry, providing an estimated 2.5 years of disposal void.

The liner works will have a leachate (or rainfall) collection system which will direct water to the site collection system to allow it be extracted and processed.

Leachate may be treated in the onsite treatment plant and discharged into foul sewer or tankered offsite. Both tankered and discharged (treated) leachate are directed to Strongford WWTW in Barleston. Leachate plant installed in 2014, reduced offsite tankering required.

Looking at ways can put temporary cap over parts of the site to reduce rainfall and thus leachate, thereby reducing number of tankers.

Layby on Cemetery Road – Red have talked to Staffs County Council about ways they can support installation of bollards or other measures to minimise large vehicles using. DJ/ ST to follow up to see if this can be progressed.

Customers have been spoken to about their drivers not parking the layby, abiding by speed limits etc. Feedback from DJ and BJ that communication with Red had resulted in improvements.

SD, MR, ADS commented on vehicles parking in other areas now that they're not using the layby. ST advised parking enforcement is in place for double yellow lines and if restrictions in place. Asked to provide details of the company to Red so they can speak to customers.

BJ asked what can be done about vehicles using narrow roads (not necessarily Red vehicles) – ST/ DJ responded that funding difficulties make it challenging to invest in traffic calming measures. There are flashing speed signs and sign posts to advise drivers.

Community speedwatch not in operation as not enough volunteers and training needed every 12 months. SR suggested people talk to Road Safety Partnership for survey to be carried out.

'Foam' not currently being taken on site – no issues since first quarter last year.

SD raised concerns about dirty vehicles. All vehicles go through the wheel wash on site to remove debris and all must be sheeted. Physical inspections are also carried out to ensure debris has been removed from axels. Red also carry out litter picking and send out road sweepers. If there are any reports of debris, this should be reported to NG. In terms of general appearance of vehicles, this is up to the hauliers – there's nothing in the permit regarding this, only condition is debris is not deposited on the highway.

ADS advised queries had been sent to EA and to Red. Had a response from the EA but not from Red. Red assumed this would be discussed in the meeting and have answers prepared that will be circulated to the group.

7. Environment Agency update

2018 – 194 complaints of odour

2019 – 360 complaints of odour YTD

AMU in place at rear of Garner's garden centre, operating 24/7

SR personally made visits to the site and surrounding area at various times of day – planned and unplanned visits (audits, 5 unannounced, 2 full odour tours – route to be circulated to group). Not been able to substantiate odour complaints.

19th March – took laser detection equipment out in local area. Found 5 mains gas leaks (these are not landfill smells, but mains gas). Contacted Cadent gas to investigate:

- Park Road
- Silverdale Road near ceramics factory
- Ellams Place
- Silverdale Road/ Church Road junction
- Driveway of cemetery (opposite entrance to Walleys)

SR reported that he did not detect any landfill odours at a level likely to cause a nuisance. SR went on to state that he has personally been in the area and had officers in the area at times of complaints – within 20-25mins of complaint have been at the address, but not been able to substantiate the odour complaint.

Odour checks have been carried out early morning, during the day, evening both during the week and at weekends. Not been able to substantiate complaints. People reporting 6/6 odour strength, but not been able to substantiate.

Red have also carried out odour tours and checks and not been able to substantiate.

AMU should provide with results – however, monitoring has not taken place over enough time with enough variable weather conditions to be able to present findings just yet (not sufficiently robust enough date). Findings expected early May.

ADS and IB queried placement of AMU. EA experts have advised it is in the right place. Monitoring has been carried out previously.

EA team working on investigating potential odour sources and potential deployment of further equipment in other locations.

8. Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update

The council has records of closed landfills, mines etc. in the area. As part of contaminated land duties, sites are assessed for gas migration. Assessment is that these sites are low risk. Other potential sources of odour could be: landfill, gas leaks, other non-identified sources, agriculture (e.g. muck spreading).

Spate of complaints at Christmas and from 21st Jan – 28th Feb. Spike coincided with timing of public meetings which may have brought public awareness. Level of complaints has dropped off, with no complaints in March.

Red confirmed nothing has changed in terms of operations or waste taken on site. Only change is no longer in the eye-line as working in a different cell.

Set up website to receive complaints around landfill. Where possible, during working hours, NULBC will attend complaints if in a person's house, if in the community will pass onto EA. In evidence gathering stage. Wouldn't discourage people reporting gas smells to Cadent in case there is a gas leak.

Previous operator had complaints which were found to be natural gas not landfill odour.

Taking advice from Public Health England. If people have health concerns, they should speak to their GP.

Visit the NULBC website for more information and FAQs.

9. Staffordshire planning update

No planning applications

10. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update

No one in attendance

DW advised Hamptons have moved off site. The permit for land to be used for waste has lapsed, so new planning application would be needed if this were to happen. Expect planning application for housing to be submitted.

11. Local councillor and residents' representatives comments

SD advised had emailed about an odour and was advised to call the EA. Red confirmed that standard advice is to call EA so it can be logged and investigated.

BJ – reports of rats, particularly at traveller's site. This has been raised with Aspire. When gull-scaring device is used, rats are reported to run out. Red have a pest management plan in place and are happy to review this as needed. **Agreed that Aspire should contact Red to discuss further.**

ADS asked about a cell capable of taking hazardous waste. SR advised hazardous waste that can be taken is asbestos, but none is going into the site and there are no proposals lodged with the EA to do this. Red (NB) confirmed there was no immediate plans to install a stable non-reactive (SNR) hazardous waste cell at the site at this moment although this position may change in the future.

12. AOB

NG to send out liaison committee permit criteria. Subsequent amend – criteria included on email with notes. May not be currently covering all wards or all people able to attend. Committee should look to update list of members – ST to work with Red ahead of next meeting. This should be the first point on the agenda next time.

Feedback from Knutton meeting organised by local residents (both of whom have declined to meet with Red or attend the Committee Meeting) was a lack of understanding about the Liaison Committee Meetings and what happens. Residents Associations should be sharing more information and information needs to be more publicly accessible.

SD asked if anyone would like to take her place, no-one at the Knutton meeting came forward.

Red (NB) confirmed they were invited but declined to attend as they did not wish to put their employees into a highly stressful and potentially threatening situation.

Red have committed to producing and circulating a community information leaflet. **ST asked if Committee could have the opportunity to pass comment before this was printed.**

Historic minutes are available on Red's website – currently last 4 meeting's notes are on: <https://www.redindustries.co.uk/waste-services/landfill-disposal/>

NB advised Red are operating compliantly and within conditions of permit. Looking at communication methods and explaining what Red do to the wider community. Given significant support to the community and will continue to do so. Have invited concerned residents to site, but had no uptake.

ADS advised people were invited to attend site, but no uptake on offer.

Councillors to email Sam Boden with details of local residents association meetings in area should a representative from Red wish to attend.

Meeting closed 5.45pm

Date of next meeting: 16th May at 4pm. **Location TBC.**

Agreed to bring meeting date forward so feedback from Knutton resident's meeting could be discussed.

Subsequent amend - Note change of time to 3pm on 16th May