

Walleys Liaison Committee Meeting 22nd April 2021 at 5.30pm

Attendance

Present

Michelle Purkiss – Note taker (MP)
Carl Moss – Environment Agency (CM)
Sarah Dennis – Environment Agency (SD)
Jon Clewes – Red Industries (JC)
Paul Lealman – Red Industries (PL)
Nigel Bowen – Red Industries (NB)
Ian Barnett – Resident (IB)
Darren Walters – NULBC (DW)
Anna Willets – Chair (AW)
Neil Goodwin – Staffs CC (NG)
Jon Philpin – Environment Agency (JP)
Elaine Moulton – NULBC (EM)
Robert Thomas – NULBC (RT)
Angela Drakakis-Smith – Thistleberry Residents Assoc (ADS)

Apologies

Marion Reddish – NULBC
Jake Wu – Silverdale PC
Henryk Adamczuk – Silverdale PC
Amelia Rout – NULBC
Steve Meakin – Poolfields Residents Assoc
Simon Tagg – Staffs CC

Nonattendance

Dave Jones – NULBC
Brian Johnson – NULBC
Tony Eagles – Knutton representative
Graham Eagles – Poolfields Residents Assoc

1. Welcome and introductions.

NB – Thanks for attending, this is a slightly different meeting than what we expected to have, there is some reasoning behind that which Jon will discuss later. It is relating to live casting and our decision not to agree to that at this moment in time, what has happened in respect of that is a number of councillors including Simon have decided not to attend the meeting, but Red Industries felt it was important to continue with the meeting despite not being able to come to an agreement between ourselves. We are committed to being independently chaired, so on the screen you will see Dr Anna Willets who's joining us, Anna is the junior, soon to be vice president of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management which is the professional body for the waste industry. Anna is an environmental lawyer for a company called Gunner Cooke in Manchester and she has a background in geophysics and has a doctorate in geophysics and a first degree in geology and has a specialism within landfill. I would like to make it clear for the record that Gunner Cooke are a law firm of which we have no other dealings with as a business other than asking Anna to chair. We contacted Anna through the Chartered Institute of Waste Management when asking for suitable people to chair our meeting at short notice and Anna has kindly stepped in. Anna can I just allow you to introduce yourself.

AW – Yes, thank you Jon and Nigel, thank you for inviting me this evening and letting me join your meeting. I hope you can all see me, there's a bit of sunshine coming through. Just

clarify as well, I would like to say as well that at Gunner Cooke we provide no legal services to Red Industries, I am completely independent of them and I have been asked along simply because of my background and my knowledge of the waste industry and landfill in particular. I'm currently practising as an environmental lawyer, my last 10 years of experience is in law but as you just heard my previous career was as a scientist in the environmental and waste resources industry, then I retrained as a lawyer. Thank you for inviting me here tonight I am hopefully going to chair ably at the meeting and just keep to time. I am aware we've sort of got an hour and a half, I think so I guess my main aim is to make sure we push on and cover all of the matters so thank you and I'll look forward to hearing from everyone.

NB – Are there any objections to Anna chairing this meeting? None? Ok, thanks.(no objections raised)

JC – Thank you for that. I just wanted to say something on live webcasting, Nigel has already alluded to this, we have received conditional demands late on to live web cast this meeting to the public. Considering the current personal threats being experienced by members of our staff, members of the group and really not having time to consult on this, we have not agreed to this for this meeting. We will minute it and we are comfortable to keep this matter under review.

In terms of apologies, sorry Anna, I know you would normally do this this but I've got the apologies here and I realise how late on it is, as Nigel alluded to before we have got apologies from Henryk Adamczuk, Jake Wu, Amelia Rout and Steve Meakin. In terms of GDPR, we haven't consented to it being recorded externally for public webcast and we are applying that to you guys as well. I will hand back to Anna at that point please.

AW – Thank you very much Jon. You have done the apologies and I am hoping everyone has got a copy of the agenda in front of them. So, reading from mine, welcome and introductions, normally when I chair meetings everyone goes round the room and says who they are and introduces themselves and where they are from. Is that something you would like me to do now, or would you like me to move on?

JC – That would be useful Anna, yes absolutely.

*Everyone introduces themselves.

2. Apologies

As above

3. Minutes of last meeting

AW – I am hoping everybody has had an opportunity to review these. When I have chaired previous meetings, with the CIWM for example, we haven't gone through the minutes in detail, what has happened is that if anybody has had any issues, they wanted to raise from those minutes they do this at this point. If we are happy to do that rather than go through

minutes line by line, I think that's probably a time efficient way of doing it. I think perhaps if I could ask if anybody does have any issues from those minutes, to speak now.
No, good. Ok, lovely, thank you. From that we take those minutes as accepted.

4. Matters arising

AW – In terms of matters arising, I think I'll ask the same question. Nothing has sprung to mind, but I would like to give people the opportunity in this forum to do that if there is anything, but nobody's saying anything. Lovely, great, thank you.

5. Red Industries update

6. Site update

Presentation by Nigel Bowen and Paul Lealman

PL – The first slide if you will, is a current, up to date aerial shot of site which has been taken in the last 4 weeks, it gives us a good overview of the ongoing operation and you can see the changes for those of you that were here for the last liaison meeting, the changes that have happened against the last aerial photographs that were taken in June/July last year. So, we'll talk in some detail later in the presentation, but you can clearly see, front and centre the temporary capping that is going on, as I say, we'll talk in some detail, but this is to give an overview if we needed one of the site that we are going to talk about.

NB – We acquired an industrial cleaning company called Pro-Clean Industrial Services back in December 2020, we are integrating that business within the Red group as part of our ongoing strategy to become a hazardous waste services provider and industrial services provider. Industrial services being high pressure water jetting and associated types of work which is basically aimed at industrial customers. This generates other types of waste which we are interested in managing. There is still a significant driver underway which should take employment numbers shortly to above 250, many of those have been recruited from within the local area. We are somewhat advanced now with building an aerosol recycling plant at our site at Sneyd Hill in Burslem. That is a £2m investment and we are probably halfway through with that now. We are also investing £500k in plant infrastructure on that site to upgrade certain parts of it and also to support the plant investment. We have also had about £350k investment into our welfare facilities and other employee led initiatives on the site which is aimed at improving the work environment for our staff. We are pursuing Investors in People status and we introduced a graduate training scheme; we now have 3 graduate trainees working for us, they are being trained to be deployed to our technical sales within the business and they are future leaders following their development and support at Red Industries. We are continuing to appraise options for office relocation, whereby we would combine our main operating centres and our office. We are investing in additional vehicles across the group and progressing towards the FORS scheme which is an additional accreditation scheme for transport. Also, we have allocated in our spending ¼ million

pounds which has been allocated to Walleys quarry which is to complete the work we will inform everyone about during the rest of the meeting.

PL – Thank you Nigel. Presented in the normal way, the current inputs into the Walleys quarry facility were in line with permissions and operating normally until the 13th of March when we voluntarily curtailed inputs into site to prioritise capping and other engineering works that we are currently undertaking and will discuss in detail a little bit further on. At the moment the curtailment of materials leave us importing soils, clay, hardcore, some general waste which I'll come back to, filter cakes and post treatment residues and containerised solid waste. This is a very narrow scope of materials that are coming in which are either being used within the engineering works to, or facilitate, in the case of hardcore, or to gain the profiles for capping to commence in the case post treatment residues and containerised solid waste, it is key that they come in and they are coming in from internal sources only, from the Red Industries Group. We are broadly working within cell 1 which is adjacent to the area we are capping, but as you can appreciate with the detailed program that is going on we are actually doing extensive works across site in most areas. Our offloading pad is working under normal working conditions, albeit it is reduced and only used when we need to. The priority is to get inputs to directly where we need them for engineering. The wheel wash is operating under normal conditions and vehicles are going across and being cleaned as they are exiting the site. There have been some improvement works that have gone on to the wheel wash which are later in the presentation. The gas infrastructure, in the last meeting we talked about additional wells and they did go in as part of the infrastructure. The 13 wells went in along with some additional horizontal wells which are used to manage the gas by our specialist gas contractor on site. To focus in on the main ticket items, if you will, we commenced the permanent capping of the cell 1 in March, the programme is around 6 weeks to completion. The area that we are talking about is to the right of centre you can see it is the northern flank of the site which borders Garner's garden facility. That area is 20,000 square metres, it was approved in conjunction with the EA on 1st April and the value of those works is around £485k. Just to cover what the permanent capping in cell 1 actually means, so the area northern flank and the very top of cell 1 initially needs to be regraded so that it provides a really stable and level platform for the engineering works to go on. The first part of the engineering works is to lay 300mm of blinding layer, and that's there principally to protect the landfill liner that's going to be placed above. The landfill liner as you can see in the photograph comprises of a 1mm LLDPE plastic membrane that is laid in rolls and strips across the site and fully welded together to ensure that it provides a containment media that prevents the infiltration of water and aids with capping the site. It is installed under continual CQA provision so prior to the works there is a specification produced that is agreed and signed off in conjunction with Agency and then there's independent supervision by an appropriate consultant undertaken during the time to make sure that the material and the works is constructed as per specification.

The area, as I touched on is around 20,000 square metres. In conjunction, and it stands out very nicely in this photograph we are laying engineering materials predominantly to the southern flank of cell 2, but also going into what will be the southern flank of cell 4. That material is principally an engineering clay, it is the same clay that we would use if we were engineering a landfill cell. We are laying it in 300mm lifts/depths. That is a really low permeability clay that prevents the ingress of water and helps to seal the site. This photograph was taken quite early on in those works but it's one where the clay can jump out and give that image of what is going on. The value of those works is around about £100k when it is complete. As I've discussed those were the two main items of work that are going on. There is a whole host of other things we are doing while we've got an opportunity, now our volumes are curtailed. In terms of litter picking there has been an extensive amount of litter picking undertaken, both internally to the site and also along the main arterial routes for some distance away from Walleys. That includes verges, pathways, hedgerows, and isn't specific about what that waste is so we have cleaned a vast amount of litter from the local area. The site has a perimeter litter fencing and where needed we have repaired and replaced. On completion it is something like 350m worth of new fencing is going to be installed alongside what has been maintained. There are two lagoons on site, there is an upper and lower groundwater lagoon. The lower groundwater lagoon we are in the process of cleaning to make sure that the discharge to the agreed points is through a nice clean lagoon. Site bunding, for those that have been passed the site recently, you will see just adjacent, between Garners and the entrance to site there is a site bund being created and on top of that bund there is an extensive litter net system being placed. That has been done so it is at height to provide a good means of secondary capture should it be needed along that flank that faces Cemetery Road. In addition, the atomising sprays that those of you that are familiar with the ones just inside the site to the right, have been extended all the way down to the boundary with Garners. They provide a means of atomising water to carry a perfume and it has been extended all the way to Garners. I touched on the wheel wash previously, while we have had an opportunity, we have introduced a weir system to the recycled water lagoon to help filter out floating material, principally plastics and things like that, that if they are allowed to continue into the spray nozzles, they will block the spray nozzles and take continual maintenance. While we have been at curtailed numbers, we have taken the opportunity to install the weir system as well as cleaning out and improving the diameter of the spray nozzles to encourage flow from the pump to the vehicle. I touched on hardcore, there is an immense amount of hardcore that is bought in continually but is certainly being focused at the moment so that there is materials there for roadbuilding. Principally that is so that the roads are in good order for ongoing operations but also so we can get to the areas that we need to in terms of the engineering works that we are doing. The leachate tank has been relocated from an area of site adjacent to the leachate plant, again that was done so there is easy access to where the leachate tank was in terms of

cleaning and maintenance. The entrance way, last week, was re-tarmacked which had started to degrade, particularly on the junction between the site bell mouth and the main public highway. I would estimate the value of all that work is around £150k.

JC – Paul, sorry to cut in. Just coming back to the atomising spray, I think, it might be useful to Darren for this one, can you just go through the aromas that are there now.

PL – Ok. We typically use fresh linen for those that are familiar with the smell and I think there have been comments around the odour around site. So, we typically use fresh linen but actually we have used a variety of different smells of late so we have got a cherry blossom in there and we are also using a lemon scent within the wheel wash recirculated lagoon. That's just to give a different scent around site so that its noticed, people become familiar with the same smell. Also, there is preferences, we have used fresh linen for a period of time, people have preferences, and we are just trying out different types of perfume that may be more palatable than the fresh linen. Does that answer the question, Jon?

JC – It does for me, unless there are any other comments on that?

PL – I think someone has got their hand up, is it Darren?

AW – Michelle, I can see you've got a hand up, is that?

MP – Sorry, that's not intentional.

AW – Ok, I can see Darren has got a hand up, is that intentional?

DW – Yes, it is. I just wanted to say, people have been commenting on the change in odour from the perimeter misting over the last couple of weeks. It would appear that the fresh linen smell didn't appear to raise any issues but the one you've got now is noticeable and appears to be smelt from some distance from the site so maybe go back to the fresh linen. That didn't cause too many issues as far as I am aware.

PL – We're more than happy to Darren, I just, it was an opportunity for us to try different things because people become accustomed to the odour, the fresh linen odour, the scent that is given off from the atomisers and that can be positive and negative because we actually want people to notice that there is an odour within the atomising sprays. If there is concern locally, I am more than happy to switch back.

JC – When those comments were made Darren, were they negative comments about the change?

DW – I think it is a negative, alien smell if you like amongst the many. Obviously, people appreciate what you are trying to do but yeah I would encourage you to think about a less obvious smell.

PL – Have there been many comments, Darren, is it from one particular individual or has there been a few comments about the odour?

DW – Several properties at varying distances from the site.

PL – Thank you. Future operations, and this is very much written as if it's business as usual but as everyone can appreciate the inputs into Walleys are severely curtailed at the

moment. We will continue to operate within cell 1 adjacent to the capped area is the plan, the direction of travel for us in terms of landfilling, so we will landfill in the area behind the area that has been capped. We are ongoing with our capping works to cell 1 and the temporary capping works to cell 2 and 4. Gas infrastructure will be developed as landfill operations commence and becomes areas that we can get additional infrastructure in. Just touching on the groundwater, we have got to install the headworks around 201D which is a deep groundwater monitoring borehole.

Landfill communities fund, just want to touch on this in brief. There are 7 funding applications in at the moment totalling £121k currently being reviewed. Of the ones that I know have progressed from the January meeting, the renovations to the Tommy Cheadle social club are now complete and we have photographs if anyone would like to see the work that has been done there. We are more than happy to receive application from appropriate organisations in due course.

That is the end of the presentation and the update from Red Industries.

JC – I would just like to put a bit in there if that is alright Paul?

PL – Yes

JC – To give an update on community odours and alternative odours from our perspective. We are aware of the concern from the community regarding odours in the local area, and Darren I realise the cherry blossom is not positive but feedback like that is still useful. We are listening and that is why we curtailed waste inputs to drive through the accelerated capping programme that is currently being undertaken. As Paul showed on there and we'll get some more photographs out, the works are proceeding well, and we remain in daily dialogue with the Environment Agency to ensure that the works are duly monitored and approved. I think that you'll also be aware that we've engaged suitably qualified consultants to investigate the alternative odour source associated with the groundwater outside of the landfill. I'm sure you'll appreciate this is a highly technical investigation involving hydrogeologists, geochemists and other scientific professionals supported by a significant body of analytical data and information from Freedom of Information requests. We will provide updates accordingly as the situation crystallises itself.

AW – That's great, thank you very much Jon. Are there any questions? No, Ok. Well thank you for providing that Jon and colleagues.

JC – Neil Goodwin has raised his hand.

AW – Sorry, I missed that. Neil, would you like to ask a question?

NG – Hopefully just a simple one, we've been made aware of rumours on social media, and I know that that's a dangerous thing to start with. There has been mention of suggestions that the infilling in cell one has actually been put above the supposed finished heights and now you need to remove some of it and move it around again. Is there any truth in that, is there anything happening regarding sort of moving the stuff that has already been deposited?

PL – If I take that one Neil, so I would guess, and I don't know the source or the detail of what has been raised but that will be the regrading works along the northern flank of site. The way that the site was filled, was to build very close to the road and allow the landfill gas main to run approximately 10metres up the waste mass. What that has meant over time is there has been a shelf created and actually what is needed and what was always planned was to move the gas main and regrade the waste that is below that bench, back up and into the flank that the gas main ran on. That is a piece of work that has always been planned and I guess that is where that rumour, that question has come from.

NG – Thanks

AW – Thank you for that, before I dismiss waving hands, I don't think there are any more I can see, are there any more questions? No, I don't think so.

7. Environment Agency Update

AW – Sarah and Jon, if I can ask you if it's a good time to hand over to you both.

SD – Yes that's fine. It'll be me giving the update. I've just done this from the start of 2021 so since the start of the year we have completed 42 amenity assessments now, so they are visits where we drive or walk around to determine whether there is any odour off site. We have completed 14 site visits, that does include 1 which was done remotely and also that includes an audit that was done remotely as well and then we have also done a couple of reviews of reports, one was a CQA plan that Paul referred to for the capping, so we approved the CQA plan for the capping and the other one was a review of a report submitted by the company. From those assessments, and this is just for this year, there have been 5 non compliances with the permit recorded, 2 of those were from a gas review, a lot of that related to a review of information and works from last year, 1 related to a period of time where there was a gas extraction within cell 1 and the other breach related to some infrastructure that had been compromised by surface water. A further breach on a separate visit related to collected surface water within the landfill site in manner that wasn't acceptable, that has now also been cleared. The final 2 breaches were on another visit when an officer determined odour was off site at a level we would determine to be at a level of annoyance and following a site visit the cause of that was deemed to be the lack of capping on cell 1, the lack of appropriate measures was determined. Subsequent to that visit we issued an enforcement notice on 26th March, that notice requires 2 steps to be complied with by 30th April and those 2 steps are to complete the permanent capping of cell 1 in accordance with the approved CQA plan and temporary capping of cell 2, the area on cell 1 was as referred to about 20,000 square metres and the area on cell 2 of temporary capping is about 15,000 square metres. We have been on site a few times recently, obviously to check on compliance with that notice and we are visiting again next week and obviously we

will visit after the date has passed to ensure that the company have complied with the notice. They have given us assurances so far that they will achieve compliance by the required date. Complaints wise, I haven't broken this down, but these are the numbers we have given out to ensure we are consistent with information given elsewhere, from the 27th February to the 14th April we received just over 10,000 complaints, 10,430. There are still some emails wise being inputted for those more recent dates which is why I haven't given any more recent, they did sort of drop off a couple of days ago otherwise complaints have maintained at over a hundred to 2 hundred each day. That is pretty much the summary if anyone has got any questions?

AW – Thank you Sarah, that was great. I can't see any questions in the chat but if anybody wants to, Angela, yes, would you like to go ahead Angela?

ADS – I want to ask about these you know, if people are complaining every day does that mean there are odours every day? If so, what is the cause of that? Has that been determined?

SD – The reason we served the enforcement notice is because officers did determine an odour off site and the cause in their view of that particular odour off site was the fact there was a lack of capping on cell 1. With the lack of capping what you can get is emissions from the surface of the landfill, the seal on that part of the landfill that has been completed, it is not a permanent seal, it is not the best seal. What that does mean is you can't pull as hard on the gas management to actually pull the gas in so you can get emissions from the surface. The reason for the permanent capping is to ensure that area is permanently sealed and get a good seal on it and you can put more gas extraction on as well. The reason then also for the temporary capping of cell 2 is that is an area that is not going to be tipped in for some time and that again is to prevent those emissions from the surface. Our view at the moment is that the main source of odour is attributed to the lack of capping on those 2 areas. That was the reason for the permit breaches and the subsequent notice.

ADS – Is there any covering at night and at weekends?

SD – They've capped half of the landfill already so I'd think from the picture that came up earlier you could see black membrane, that's across areas that aren't being tipped in for some time, so that is permanently there. The capping on cell 2 will put more of a seal on that area. The other areas, I am sure the company can explain more about what they have got on other areas or not is there should be temporary capping on areas that they are not going into for 6 months so the main open areas are generally the active areas, but they would have what we would call a daily cover over so a lower level. Permanent capping is your highest level, temporary capping on areas that you aren't going to go into for some time and then you've got daily cover on other areas of the landfill.

ADS – So with daily cover I'm taking it, it's an earth layer but at weekends do you put anything a bit more substantial like, I don't know, a membrane covering over the earth to minimise any emissions?

SD – Paul do you want to explain what you do at a weekend any more than at a weekday.

PL – Yeah, sorry we did put our hand up to answer that Sarah, happy to. The point I wanted to make was, if you refer back Angela to the photographs in the presentation you can clearly see the whole site is covered. There are very few areas that are actually being worked in, in terms of waste, the whole site looks as if it's covered in soil and that's because it is. What we do at the end of each day we put daily cover on, there is nothing per se at the weekend that we do in addition to because actually, the majority of weekends we work Saturday morning so there is actually only Saturday afternoon and Sunday that we don't operate. We cover with soil as we go so we keep the tipping area and the worked area as small as possible. If that answers your questions?

ADS – It's just this kind of odd thing that there is still odour coming off, I mean if there is a covering of earth at night then there shouldn't be should there, the sort of strong odours that people are saying there are? With earth closets for example, earth toilets, the covering of earth and any odour is gone but that doesn't seem to be happening here.

PL – The soil and the cover does a few things, it helps to minimise emissions, it also helps to prevent material blowing round if it caught by the wind, it helps to prevent access by scavengers and pests so there is a variety of things that the soil does. As Sarah has just touched on the best form of cover material is actually when the site is finished, and it is permanently capped which is the exercise that we are doing with the membrane.

ADS – I mean I get that but if you're putting a reasonable soil cover over the top surely then there should be little or no odour.

ADS – People say it is worse at night and early morning so just trying to work out what is going on.

SD – At the moment the capping is ongoing so the capping work hasn't been completed at the moment so there is still the 30th to complete that so we would expect then an uplift in gas extraction after that as well. So there is the permanent capping to finish and then the increase in gas extraction from there. We do tend to find with many sites' things increase with cold nights, cold, still conditions where you get what we call a temperature inversion, nothing moves really so we tend to find that, it's all about minimising any odour off site. Once the capping has finished the company have also committed to doing a survey over the landfill to check that capping and across the rest of the site to ensure there are no, what we call fugitive emissions or surface emissions, so it is an ongoing process which will continue to minimise those odours. The biggest source in our view was the lack of capping so once this has been completed, we will obviously be moving on to find any further sources for those to be minimised as well.

AW – Thank you, I can see there is a hand up from Darren, do you have a question.

DW – Yup, hi, Sarah what was the odour that led to the notice being served? What would you characterise it as?

SD – I will ask Jon to answer that because that was him and the easiest thing is rather than for me to say it for him, for Jon to say it.

JP – Makes sense. I encountered over a 15-minute period what I would deem to be a characteristic landfill odour which tends to be principally landfill gas but there will be other elements of fresh waste materials that was fairly close in proximity to the crossroads in Silverdale, the Cemetery Road and Silverdale crossroads. When I undertook the site inspection with my colleague Roger Pee, we did discover that there was a fairly strong odour on proximity of cell 1 and that obviously led to the action that Sarah described, to bring forward the already planned permanent capping of that area of the site to try and minimise that odour that we discovered on the particular day of inspection.

DW – If I was trying to buy this as a perfume, what would I be describing to a perfumer that landfill gas smells like?

JP – That's a very unusual question Darren, I have to say, but...

DW – Not that I want to buy it as a perfume.

JP – Landfill gas has a very distinctive odour, it is something that you generally have to experience and something I have come across at many different sites, it is a composite of many different components and many of those are trace elements that I couldn't even pretend to describe or even perhaps pronounce the chemical composition names. But it was definitely what I would consider to be a landfill odour from past experience, of a level that would be of annoyance outside the site boundary.

DW – OK, thank you. Sarah, in terms of the monitoring once the site is capped, what do you envisage that to be, would that be FID, GCMS, Flux, something else?

SD – It's usually a surface emission survey by FID survey is what the permit requires. There is a full survey across the site required each year. The survey was completed prior to the capping and a survey is being completed after the capping which is what we have recommended, and the company have agreed to do because then you get the change from that.

DW – What sort of information do you get from a FID survey?

SD – The reports that normally come in from the full surveys are almost like coloured markers that show areas that are acceptable and areas where action is required to be taken, there is part of a survey in the annual report that has been sent through to Hal in your office so you'll be able to see in the there the type of survey and the report that comes from it, it's in the back of the last annual report.

DW – Ok, and how often would an FID survey be undertaken on a landfill site?

SD – The full landfill survey of all areas including capped and uncapped areas is required to be undertaken once a year. However, the use of surveys is something we would always recommend, and we have had previous surveys of small areas from the company to use to pick up where there are smaller emission points that may need some work to minimise them. Once a year is the full survey and then we would always recommend that other

surveys are done throughout the year. They use the type of equipment that we use ourselves when we have done site visits on our walkarounds.

DW – What is that is that a FID itself?

SD – Yeah, a laser survey that picks up methane emissions.

DW – And what about GCMS or flux box to understand the gas rates from open areas or what is actually being emitted? Is that something else?

SD – You're testing my knowledge of the permit conditions here Darren.

DW – I didn't mean to put you on the spot.

SD – I will have to check that, and I'll come back to you on that, I'll check it and drop you a message on that tomorrow.

DW – Thank you Sarah.

AW – Thanks Sarah and thank you Darren and Angela, I hope your questions have been answered. The Environment Agency has been very comprehensive there. I can see another hand waving, which is Ian. Do you have a question?

IB – Yes, I do have 1 question, obviously the FID survey is standard procedure to check surface emissions but there are ways to detect odours, where you can actually take field equipment out onto the site and actually from calculations you can calculate how much odour is being, down to official odour numbers, you can actually detect what is being emitted from various sites. Are there any plans to do that because that is something which when you have a problem site that is an additional measure which is taken and that is what has been asked for other sites? Is this not going to be done for this site?

AW – Are you asking that to Red, is that from Jon and ...

IB – Well no, it's for the regulator, it's we require you to do this because of this issue so this goes above and beyond the normal standard procedures, are you going to get this done, and regulators, this is the Welsh regulator I'm thinking of specifically have asked for these kinds of thing, are you not going to be asking for that?

SD – It is not something we have asked the company to do, we have asked at the moment for the capping to be done and we'll be asking for the surveys over afterwards. The use of surveys like that for ourselves don't aid our compliance work and I know this is something people have queried before, there is a permit condition that requires us as officers to determine that odour off site and we have provided some information as to why the human nose is used rather than using equipment. The one thing we have got is the monitoring equipment off site, there are 2 monitoring stations set up and 2 more are starting to run as well so we have that equipment off site as well. The additional measure that are required of the company are the work that we have said, for the additional surveys, to do the capping work and once that is done, we will move on to where next or anything that needs to minimise odour afterwards. We don't use the equipment you've talked about.

IB – There is a dilution method, I don't know if you are aware of it, where the odour is diluted and a site technician goes in, monitors the odour and then it can calculate how much odour is coming from said area and it is called in if there are obvious issues.

SD – It is often something we have come across when people are designing abatement technology at certainly food and drink sites, it's certainly something I have come across there where they have done odour surveys to understand, as you say, odour units being emitted but it's not something on any of our sites that any permit requirement is for certain odour units. It is that level of annoyance on the officer so it is not something that would assist our regulation so that is why it is not being used. The monitoring off site is obviously monitoring a range of different parameters, one of which is hydrogen sulphide which also does have that annoyance level and that is something we are looking at on the off-site monitoring.

IB – Since we have mentioned the offsite monitoring, I was going to hold it to the comments when we get our section but, since it has been bought up, congrats on finally reading a book and putting it in a relevant receptor location and also prevalent wind direction for the light winds. I would like to know when that monitoring started because I know it wasn't immediately, there were some power issues that missed one of the major events.

SD – It started around the 5th/6th March. There was a day in between each one, I think one was the 6th and one was the 7th I believe.

IB – The Galingale View one particularly interests me because I can clearly see that from my house.

SD – They were both either the 5th or 6th March I think the Silverdale one was the one that was the day before.

IB – Any plans, I know this obviously is ongoing and you're going to be checking the data and seeing if it is required to stay longer but do you have any idea when it will be running too?

SD – At the moment the plan was for 3 months for them to run and we've got 2 others being installed that is similarly looking to be for a similar time.

IB – Thank you

AW – So if we take one more question on this from Carl, I'm just aware of time and other presentations, if you'd like to go Carl.

CM – It's just an update for Ian on that, in terms of the multi-agency discussion we are intending to run the four stations until the end of August Ian.

IB – Thank you.

AW – Hopefully that has answered your questions, Ian.

8. Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update

AW – Darren are you happy to provide a little update?

DW – Yes, I am, yes. Since the last meeting we have trained seven officers to the European reference standard for odour, that has been undertaken and certified. There has been in the

normal range of sniffability, if you like a non-technical term, those officers have then been deployed to undertake a series of odour tours around the site and also in response to complaints. We are still actively investigating to see if there is a statutory nuisance and we are gathering evidence from both outside the site, inside people's homes and in the wider community. In terms of complaints, since the start of the year, year to date is 12,000 or thereabouts complaints. I've provided graphs and things to, is it Michelle, I think it's Michelle isn't it, and a couple of the members of the committee but sorry I didn't quite realise who everybody else was or haven't got emails for you so, if you could forward those on Michelle that would be great.

MP – I will forward those with the minutes.

DW – What you will see, there will be, there is a number of spikes in those graphs, and we are looking into those to see what else is potentially leading to those spikes, whether it be weather conditions or some other cause and also looking at the complaint data. Obviously, complaint data we share with Red on a routine basis, as complaints come in, they go to Red almost in instantaneous time so Red have got postcodes and accounts from individuals, along with the time of the report. In terms of the odour types, we are picking up, still picking up h2s, an onion type odour, a sour cabbage type odour, a very dry acrid odour, it's very difficult to describe and also what we have mentioned about the linen or this change in odour, the cherry odour that you described I think people are picking up on. Those are out in the community and in people's homes.

AW – Thank you Darren. I can see Angela has a question.

ADS – When you sent out your officers to investigate complaints, did they come back with anything, you know, substantiating?

DW – We are identifying odours, obviously we are still actively investigating to understand the nature of the nuisance and to understand if it meets the threshold for action for statutory nuisance, obviously there are a number of odour sources which Red have identified that may or may not be causing some of the issues that people are experiencing. I think Red have identified the h2s odour as potentially being related to groundwater contaminate coming from the mine workings, or passing through mine workings but, as I say I am picking up other odours and as are colleagues and as are members of the community.

ADS – And are they commensurate with the intensity that people are reporting, I mean, are you finding it's the same, you know if there's a figure to be put on it, your figure and their figure are the same.

DW – Yeah, I think there is a wide range of figures you can ascribe to it and some you struggle to detect and others that are very obvious and very prevalent so very clearly identifiable, out in the community and in people's homes. I can't say too much more on the information that we are gathering but that is a broad overview really of where we are as a borough council in so far as investigation.

ADS – And what about hydrogen sulphide, has that been detected?

DW – I would say yes and continues to be detected.

ADS – From the site or?

DW – Well we'll wait and see on that; we'll await the information back from Red Industries on that one and the Coal Authority.

ADS – Do you actually go out and look at the disbanded sites around, the old landfill sites that are around the area? Do you actually go out and test any of those?

DW – We don't test any of those, no but not now, we did test a number of sites that are under the ownership of the borough council and previous rural and district councils in the borough. So, we are quite satisfied that those sites are no longer an issue, we do investigate, we do have a contaminated land strategy which directs our investigations into areas of former land contamination in relation to human health aspects and also impacts on ground water and vegetation and the like and structures. I think the last one I was involved with was out at Chapel Chorlton, we do know obviously around the area that there are former clay pits and depressions that are filled with household waste but those were a number of years ago and by now the gas has degraded obviously over time historically ash and bone and glass pottery was the most prevalent input into a landfill or a hole but obviously modern times you are getting a lot more of everything else.

AW – Thank you Darren. Does that answer your questions, Angela?

ADS – Yes, thanks

AW – I can't see any more hands up, does anyone else have anything for Darren?

ADS – Sorry, can I just ask 1 more question? I did ask if we could have a look at a geological map because this whole area is underpinned with coal mines, old coal mines and I am just wondering what is underneath this site, first of all the landfill site, secondly, I have noticed Persimmon have now started to dig and delve on their housing site which is adjacent and within 50metres I think of the boundary of the landfill site. Do we not need to know what is underneath there?

DW – As you mentioned the coal authority undertake an investigation into the source of the hydrogen sulphide in the pumped ground water. They will be producing geological maps or updating the geological maps as part of that assessment so we can understand what lies beneath. That will be available shortly but there are maps already in the public domain through BGS and available online that show the geology under there. They may take some interpretation but there is a good understanding of what the geology is in this area of the country. Regards the Persimmons estate, yes, it is within well close proximity, I can't remember exactly how close it is to the installation boundary ...

ADS – 50 metres

DW – or to the working edge of the landfill but when that went through the planning appeal and the permission was granted, it was granted with a number of conditions relating to requiring site investigations to understand the industrial legacy of the, what has gone around there, particularly the scrap yard and also the mining workings and also to

understand potential impacts from the landfill and any ground gases that may be present from mine workings. So, all that has been investigated we have a thorough understanding now with the, as a borough council what the geological issues are there, and the land contamination issues and the gas issues. Persimmons and the contractors have provided very detailed information and we are satisfied that development is appropriate subject to some appropriate controls such as, I think gas membranes and also some measures to deal with historic land contamination on site, particularly the landfill. As regards land contamination physically on the Persimmons site itself and the former mine workings on there we are happy with that, the coal authority have signed off on that as well and we are satisfied about the migration potential from the landfill to the development and there is appropriate mitigation measures in place.

ADS – I don't know when you are talking about mitigation measures in terms of gas membranes, but Persimmon do not tell us and do not intend to put in any mitigation measures into the new house unless they, reading between the lines, unless they absolutely have to.

DW – Well as part of the final planning and approval, before the development can be occupied, we require a validation report so everything they say they are going to do, we've signed off and said basically yes go ahead and do that, they will engage their own independent consultants to review progress as each plot is built. As I understand it they will be overseen by NHBC as well and certified. If protection measures are required that will be overviewed and will be certified for each individual property together when any other additional measures that might be required on site. Obviously on that particular site itself, it is an area that was identified for clay extraction, so you have already got a very good geology there already that is less attractive to gas migration.

AW – Thank you Darren. The BGS maps are available on online and I think they are free of charge Angela if you wanted to have a look yourself.

ADS – Ok, thank you.

AW – Thank you, I think we will move on

9. Staffordshire planning update

AW – I'll hand over to you Neil.

NG – Thank you. Not too much for me to say really. We have had more complaints recently come to us than previously although the numbers we deal with are very small in comparison to the Agency and the Borough Council. We've had, since February we have had 36 complaints about the site. A lot of them related to odour which obviously is not an issue that is covered under the planning permissions anyway. We did have a relative spike of 20 complaints on 1 day which I am sure Darren and Sarah will think that's not really a spike, 20 but that is what we had in relation to the condition of the highway which happened to coincide with a visit I had arranged to make to the site so obviously I did visit the site on that

day. We kind of identified there was an issue with mud being deposited on the highway on that day but obviously as Paul described in his update earlier there was a number of measures put in place to hopefully improve the situation and prevent that happening again. We haven't had as many comments since then and when we have made monitoring visits and drove past the area since then it has obviously been much improved so hopefully that situation will keep on top of that. Otherwise, as I say we made that visit, we have got a couple of planning applications currently with us which one of my colleagues in the department control team is dealing with. I think currently they are still classed as invalid so the details of those are on our website. There is one which is in its consultation period, it's about habitat management plan, it is there if anyone does which to comment on, otherwise we will keep making our regular monitoring visits. Mostly we are outside the main issues of the site and concerns about odour, but we'll stick to our relatively straight forward issues. Nothing else for me to say unless anybody has any questions.

AW – Thank you Neil. I can't see any hands up; does anyone have anything they would like to ask Neil? No, I think you are free to go Neil by the looks of that one. Great thank you.

10. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update

AW – Can I hand over to you Elaine?

EM – Yes, thank you. Well, we've already touched on matters that I wanted to update you on which relates to the Persimmon development, the site off Keele Road, the former Hamptons Scrap Yard and adjoining field site. We have received a number of applications related to matters reserved by conditioners of the outline planning permission and the reserved matters planning permission and we are going through a consultation process seeking the relevant expert advice on whether the information provided is submitted and hopefully in the next few weeks we will be starting to receive those responses. I think we have had environmental health's response, but I think that might be it in terms of the bodies we consulted so we will react to the responses and seek further information or if the information is already satisfied, we should be in a position to start issuing approvals of those matter. So, they are clearly gearing up to make a commencement of the development on site and there is some activity on site, but to my knowledge they haven't physically started any construction works. There is nothing else that really, I can add by way of an update.

AW – Thank you Elaine. Angela, you have got your hand up.

ADS – Yes, it's doesn't look as if they are going to be doing anything between Cemetery Road and the drop to the field below which is going to be a, well I hope it is not going to be a play area, but that particular point is quite vulnerable to cars sort of coming of the road and landing in the field below. There is quite a significant drop and Persimmon tells us they are not going to be doing anything about that.

EM – There was an answer addressed during the application stage as I recall, but I don't recall that we specifically required them to do anything, I would have to revisit the reserve

matters approval to remind myself of what was identified on the planning submission as to what they intended to do there. There certainly isn't a play area there but there are a number of properties, I think they may have pulled, during the determination of the application, pulled the properties further away from it but, it is a while since I looked at the detailed plan so my memory of that is a little vague. The information that we have got on the planning application, the decision and any conditions, that's all in the public domain so you could review that if you wish to, but I am happy to have a look and come back to you if you want me to.

ADS – Yes, thank you, it's ok. We've read the plans and there were no conditions about the levels. I think there was supposed to be a play area but that is not going to happen now, and I think some of the houses were moved further away but still, it would be a bit daunting I think even if it was an open space for cars to be coming flying over the road into the field outside your garden, or into your garden.

EM – Yes, clearly if that did happen it would be daunting as you say. We did consult the highway authority and that was matters they would have advised us on, and I don't recall them raising any issues, but I do recall that was a matter raised in representations I think by the resident's association that we did look into at the time. We secured what we could, but I don't recall any specific requirements other than possibly some boundary treatments along there which are not necessarily suitable barriers, physical barriers to prevent a vehicle passing over that boundary and into the site.

ADS – Ok

AW – Thank you Angela and Elaine. Ian, I can see your hand up if you have a question.

IB – Yes, I'll try and keep this very brief, it's just about the new site, they have been there the past couple of weeks clearing the ground and such. What conditions were put on them regards mitigation of dust? I go out there on daily bike rides and last week when the winds were a bit high, there was massive clouds going across, just whipping across the road. I was just wondering what conditions have been set in place for that because obviously they need to do something if you have asked them to do something.

EM – There is certainly a condition requiring a construction management plan. They have provided details which we haven't yet approved so, we will need to go back to them if they are, if the activities they are undertaking on site are already causing difficulties or issues that the conditions thought to address then we need to raise that with them.

IB – Nobody's bought it up, because people talk to me, it's just I saw that and I thought, well what conditions are in place. It would be useful if you could get back to me on that just so we know that they have actually got some conditions would be useful.

EM – I'll go bac to the original, well, it could be on the outline or on the reserved matters approval, I'll check them both and I'll let you know.

IB – Thank you.

AW – Thank you. Darren, oh your hand was up, is it still up, it seems to have gone.

DW – Yes, it's still here. Just on the dust issue, that is something that we will take up as well with the developer pending the determination of the planning submission. Obviously, there's a potential nuisance and there are things they can do there, damping down haul road, profiling stockpiles, looking at vehicle speeds, all common things really. Just a matter of, real I think given the amount of capping work that's going on at the landfill and also the current dry spell that we are going through, it's probably something that should have been mentioned earlier, what is being done to control dust on the landfill at the moment on the working areas and with the materials that are being deposited? Probably one for Red.

PL – We have, and I'll probably also reference the Hamptons land, Persimmon's development, so we have a tractor bowser that's based on site that runs round continually throughout the dry spells to damp down site. I do know, you were talking about, I do know, I have seen Hamptons bowser up on site with Persimmon, he does actually leave mud on the road and we make sure we go up and clear up for him. I do know that they use a bowser, we use the same practice.

AW – Thank you.

DW – Sorry, we'll also reiterate to the Hamptons developer about the code of properties, the code of practice for development sites as well. That contains a lot of useful information, that is something else you would expect to see referenced in the construction management plan. The construction management plan doesn't only deal with dust, it deals with noise, vibration, lights, parking of vehicles, cleaning of vehicles, a whole host of issues that could affect people in the existing communities but also the developments been built out so that's something we have an input into from environmental health and making a recommendation to the local authority and Elaine's team.

AW – Thanks Darren.

ADS – Can I ask a question of Elaine please?

AW – Yes, please do.

ADS – I just wanted to know, the entrance, there is only one entrance to the already existing housing development and to the former scrap yard site, now when it comes to importing all building materials and when the building work begins, is that going to be the only entrance to the site?

EM – As far as I am aware, yes. There is obviously the existing field entrance on Keele Road which remains there as far as I am aware. It is possible that, through the information that the developer provides through the construction management plan condition that they will be suggesting that is used for that purpose but I'm not aware that they have done that so, I'm not familiar with the information that has been provided. Whatever information they have provided, we have consulted the highway authority and we are waiting for their comments and we will respond dependant on what they say. Well certainly the highway authority did not object to the single point of access to serve the residential development so I don't anticipate they would object to that being the single point of access for the purposes

of the construction phase of the development but as we haven't had their comments, I can't say for certain what they will be as yet.

ADS – So it might just be that that will be the single entrance?

EM – Yes. I would anticipate that it is, but I can't confirm that at this point.

ADS – Let's hope not.

AW – Thank you Elaine. There are no further questions on that one, hopefully everyone's felt that they've had their questions answered.

11. Local councillor and residents' representatives' comments

AW – I appreciate some of these might have been dealt with previously but, this is a section for local councillor and resident representatives' comments so could I open the floor to anything we want to put into this section. Just looking for hands up. Are we happy that everything has been ... oh yeah Ian?

IB – Just a few comments, I probably don't hold such a popular view because I understand why Red, the way they are doing things, they are doing what a business would do, they're a company. They are balancing the books; they are making money and they're following the rules as they are set out. Now, a lot of these things and these comments come back to me, that all of these problems go back to the EA because its, yes something is being done now but the view generally amongst the residents is it's so little, so late and the comments are, it is laughable that it is only just being recognised as an odour, because its been, well, it's endemic at times, the odour has been in this area, it has really bought the whole area into disrepute and its really getting a lot of the neighbours comments, they are doing exactly what they should do and I do also agree that the road situation is improved significantly because yes this odour issue is an issue but I am more concerned in some way for the dust, the dust in the road and of course part of that is certain finer compound, pm10, pm2.5 and there are health limits associated with those so I'm very happy that they've stepped up there and mitigation measures there. Coming back is there a systemic problem because nothing is being said and always being denied, nothing was being validated, people are concerned that the landfill has not been put together well, that's the concerns I am getting back to me, that's my personal view as well, I am concerned that not enough has been said, enough has been said now but not enough has been said way before I even joined this liaison committee. There was a couple of things, I have been crossing them off as we've been going but a couple of things have come back to me. There has been talk about cutting into the landfill and cutting extra wells and that was very coincidence with this, and it's all rumour based unfortunately. What was, this is a question I guess to Red, was new wells being cut when there was a spike in complaints, there's been talk about high levels of hydrogen sulphide detected, largest, it's a sounding box but I don't condone some of the actions, all of the actions I think but I can understand them because the bureaucratic way the EA have dealt with this is rage inducing to the residents, it really is. I have obviously seen

the waste just out on the surface at times when I'm going passed on the bike rides and it concerns me, you know because its not properly capped, quite rightly but there is the potential for odour to come out. I'll pass some comments back because obviously we got, I've lost count of how many times I've been woken at night because of odour, odour in the house and it has woken me. I have lost count of how many times, we call it operation stink, its when at night it comes in and we send all the kids round, we seal up, we are locked in our house, it's not where you should be living, really isn't. People, I've had this, sore eyes, throat and also concerned, friends of my kids come in and they're like, ah that horrible smell and the kids are like, what smell, we've, the residents round here have gone nose blind, we really have. Some moved here recently from down south and they're thinking of moving because they're being woken up in the night and they're sick of saying I can't cope with this, I've had enough. That's purely residents' comments and I've added a bit of colour of my own, my own opinions in there. I think I've pretty much covered the issues.

AW – I think Jon and Sarah look like they're going to respond to you. I think Jon, sorry I mean Jon and Nigel, when I say Jon, it comes up as Jon on the computer, do you want to go first as it looks like you were there first, or Sarah? Whichever is best for you.

JC – I just wanted to pick up on the point really, Ian you said there was some concern about the way the landfill was constructed.

IB – Yes

JC – That's a big concern, especially knowing the extreme work and engineering that has gone into that and continues to go into that. Could you elaborate on that a little further to help?

IB – they're simply saying it can't be emitting odours as it does in the evenings and the mornings, we sometimes, we wake up and its in the house and we have to wait until about 9-10 o'clock until it clears, we open all the windows and let the gas out, other people are getting these issues so its like they're saying it can't be built right. I know a little bit about landfills, and I say well as long as the EA have done their job then basically this landfill was built correctly, but I don't think that word is getting out, that you're following all the procedures and all the rules. You get people saying they're cutting into it, do they even check how to do that properly, take the major spikes, just before the EA monitors came online in Galingale when they had that power issue there was a massive spike in odours at that time. Now I think the EA have mentioned that was tracked back to covering issues but saying you were cutting into the landfill. When people are pushed beyond the point of reason, they do silly things and hold views which it becomes its own echo chamber. I just want to basically try to see if you are thought of getting back to you that these views are being passed around.

JC – We are certainly aware of a range of views Ian, some of them rational, some of them less rational but as you'll appreciate, the landfill wouldn't be able to be constructed in a way that was anything other than approved by the regulator. All those developments are subject

initially to permit application, review, all the engineering is CQA approved before it happens. How is that, how do we need to get that message out there Ian?

IB – Well, I think, that’s probably where they’ve got the technical knowledge. I know, obviously some leaflets, you’ve been sending out updates as such. I just think, it is definitely something that is not getting out there as well as you would hope.

JC – I wouldn’t disagree with that Ian, just to give you an update, we have constructed an FAQs document and tried to keep that non-technical. We’ll be looking to share that very soon, obviously we would hope that, and it is difficult in the liaison group, as you’d appreciate Ian, I know that you and Angela, and Angela to her own personal criticism, often share the information, we don’t experience it shared particularly widely and we are looking at other ways that can be done. I’m afraid that has to work outside of the liaison group because it isn’t really a conduit where it’s widely shared. We hope that these non technical FAQs will assist. We have got a request that I was going to come onto in AOB, I’m sure you’ll be well aware of Dr Michael Salt from the local area. Is that a name that rings a bell?

IB – I think I’ve heard of that name, yes.

JC – Dr Salt has already kindly been sharing very factual information, you know, it’s not a pro-Red agenda, it’s just these are the facts this is how they may or may not implement. He has asked if he can join the liaison group and I was going to raise that for voting in the AOB section. I think, we need reasonable engages like that who will share information and review it objectively, I hasten to add, we are unfortunately lacking such members Ian.

AW – Sarah, were you about to, I can see your hand is still up.

JC – Anna, sorry can Nigel just pick up a bit on

AW – Sorry, yeah, I couldn’t hear you.

NB – Can you hear me now?

AW – Yeah.

NB - I wanted to pick up on one of Ian’s points about cutting into the landfill. There were some spikes, 26th and 27th February and yes, it is true, the week up to that weekend we were drilling gas wells into the site. This is a necessary portion of the strategy for managing gas on the site itself. However, over the weekend where there was a spike in odour complaints, we weren’t operating, and we weren’t drilling. We didn’t see anything like that magnitude of odour complaints during the period we were drilling which was the week up to the weekend of the 26th and 27th and that drilling operation was carried out in accordance, again with a construction, quality assurance plan approved by the Agency for the right reasons. When those wells are drilled, they are either joined into the gas infrastructure at the point of completion, otherwise, if that is not possible in the time available they are then sealed. What we found on that weekend was that either they were joined into the system, otherwise they were sealed in accordance with the CQA plan. We were a little bit mystified as to why there were 2 huge spikes over 2 weekends. Having investigated operations on site as to what happened, because we weren’t operating the site over the weekend, we shut the

site at 12 o'clock on a Saturday and it doesn't open until the Monday and there was nothing going on, on the site in the mean time and that drilling programme which took place on the week up to the 27th and 28th of February and in the week up to the 6th and 7th of March, whilst those operations were going during the normal working week we weren't seeing a similar level of smell complaints, which had been seen over those weekends, which is what you would expect to find while you were drilling and there was an ongoing issue. Does that make sense.

IB – Yes it does, and that weekend went down in infamy for me in the local community it really did. So, I think there were just more questions than answers at that time.

PL – I think if I can be the only thing, I would add to what Nigel has just said there is if anything, that weekend, we were drawing more gas, I think it was something like an additional 100m³ an hour more gas because of the additional wells as Nigel described.

IB – It's a mystery, obviously if any further information comes to light, I think that is important that people do.

NB – We're continuing with our investigations, NULBC are conducting theirs, the Agency are conducting theirs, so a number of organisations are trying to get to an answer.

IB – Thank you.

AW – Thank you, I think you're slightly further away from the microphone and I didn't quite hear you, so thank you for talking to Ian. Sarah, long awaited hand up, would you like to.

SD – Yeah, I just wanted to comment on your point Ian, I do want to reassure you that none of myself or my colleagues underestimate the concerns of the local residents. There are a number of colleagues that are working on this full time and have done for a few months now. We have never said there wasn't an odour, I don't think any of us have ever said that we do accept that there is, whether or not we have substantiated that with being in breach of the company's limits and I assure you we will continue to regulate the site, be that through site visits and we will continue to ensure the company take all the measures that are required. There is a webpage that we have got that is updated weekly.

AW – I am not sure if it's just me, but you appear to be breaking up Sarah.

...

SD – The electric has gone off so the Wi-Fi has dropped out and I could drop out in a few minutes as my phone is about to run out of battery.

AW – Ok talk quickly, 2 minutes, go.

SD – It's just to reassure you Ian that we do take it seriously and we won't stop to continue regulating the site. There is the webpage, if we update that weekly, if you think there is something that is missing from there or something else that is needed, please just feed it back to us and we can look into that.

IB – Ok. The increased interest from the Agency like yourselves and Red have been noted by the local community. That's a positive.

AW – Thanks Sarah, if you do need to go in a couple of minutes thank you for joining and thanks for your update earlier if you have to drop out. Carl, would you like to go I can see your hand up.

CM – Thank you Anna. Ian, your comments are hugely useful and as Sarah has said, the Environment Agency do take the issue seriously and we do regularly update the public space site but from my point of view, obviously we have got to work with yourselves to make sure that we are answering the questions. We think we are answering the questions but if we are not getting the right information back to you we need to learn from your comments and we need to think about our approach and I can assure you that colleagues in the Agency are working very hard on that and I'm also working very hard with the local resilience forum to make sure that all partner organisations improve on that so I'll feed that back to them in the next meeting of that forum on Tuesday afternoon. So, thank you for your comments Ian.

AW – Thanks Carl for that. I've got another hand from Angela.

ADS – The whole sort of acrimonious situation that has arisen over the issue of odour is because there is still odour and I don't know whether people have been given too high expectations that there should be no odour coming from that site, or the expectation is that as you go along there won't be odour because it is being capped. Whether it is capped or not, whether you put soil on it at night or not, there is still emissions of odour and once those emissions go, then people have nothing to complain about so it needs to be pointed out to people that either there is going to be an odour always until the site is permanently capped and rehabilitated or whatever you do with it, or are they just going to have to put up with it and the point is if the odours are quite strong then it might be that Persimmon might have to relocate some of the people who are living in Burgess Brook because some of those people bought those houses who were not aware that there was a working landfill going on right next door to them and in some cases very close. So, there needs to be more clarification as far as I can see, either there is a solution or there is not a solution, or you can have a considerable reduction that people need to be aware that there is going to be odour if there is going to be odour always whilst the work is in progress. What's bothering me I think, is that now that you've done cell 1 which was right over the other side, you're now going to be coming into cells 2, 3 and 4 which are much nearer the houses on Burgess Brook and I really do feel that the Gypsies and the Travellers on the Cemetery Road caravan site are just wedged now in between Persimmon building and the site operating and the cells are going to get closer to them which are going to be worked on. There's a lot going on that needs some kind of a slightly, perhaps, more sensitive approach to the impact on residents.

AW – Thanks Angela.

ADS – Sorry, I've said this before, but you know we are still coming back to the same thing. Whilst we are coming back to that then you are going to get these hostile sorts of comments and action by some residents.

AW – Thank you for that. I think that has been noted. Sarah, you have still got your hand up, I am not sure if that is an old hand or whether you still have any comments. I'll assume its an old hand.

12. Any other business

AW – My usual way of doing this with it being virtual is to go around the room. Actually, I can see your hand is up Jon and is probably a good point, sorry, Jon and Nigel and Red. I'll start with you if I may for any other business or any comments that you need to make.

JC – Are we in agreement that Dr Michael Salt could join us next time as an observer at that meeting? Is there anybody that isn't happy with that?

AW – There don't seem to be any.

DW – Happy

JC – Ok thank you. We need to agree a date for the next meeting.

AW – Is that for you and Michelle to do, rather than me I assume?

JC – We normally just have a conversation as it takes us through to July.

AW – Do you have a calendar of suggested dates that you float and choose now?

JC – Thursday 1st July?

DW – Can I suggest that we have a 6 weekly meeting given the issues, hopefully by then you should have significantly capped the site and hopefully we'll have experienced a significant reduction in odour. Obviously if things are still an issue, then it gives everybody around this table an opportunity to discuss what is going on. I think leaving it 3 months given the current issues is probably a bit too long.

JC – I think that is a valid point actually Darren. Could I just suggest that we avoid the Whitsun week, just in terms of the likelihood that people, I'm not saying that anybody will be disappearing to Spain, France or some sunnier climbs. That takes us to the 10th of June.

DW – Yeah, suits me.

JC – At a similar time? ... Ok thank you.

AW – Apart from that was there any other business from you? From Red, Jon?

JC – No not from us thanks.

AW – Ok, thank you, just wanted to make sure. Elaine any from you?

EM – Nothing from me thank you.

AW – Neil?

NG – Nothing from me thank you.

AW – Carl?

CM – Nothing from me thank you.

AW – Darren?

DW – Yes, is it possible to confirm if Sumitomo have been in contact to request a position on this liaison committee as a business representative, if not, could I give them a point of contact?

JC – The answer to that Darren its very interesting you raise that, Sumitomo, we requested them to join, we went and saw them on a couple of occasions, we invited them to a meeting, they didn't come and then we have never heard anything since.

DW – Ok, it's just that I had a conversation last week with one of the European directors and he was very keen to attend tonight's meeting and I did give him your details so if he hasn't made contact then fair enough.

JC – That's fine, I don't think it was the European director we were in contact with last time, it was the site manager there, but we never heard anything further.

DW – Ok. Just one final one and this may be controversial but in terms of resident's representation I do feel it's important that we try and build bridges with the community and see that this liaison committee is working for the community as well as the company. For that I would ask that consideration is given to a member from Stop the Stink to attend this. Obviously very clearly understanding what their role is and the remit and constitution of this committee.

AW – Red, I can see you have put your hand up, is that in response to Darren?

JC – It is. It is an interesting one there Darren, without wanting to break a confidence after 2 years of inviting Graham Eagles and Steve Meakin to this liaison group, they represent Stop the Stink, we actually finally had some correspondence back from them today to tell us that their attendance was conditional on live webcast. I thought that was very surprising to get in touch after 2 years and then make the attendance conditional and we made sure that we extended the welcome to them. I think you are absolutely right, and I think people that are going to engage respectfully and objectively and factually are a key part of this but that goes hand in hand as well Darren with effectively sharing the information that comes out of this meeting. That doesn't mean effectively sharing Red propaganda, that means effectively sharing information and disseminating reasonably factually and objectively and people who are going to do that are most welcome Darren. I am actually quite disappointed that Steve Meakin chose not to join us because having made the commitment to finally contacting us I would have hoped that would have been a positive contact.

DW – I believe the mantel has been passed on to Nathan Wint and Tom Currie. I am sure there is some very sensible people on that group that would, and I think that this committee would derive a lot of benefit from that as well as the community.

JC – I think some of the names you have mentioned there, there would have to be a shift in their methods of language and approach.

NB – I think we would find it very, very difficult to accept the 2 names that you have suggested because we do see social media, we do see the vitriol that comes out on their pages.

DW – Ok, well maybe somebody else from that organisation that, I don't know I'll leave that for consideration.

PL – I might just be misinterpreting what you have just said, you said the mantel has been handed over. The landfill stinks cap it off and Stop the Stink are 2 separate organisations.

DW – I believe Graham Meakin and, Graham Eagles and Steve Meakin, I think they are now under the Stop the Stink campaign. I think they have taken that lead.

PL – I'm not clear because they have been taking the lead of Stop the Stink for a number of years. Are you saying they are taking on the Landfill stinks cap it off?

DW – I believe the two have combined as I understand it. If I'm wrong, I'm wrong but that's my understanding.

JC – I get that Darren, but I've not noticed that Graham Eagles or Steve Meakin use the somewhat threatening language that goes along with the other 2 people you mentioned so, you know we would have welcomed Steve Meakin to join us and I did think it was disappointing to contact and not follow through with being here to ask what we imagine would have been difficult questions and we would have answered them.

DW – Yeah, ok

AW – Thanks Darren. Jon Philpin, any other business?

JP – No nothing further from me thank you.

AW – Thank you. Ian I can see you've got a hand up and I'll come to you next form any other business.

IB – It was just a matter, as I say social media has been mentioned, stop the stink has been mentioned. I do know there is going to be people, there is going to be a big deal about the fact there is a number of democratic representatives not here today, what's happening with that, its going to explode on Facebook or some similar social network soon and obviously how is this going to be resolved? Because obviously as residents we like our democratic representation on this committee so how are we going to solve this?

JC – I would totally agree with you Ian that the councillors should be on the group and for whatever reason they have not felt able to and that's regrettable.

IB – Ok

AW – Angela you are next on my list do you have any other business?

ADS – No not really, I think representation is important, I think there are more than 2 groups operating in regard to stop the stink, there are several cells going on.

AW – I think I have caught everybody, oh Robert, do you have any other business?

RT – Just a quick question really, we have started to get people commenting about noise in the early hours so I was wondering really if there has been any change in the operations the nature of the plant that is operating which could account for that?

PL – The short answer is no. We don't operate at night; I don't know when the complaints have come in but we have curtailed operations at the moment and we do not operate at night. The only thing that works during the night is the landfill gas infrastructure but no operations outside operational hours.

RT – When I said early hours, that’s not really been specified but some have mentioned 7 o clock, I’m guessing that around your start time. Has there been any change to what happens at the start of a shift?

PL – No, there are no changes around the start of the shift, I mean, what sort of comments and what sort of noises have been noticed?

RT – Well they haven’t really given us any detail; some refer to a general ongoing noise and others have mentioned noise at the start of the shift or in the early hours is waking them up, but they haven’t given us any real detail. The only thing I noticed that’s different is there are occasions where the horns are being sounded repeatedly for, well I’ll say significant periods of time at different locations so more than you would expect. That’s the only I’ve noticed that’s changed.

JC – In terms of early hours and then you said 7am, is it early hours or is it 7am?

RT – Well to some people that would be early. What I’ll do is I’ll go back to the complainants and ask them for further details and then come back to you directly if that’s ok? It saves guessing at what they’re experiencing.

NB – It would be helpful if we could find out what kind of noise, is it a machinery noise, you know, some idea about what it is that they are experiencing would be helpful.

RT – Yeah, the other point I’ve had is plant, but I’ll go back to them and find out more detail.

NB - But is it mobile plant as in machinery or is it static plant as in the gas plant, do you see what I mean?

RT – Yea, Id be guessing, from what I’ve heard I think it’s the mobile plant, but I’ll go back to be sure rather than guessing or surmising.

AW – We’ll leave that with you then Robert. Thank you for that. One more for you Darren?

DW – Yeah, I just, from observations over the weekend and speaking to people over the weekend and during the night the gas plant flare stack, that area seems to be an issue at the moment, obviously with the warmer days and moving into warmer nights, I think that is a potential issue waiting to happen, obviously peoples attention is heightened somewhat given the current issues, pandemic and also the current ongoing issues that are being attributed to landfill but the gas plant does seem to be the next issue. Obviously, some of what Rob describes mobile plant as well first thing in the morning and potentially during the day but certainly from my own observations, the gas plant flare does seem to be, or something in that area anyway, does seem to be a potential cause for complaint.

AW – Thanks Darren for that. Right, I think I have caught everybody and not missed anybody off, I hope not because my screen keeps flipping around and everybody is in different positions.

13.Date of next meeting

AW - Unless there’s anything else I think we’ve got our, the date for the next meeting has been agreed as 10th June, looking like 4.30pm again.

JC – 5.30pm Anna

AW – Sorry, I don't know where I got 4.30 from, obviously keen to start earlier. So, 5.30pm on 10th June and assuming, unless the whole population is vaccinated by then and there's no Indian things, we'll all be virtual again. If there is nothing else, I will end the meeting there.

Are there any closing comments from Red?

JC – Thanks to everybody for attending and the comments they have raised.

NB – And thanks to you Anna

JC – Yeah, thanks for stepping in so we could do this.

AW – Well thanks for everybody's input and in that case we'll say good evening and finish it here and I look forward to seeing everybody in June and look after yourselves between now and then.