

Walleys Liaison Committee Meeting 11th November 2021 at 5.30pm

Attendance

Present

Michelle Purkiss – Note taker (MP)
Jamie Hayes – Environment Agency (JH)
Colin Sully – Environment Agency (CS)
Jon Clewes – Walleys Quarry Ltd (JC)
Paul Lealman – Walleys Quarry Ltd(PL)
Angela Drakakis-Smith – Thistleberry RA (ADS)
Neil Goodwin – Staffs CC (NG)
Robert Thomas – NULBC (RT)
Michael Salt – Technical advisor, stop the stink (MS)
Simone Aplin – Chair (SA)

Nonattendance

Brian Johnson – NULBC
Tony Eagles – Knutton representative
Graham Eagles – Poolfields Residents Assoc
Dave Jones – NULBC
Steve Meakin – Poolfields RA
Elaine Moulton – NULBC

Apologies

Nesta Barker - NULBC
Celia Jarrett – Silverdale PC
Simon Tagg – NULBC
Amelia Rout – NULBC
Marion Reddish - NULBC
Anna Turner – Environment Agency
Nigel Bowen – Walleys Quarry Ltd
Ian Barnett – Local resident
Henryk Adamczuk – Silverdale PC
Anna Willetts

1. Welcome and introductions.

JC – I wonder if, by way of introduction you may notice a new name on here which is Simone Aplin. Can everybody hear me ok when I am speaking? *thumbs up from some members*
Good, so ok, unfortunately at short notice Dr Anna Willetts wasn't available today to chair the meeting which is a shame, and she sends her apologies. Rather fortunately through her contacts in the Chartered Institute of Waste Management we have been able to obtain a stand in which is Simone Aplin and she gladly agreed to do that. As I say, she is through the contacts of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management and Simone is involved in the technical research for their task and finish groups in relation to a wide range of waste management matters and she also has many years of experience of landfill operation along with the treatment and transfer of waste materials. Simone doesn't carry out any commercial work for Walleys Quarry Ltd, nor does she do the same for Red Industries, so if no one has any objections Simone has kindly agreed to chair the meeting tonight so we can push on and still keep the meeting going. Is that ok with everybody? *nodding of heads*
MS – She's got a picture of the queen behind her, that's good with me.
PL - I noticed that, very patriotic.

SA – She keeps me on the straight and narrow.

JC – How to win friends and influence people Simone.

SA – I usually take it down when I'm speaking to people in Australia because that's a bit mixed. Thanks everybody, thanks for the welcome. If everybody is happy to proceed, I intend to run the meeting in the same way as Anna did so we will go through the agenda with everybody doing their update and have question and answer sessions after that. Just to help me out, if you could use the raise your hand function and I'll note down the order those pop up and I'll make sure everybody gets chance to ask their question and get it answered. If you can just remember to take it down afterwards because that is something that I never do and then I just get in on everything, that will just stop me from getting confused. If it is ok with you, because I don't know everybody on this call, it would be great to have a quick round of introductions if that's alright with everybody, then we can go on to the apologies, I think we've got two people standing in for people today so those two items merge slightly but, if we could just go round the call, that would be absolutely fantastic, I don't know, Jon I've met you but would you like to start.

JC – I'm happy to start, my name is Jon Clewes and I am the Group Technical Director including Walleys Quarry Ltd.

PL - If I jump in, I am Paul Lealman and I am the Group Operations Director for Walleys Quarry Ltd. Does anyone want to go, do you want to read the names out, it might be a way of doing it Simone.

SA – Robert, welcome to the meeting, do you want to introduce yourself? You are on mute, somebody had to do it. You're still on mute. While you sort your IT out Robert, let's go to Jamie.

JH – I'm Jamie Hayes from the Environment Agency I'm one of the regulatory officers for Walleys Quarry.

SA – Thank you Jamie, and Colin?

CS – Hi Simone, hi everyone. I'm Colin Sully, team leader from the Environment Agency working on the Walleys Quarry issue.

SA – Thank you, Angela?

ADS – I'm Angela Drakakis-Smith and I'm chair of the Thistleberry Residents Association.

SA – And Mick?

MS – I'm Mick Salt, I'm the founding member of the stop the stink scientific advisory committee.

SA – Thank you, and Neil?

NG – Hello, I'm Neil Goodwin and I'm the planning regulation officer for Staffordshire County Council.

SA – Fantastic, and then I think Michelle, Walleys Communications?

MP – I'm Michelle Purkiss, I'm here to take minutes for the meeting on behalf of Walleys Quarry.

SA – That’s fantastic thank you so if everybody’s happy we will move on to the apologies.

2. Apologies

As above

3. Minutes of last meeting

SA – If we move onto the bulk of the agenda, the first one being the minutes of the last meeting. I am sure you have all received a copy of those. Has everybody got a copy?

nodding of heads I don’t intend on going through them word by word because as you know, they’re verbatim but does everybody agree with those minutes, are there any issues with those minutes in any way? *shaking of heads* No ok. In that case we will move on to matter 4 which is matters arising.

4. Matters arising

SA – Has anybody got any matters arising from that meeting?

ADS – I have. It is just under matters arising, just to say to the County Council as they’re here, there are still potholes in Cemetery Road and I just wanted to point out and I think it needs to be taken back to the County Council that given the performance of Amey over the last 5 years, their contract is now up for renewal and I don’t know if there has been any kind of monitoring or scrutiny of their performance or the contract during that 5 year period but I really think that leaving it until now that the contract is up is leaving it rather late. This pothole, these potholes are sometimes hanging around for two years and I don’t know how long the pothole has been in Cemetery Road outside the site, but it has been a long time. The other thing is, is Nesta Barker here today.

SA – Apologies Angela, that is my fault, I should have said that Robert is standing in for Nesta today and Colin is standing in for Anna Turner from the Environment Agency. That is my mistake, apologies. So, Robert is in Nesta’s place.

ADS – Just again, matters arising from the last meeting. Under our freedom of information request with regards to how the money was allocated for monitoring the emissions from the quarry, I was directed to the cabinet meeting where I was none the wiser after reading all the documents. The cabinet reports on global sums, not specific item costs and that is what we as a TRA have requested. We weren’t given any information on the emissions data requested; I think as a committee we actually need that. We won’t know if the NBC are wasting their time and public money by bringing in this nuisance abatement order until we see what their data is and what their information is. If you can take that back to the Environment department or whoever is dealing with the abatement notice or the freedom of information that we have requested, that would be helpful, thank you.

RT – Yes, I’ll take that back.

ADS – Thank you. Just one last thing, have there been any results, it might come up later, under the gas management monitors, have they been issuing any data that we can have?

CS – Yes, I'll answer that one. There is lots of data that is published under the citizen space page but there is also links to all of the gas monitoring data within the presentation that will be shared as part of this liaison meeting if that is alright Angela.

ADS – Thanks

SA – Thank you Angela. Does anybody else have any matters arising? Ok, so I think what we'll do is move onto the next item which is the update from Walleys Quarry.

5. Walleys Quarry Site update

SA – Paul if you would like to take the floor.

PL – Thank you Simone. This is an aerial photograph which is common through the liaison committee when I run through them, but this is quite a recent one so thought I would spend just a little bit of time touching on what you can see from the photograph. This was taken mid-October, and what it shows is the various areas of Walleys Quarry and of the activities that are going on on-site. For instance, and North on this is broadly at the top of the image, not quite but broadly. In the north you have got the flank facing the Garners Garden Centre and that's predominantly the area that was permanently capped so you are seeing the soils placed on top of the permanent capping which sits 300mm down along that flank. To the left, to the west on this image there is a section of clay cap which then goes into the area of Posi-Shell which on this image looks white, grey in reality, and you can clearly see, the areas of Posi-Shell on the western flank and the eastern flank but also just between, in the south, in between an area of historic capping using LDPE, a plastic liner and the clay cap that was put on in April. There is a section that we put some Posi-Shell on as well to, in effect, bridge a bit of a gap between those two capping mediums. The area on this image that is operational is in the east, it kind of looks a little bit dirty on here where the vehicles are running and tracking, against the pristine, nice surfaces that are formed by the various types of caps on site and you can see that operations really are restricted to the eastern side of the facility in that localised area. The remainder of the space available is broadly capped by one type or another of capping material. Operations, as I've just touched on, are currently concentrated in cell 3 and the central section of site which borders a number of cells but principally we are in cell 3 and that eastern section that you could see on the image. We continue to extract leachate, we continue to spend quite a bit of time understanding what the leachate levels are on site and where needed we also, in addition, tanker leachate to licensed disposal but the primary driver is to put it through the on-site leachate treatment plant. I'll come on to talk about the drilling that happened in September and October completed and managed by CLP Envirogas, our on-site gas management contractor. We started a program aligned with CEL in September and October with the aim of installing 28 wells in the central and eastern section of Walleys Quarry. That is the area that predominantly is in the operational phase, the area I identified as kind of looking dirty on the plan where the vehicles are tracking and causing imprints into the surface and those

wells were installed through September and October, the program finished on plan. It was conducted safely and compliantly which was very pleasing. Of note on here we drilled 27 wells, principally because one of the wells it wasn't possible to get the rig to the area that was destined for that because of the topography of site and that will be picked up at a future date. There was another pleasing thing of note on this presentation is to talk about the drilling rig, the one chosen was bespoke in that it had a hydraulic blower which you can see on the image there, which provided suction to the well head where it was drilling and that extracted any gases that may or may not be present at the well head and that was the first time I think we have used that type of system on Walleys Quarry. There were no issues associated with the drilling in terms of landfill gas generation caused by the works. The other piece of engineering we were doing in September was the installation of the Posi-Shell. The works proceeded to plan and program and as you have seen on the image, we have applied Posi-Shell principally to the western and eastern flanks but also a section of the southern flank between two areas of an alternative type of capping. That work was undertaken safely with no issues recorded which was very pleasing given that it was the first time that that system has been applied to a landfill in Europe. It is quite unique, certainly unique to the UK market and something that we were very interested in utilising at Walleys Quarry, and we may well do in the future. One thing I just put in here, just of note because there was quite an interest in it and quite a few conspiracy theories kicking about in terms of two areas where we needed to do some works post-installation of the Posi-Shell. There was a need to install once well on the western flank and we had to gain access to an area which had previously been Posi-Shelled and that was repaired with engineering clay at the time, but it was a necessity to ensure that well was installed which I think we can agree was a positive action that warranted the work. The other area was on the eastern flank, we needed to access a leachate tower, the reason is we needed to take the head off that leachate tower to understand the leachate depths and pump in that area, so it needed machine access. Both those areas I have touched on were repaired with engineering clay shortly after. Future plans, currently we are working in the same location, we will be in the central and eastern parts of site for the foreseeable, probably transiting into the western flanks some time in the new year I would estimate at this moment in time. Just for reference, because we talked about it last time, the landfill gas management plan, it is currently submitted to the Agency for review and approval. And I think that is the main update for Walleys Quarry, do we have any questions? Thank you.

ADS – Sorry.

SA- Go ahead Angela.

ADS – Sorry, I just, did you say there were data provided that you now have from the gas management company that we can see?

PL – What data are you looking for specifically Angela?

ADS – I was looking specifically for; I think they were going to do some kind of recording of emissions.

PL – Ok.

ADS – That was said in the last meeting.

PL – I maybe need to check back at what was said at the last meeting in reference to the data, there is a lot of data captured on Walleys Quarry as you can imagine, from the wells on site plus the gas compound. It depends on what was referenced and what type of information you were looking for Angela.

ADS – OK. I mean in some ways since the last meeting things have slightly changed with regards to emissions because you've been recording, or at least the EA have been recording over the past couple of weeks, 0 emissions from their monitoring systems, so it was only the fact that we want to know where these emissions were coming from, whether it was from various areas on site or not. The other thing, the second thing that I wanted to ask you is about the sump. That has become quite interesting I think, and I think it needs investigation. Again, it is to do with the MJCA report which indicated that there were, or additional sources of odour around the site and the sump was indicated as one of those. I wondered if that could be explored further, particularly also since it has come to light that sewage works have been dumping in streams and local rivers. The TRA has been led to understand that the local streams, and one of which borders Gallingle View, is no longer regulated by the EA or the NBC and I believe the County Council is now the regulator, is it the LLFA for these streams, they are kind of left in limbo. I think they need to be investigated for pollution and certainly to see if there is any effluent coming out of the nearby sewage works in Silverdale and not to mention water coming from the coal, or being pumped by the coal authority into the sump and again, are the coal authority around this table today?

SA - Not today, Angela, Michelle do you know off the top of your head if they're, excuse my ignorance, if they're routinely invited?

MP – Angela has previously asked for them to be invited and we have attempted to make contact but have not yet been able to get them to come along.

ADS – Right, ok. I really think they should be available to answer questions and certainly concerns about their activities because at the moment it is leaving things in an uncertain state.

SA – Thank you Angela. Anybody got any more questions for Paul.

PL – I think Colin has got his hand up.

SA – Sorry Colin, I need to get better at spotting the hands, Colin please go.

CS – That's ok Simone. It was just in response to what Angela said about the condition of the brook. The Environment Agency are still the regulator for water quality as well as any discharges from Severn Trent and any permitted discharges through combined sewer overflows, that's the kind of stuff that has been in the news of late. I'd be happy to take an action away from the meeting to get someone from our land and water teams to talk

through with you Angela. On a side note we do have some water quality measuring instruments in the brook currently, they have been there for several months looking at when there have been peaks of pollution and as a result of that we will be undertaking some pollution prevention visits in the surrounding area from Walleys Quarry and around the brook with anything draining to there that has a contaminated or a potential contaminated source that could come from them so I am happy to take this outside of the meeting and progress that if that is ok.

ADS – If you would, and also is there any way that you can also test water that is being pumped from Silverdale Colliery by the coal authority into the sump. Or if it is flooding, do we know if there are floods underground from the Colliery pumping activity?

CS - I don't know the detail Angela but if there is a pumped discharge from mine water it will likely have a consent to discharge which needs to have certain parameters monitored on it to make sure that it isn't of a polluting nature but again I can pick that up, or we can pick that up outside of this and just talk through all of the information that you need to hopefully satisfy that request or push in the right direction to investigate more.

ADS – Ok, thanks. Just one more thing, and again it is just coming out of the last minutes, was that the judicial review mentioned gas destruction now I was just thinking about this. Wouldn't you want to be capturing the gas, not destroying it because if you're capturing it, it is going onto the grid, so, is that being too simplistic?

JH – I could probably take that one if you want Colin. When we talk about destruction, it is destroyed in one of two ways, it is either by the flare which is just temperature destruction or via, exactly what you're talking about, we call it a gas utilisation plant so that is effectively using the gas in an engine, the reason that not all of the gas goes directly to an engine is because of certain build ups of constituents of landfill gas can be quite destructive to the engines so it is about managing that process between the two.

ADS – Ok, thanks.

SA – Any other questions? If not, I think we will move on to the Environment Agency update.

6. Environment Agency Update

SA – Over to you Colin and Jamie

JH – What you can see on the first slide, apologies, I did miss a bit of Walleys Quarry presentation, I had some IT issues, but what you can see on that first slide is the number of reports we have been receiving from odour over the last couple of weeks. As you can see, we had quite a spike over the 5th and 6th of November which you will see later in some of the MMF data. This is just a summary slide that we have shown a number of times before over the different types of compliance activities we take, site visits, audits, different types of data reviews and different types of procedure reviews for example dust and fire prevention plans. I won't go into too much detail on that unless anyone has got any questions. An updated slide as to where we are with numbers of our audits and inspections of Walleys

Quarry. 40 is a very high number for a landfill site as you would expect. This will probably cover a lot of what Paul has already mentioned, it is mainly to update you where we are with our compliance actions. So there has been a number of inspections, on the 4th to look at the Posi-Shell that was being deposited, we have also asked for some detailed dispersion modelling that will look at hydrogen sulphide and also sulphur dioxide. We, on the 14th there was a site inspection of the landfill, it was one of the better days from recording odour reports and from MMF data, there was only a slight odour picked up, but it was more of a tipping face odour as opposed to a landfill gas odour. On the 20th of October there was continued monitoring of the gas infrastructure that was going in. there was 28 gas wells proposed and at that point 19 were in and there was a gas collection rate of 3120 cubic metres per hour. Finally, on the 28th of October 27 of the 28 gas wells were in, the last gas well is not going to be installed in this round of gas works, mainly due to access issues and I think Paul could probably explain that better if needs be. This is just a closer look at the last few MMF monitoring data, as you can see after a good week between the 18th and 31st there was a spike in both complaints and in data from our MMFs. That is currently under investigation just to try and understand exactly what caused that spike over the 5th and 6th November. I think as Angela requested there is more data on the air quality monitoring and there is a link below that will help you, send you to that. The last slide is just some more information about our latest updates.

SA – Thank you Jamie, has anybody got any questions they would like to ask...

7. Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update

SA – Ok then, I think we can move on then to the Newcastle-under-Lyme update. The agenda says Darren Walters, but I don't think he is attending the meeting is he. Do we have anybody in his place Michelle?

MP – Sorry, that should be Nesta Barker so now Robert Thomas.

RT – We continue to investigate the complaints that we receive, we're still getting fairly significant numbers. There is a downward trend though, down from 630 in September to 190 in October and so far in November, 111 which we noticed a spike around the 5th where 44 complaints were received on the 5th and 21 on the 4th. I didn't notice any significant number on the 6th, so we seem to be noticing a spike a day ahead of the EA if they have the 5th and 6th as being significant days. We have also received a formal complaint regarding noise which we have now opened an investigation on that, it is early days as yet, but the complainant is suggesting that adverse effects from noise of plant items and reverse alarms before 7am, before waste comes on and generally throughout the day. We have asked them to keep a diary of disturbance so we can get a better picture of what is actually going on. They have supplied some recordings via our smart phone app, and you can clearly hear the reversing alarms and the engine noise throughout the day. Once we have got those back, we can decide what to do next, if anything and determine how significant the issue is. We

continue to investigate with the 2 Jeromes, they have been deployed into premises, we are trying to target premises where we received regular complaints and the complaints are also reporting health effects. We are trying to tally up, or at least see whether there is any relationship between those two different things. That information is not in the public domain as yet, but it might be released, there is a disclosure process first. We have received an appeal to the abatement notice, as you are aware. The directions hearing was on the 3rd of November. The timescale for the proceedings has been agreed and the disclosure process will start after Christmas with expert statements being agreed in April and the scheduled hearing for the first week of June and we anticipate that will last up to 4 weeks. Alongside that, the judge has recommended that we go for mediation between the two parties and that has been agreed between the council and Red. The detail of that is still to be thrashed out but that has got to run alongside the legal process. And that is basically it from us at the moment.

SA _ Thanks Robert and apologies again, I did know you were standing in for Nesta. Has anybody got any questions for Robert?

ADS – Sorry, yes.

SA – Angela, go on.

ADS – I did try to raise my hand. I just wanted to ask, and this is something for the NBC. We just submitted a, well it is a submission to the application for Persimmon Housing and the building that is going on there. I want to know if the Borough Council is keeping an eye on what Persimmon are doing because their latest application is for very large water pumping stations to be positioned near the boundary with the landfill site and it looks as if the actual volume of water is a 40% increase, taking water that is coming down from the north, shall we say, up to the pipes on Keele Road. Sorry I am not being very technical here but there appears to have been no consultation with Severn Trent or the local flood authority. I really think an eye needs to be kept on the activities on this site because work is going on and I am not so sure they have received planning permission yet for this work to be going on. It would be useful if the planning office of the Borough Council could perhaps just keep a check from time to time as to what is going on, on this site. Some of the noise might also be coming from this site, it is quite noisy at the moment.

SA – I have just seen by extending the things that both Paul and Jon have got their hands up, apologies, it is not showing actually on the pictures so were you hoping to answer this?

JC – I'll let Paul go first, there are a couple of points to pick up but Paul, you please go first.

PL – I was just going to firstly thank Robert for the update on that noise complaint because it did come across and we did respond, and I just wanted to understand where the council were in terms of investigating that. There were two accusations if that is not too strong a word, one was noise pre-7am and I wanted to understand what the council had ascertained reviewing the complaint with the complainant regarding noise pre-7am. You discussed in your update noise throughout the day Robert.

RT – It is still early days yet; we have got not much information to go on. The initial complaint was about two issues really, pre-7am noise where they said plant items were on the waste face before the lorries were admitted and then the general noise throughout the day of plant items as they are operating throughout the day. What we have received from the client so far is a number of recordings via the smartphone app and they are all in relation to daytime noise. You can hear what they are reporting, and they do have a sound and they are putting numbers alongside the recording where they are saying they are getting between 60 and 70 dB and as an SPL internally as they have submitted the recordings. As yet we have not seen much more than that, we have given them a diary to complete so we can understand what they experience throughout the day so we can get time frequency and the duration and also so we can understand what the aspect of that noise is. If it is a case of, they can just hear it then that wouldn't be significant but if it is having an actual impact on the use of their property then that is when we would be more concerned. Once we get these diaries back, we can assess them for significance and what to do next so we would be looking at putting our own monitoring equipment in to verify what they are saying and get accurate noise levels and things like that. Then if there are any planning conditions or anything like that apply then we can see whether they are likely to be exceeded as well but it is really early days yet, at the moment I have just raised it so that you are aware of the complaint and what the detail is.

PL – Thank you.

SA – Jon, was your point related to that issue because I know we haven't quite got an answer for Angela yet. If it is something else, we will skip back to Angela. Was it related to that issue Jon?

JC – I have a couple of points on Rob's kind update but please skip back to Angela first before I make them, that is fine.

SA – Thank you. So, Rob are you able to answer Angela's question about the monitoring of Persimmon's work on the boundary.

RT – That is more of a matter for our planning team really, what I can say is that we are aware that some of the conditions at the site have not been discharged and the update from Elaine is that some applications to discharge have been made now so they're currently being consulted on and will be determined based upon the information submitted. What we are not doing, we are not going down and routinely monitoring the activities there. Quite often it is more of a desk-based approach really, we see what they propose in their applications, determine it whether it is appropriate and then just allow them to proceed on that basis. If we get any information to suggest that what has been approved hasn't taken place or been put in place, then we will follow that up. In the background as well, sometimes the building control function will pick up things which are relevant to their function, so they have got eyes on what is going on as well.

SA – Thank you Rob. I can see a question in Angela's face. Is it related?

ADS – Just to say, I think you know, you need to be a bit more careful monitoring because Persimmon, as far as we have found, are not particularly good at delivering what they say they are going to deliver, or if they delivered it, it's not what they should be delivering so I would appreciate, and I think residents would appreciate, a bit more regulation there, or a bit more observation. With regards to the noise complaints that you've had, do you go down, sort of pre-7am, and actually witness or try and verify these complaints?

RT – We haven't as yet because it's still early days so that part of the idea with the diaries to establish exactly what is taking place and when and that will then direct how we proceed so whether that would need officer visits or whether it would be better to deploy monitoring equipment because we will know what is happening and when rather than just go down routinely at 7am when it might not be likely to happen. We try to establish patterns and use those patterns to determine when to visit and what to do.

ADS – Thank you.

SA – Thank you Robert. We will skip to Paul now, sorry Jon. Jon you're next on the list.

JC – Thank you very much for that Simone. Rob thank you very much for the update, I think I just need to clarify a few mistaken points in there, Rob if I may. First of all, and probably most importantly the judge did not order mediation in the case and nor does the judge have option to insist on mediation in the case. I think that needs to be checked by the Borough Council and reworded accordingly and obviously it wasn't Red Industries that was in court, it was Walleys Quarry Ltd for the main hearing that took place. Just those clarification thank you Rob.

RT – Sorry Jon, yeah, I referred to Red. Did I say the judge insists because I meant recommended? I should have used the word recommended.

JC – I need to come back there Rob, the judge didn't recommend that either and the judge doesn't actually have the power in the case to recommend mediation.

RT – Sorry Jon, it looks like I've been misinformed then if that is the case. I apologise for that.

RT – No problem, Robert, I completely understand you're giving the update, just something for you to sense check when you get back to the office with Nesta perhaps.

SA – Thank you, so we will skip back to Paul and then I think that is the last question on this item unless there is anything from anybody else.

PL – Thank you Simone, I think it was just a point I wanted to make on the statement Robert made on monitoring of the Persimmon development. The plant and equipment, in my view, operated as part of that development and on Walleys Quarry are very similar in nature of type and intensity of noise, they will all be fitted with white noise alarms, white noise reversing alarms, I have no doubt and I think to have 2 different standards of monitoring, one desk based remote, and one based on actual levels gives me a little bit of concern. I just want to make that point; I think.

SA – Thanks Paul. Does anybody have any more questions for Robert before we move on to the next item?

8. Staffordshire planning update

SA – Now we will move on to the update from Newcastle-under-Lyme planning, sorry, Staffordshire planning update and that's you Neil isn't it.

NG – Yeah, no problem. There's not much for us to update on really, there has not been much change in terms of our position at the county council. In terms of complaint numbers, we've had very few, I think we've had like 2 over the last couple of months. It's obviously not sort of comparable numbers. They have been in relation to the safety of vehicle on the highway and that's an ongoing issue that we are discussing between ourselves and the highways team and the local police as well so we are trying to make sure we are sorting out responsibilities and what can be done in terms of the vehicles on the highway. In relation to the noise complaint, obviously, just to let Rob know, there are limits within the planning permission for the site for noise so if something does come of your investigations, if you need us to be involved in that obviously we will keep in touch and share our information as required. Otherwise, we did make a monitoring visit last month which didn't really raise any issues on site, there were a couple of things that we have had discussions with the operators about but that will depend on potential future planning applications if and when it comes about so there is nothing else really for us to discuss.

SA – Thanks Neil. Does anybody have any questions?

ADS – Yes.

SA – Angela, please go ahead.

ADS – Sorry, this is for the County Council, did you get back to Henryk with regards to his request for information about vehicles? I think there was something in the minutes about you giving him some information before the next meeting, before this meeting.

NG – He hasn't been in touch with me specifically about anything since the last meeting. We did have some queries come to us in terms of the vehicle numbers visiting the site, so we have had information from the operator for a couple of days from different weeks, looking at the vehicle numbers which were all within the limits within the planning permission. Henryk hasn't been in touch with me about anything specific. If he does, I am quite happy to...

ADS – Ok well he'll have to get back to you, I said I would just raise it as he wasn't able to come to the meeting today. The other thing is, and I don't know whether you realise it but there is a kind of storage company further down Cemetery Road, just down from the entrance to Walleys Quarry site and there are an awful lot of lorries going in, it's collecting all kinds of stuff, sometimes it is stored quite dangerously against their perimeter fence. A few days ago, I was passing, and I was stuck behind quite a long queue of traffic because there was somebody in the entrance talking to somebody from this facility and he was half in the facility and half on the road and was literally holding up the traffic. Now I don't know if you have had any sort of reports about that but that again is another noisy kind of

operation, it is also a messy one and I don't know if you are keeping an eye on that because it looks like it could be quite dangerous.

NG – From a planning point of view it's not something, we haven't had any complaints about it, it's not something that would probably fall under our jurisdiction, I think it would probably be Borough Council. Obviously if there are highways concerns, I can certainly pass that back on to our highways team to have a look at. I suspect it would be an issue for the Borough Council rather than us, but it is not something I was aware of particularly, but I will go back to our highways team and make sure that they are aware of it for anything they need to do.

ADS – Ok well in that case then this is something for the Borough Council to perhaps go and have a look at because I think the residents association did raise this a few years ago but apparently that little operation was due to end and there was going to be houses built on that site. Gradually that site has now filled up with even more junk than there was before so could you please treat this as the complaint for the Borough Council.

RT – Yes, which site are you talking about Angela?

ADS – It's just past, you can't miss it, it's just past the entrance to the site towards the Keele roundabout. I don't know if it has got a name even, it seems to be fairly, what's the word, I'm not sure if it's even official.

RT – Is it the former Fowlers site, the one that's got all the refrigeration equipment on and things like that?

ADS – Yes. It's got so much more than that now, but I don't know who owned it before, there's no name on the actual gates or anything, it just looks like a depository for junk.

RT – I am aware that has been looked into by our planning enforcement guys and the team from the EA as well, so I'll try and find out what's going on there and provide feedback.

ADS – Well if you would because the stacking against the fence is really quite dangerous, I would say for pedestrians passing.

SA – Ok, that's great, thanks Angela. Has anybody got any final questions before we move on?

9. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update

SA – So the next one is a planning update from Newcastle-under-Lyme, but Elaine hasn't responded to this meeting request, and I don't think we have got anybody in her place so unless anybody jumps out of the woodwork, I think we will move straight on to the local councillor and resident representative comments.

ADS – This is for planning I guess but Elaine is not here so it can go under residents or whatever. I think the NBC was tasked with the issue of looking at the gypsy traveller site at the last meeting and I don't know if that has been followed up. Just keeping it on the agenda.

SA – Robert, you’ve got your hand up was that related to the last, did you want to add something to the missing item or is it relating to what Angela said?

RT – I can try and do both if you like, I have had an email from Elaine suggesting, well making comment about a couple of things. One was in relation to the Persimmon site and issues raised there in regard to gas protection measures and things like that and discharge conditions so she’s basically confirmed that the applications have been received now to discharge outstanding conditions so that’s in hand under consultation. The other thing she referred to was in relation to questions from Walleys Quarry and I understand she has basically answered those questions for you now, has she Paul?

JC – Robert, thank you very much for that, Paul apologies for you being put on the spot, yes, she has answered those questions for us, that email came through to me earlier today so please pass on my thanks for that.

RT – Great. I think you were saying, Angela about the travellers’ site, was it about them reporting 6’s on their odour assessments?

ADS – No. It’s to do with the position of where they are, between Persimmon and the landfill site, within 50 metres, yes, well within 50 metres and I think given what has been happening there has been talk about moving people away and I think the time is opportune now, perhaps now that the former golf course site is up for development. That maybe, there should be some space reserved for a new site for them there which is not so close to the landfill site. Again, it is a human rights thing, I would have thought.

RT – Ok. I am unaware of any plans to relocate the travellers at the moment, but I can certainly ask whether anyone else in the council is looking at that.

ADS – I don’t think so, and neither is the County Council so maybe that’s something the County Council can take back.

SA – Thank you Angela.

10. Local councillor and residents’ representatives’ comments

SA – Are there any more comments from the residents’ representatives?

ADS - Yes, I am just slightly curious, I have been listening in to the phone ins that the EA have been carrying out with different groups. I am just wondering; I don’t know how much they cost in terms of cost benefit, but it just seems to me the same people asking the same questions all the time and I’m not quite sure what the activity is supposed to be doing. Maybe we need to keep an eye on that to make sure that, you know, not too much energy is going into this kind of activity and not enough into actually resolving the issue.

SA – Colin or Jamie do you have any comments to add to that?

CS – Yeah, there is two sides to this Angela, there is the communication side to make sure that the community and public is engaged and fully informed. Then there is the regulation side of things so there is two separate teams to kind of cross over because myself and Jamie in the regulation side, the teams have to provide the information, but we are very much

focused on that regulation. The community engagement side of things, it is a very difficult line to tread to be honest about whether you're engaging with the right people, enough people, at the right time, getting the right sort of information out which is why the comms side of the Environment Agency obviously have the regular updates via the internet, like you say, the phone we have done community events. There has been very recent and more planned door knocking events to get to the heart of the community, the people that might not get engaged so we are trying to do a broad spectrum as well as the Twitter side of things, the social media side of things. If there's any parts of the community that you or others feel we are not reaching out to we can certainly kind of bring that to our attention and we should be able to act on that. Just a direct answer back really, the regulation of the site is very different to the communications side, so it is two separate things. The bigger side of things that does take away, and is everyone's right to ask, is constant freedom of information requests because that does require a technical input. Obviously, that is people's rights and people need to know that information so that is ok and what we try to do to reduce that impact is try to get the answers to the questions before the questions are actually asked/ It is a very difficult line to tread with so many people involved, so many people interested but hopefully, we won't be 100% but, hopefully we are getting it fairly well right. If there is a better way of saying that then apologies.

ADS – Thank you.

CS – Did that answer the question, or did I go off on a tangent?

ADS – Yes

SA – Thanks Colin. Does anybody else have anything they would like to raise under this point? If not, we can go onto any other business.

11. Any other business

SA – Ok so we will move on to any other business. I have just got one thing to note which is, I know that mick, you have submitted a question and that will be passed on to the relevant people and dealt with so that is in train. Does anybody else have any other issues or comments they would like to talk about under any other business?

ADS – I think I would like to have a word with, is she Claire Dennis, is her name Claire Dennis? Of the EA.

CS – Claire Dinnis.

ADS – Claire Dinnis, yes that's the one.

CS – The easiest way to do that is when we get in touch Angela, after the meeting I'll give you the details of how to request and either ask her questions or arrange for a meeting if that is ok.

ADS - Yes that is fine. It's just there is no way I could contact her, there are no contact details anywhere that I could find.

SA – thank you. Any more AOB before we start talking about the next meeting which 6 weeks away is Christmas eve virtually. That could be quite controversial.

JC – That could be quite a rowdy meeting Simone.

SA – It could be couldn't it, we could have, yeah. So, there are some hands going up, Jon, I think you were first in so would you like to carry on with your AOB?

JC – Well I am afraid Simone you have stolen my dullness because its me that always asks and say let's set the date for the next meeting. I was going to suggest that we didn't meet on Christmas eve if everybody is ok with that because I need to be tucked up in bed to make sure Santa brings me the things I am after. My preference would be, I think we meet early in the new year.

SA – there isa lot of nodding there. I think if we kind of dispatch with that it would be around Thursday 6th January. I everybody happy with that?

JC - I wonder if we might make it the 13th because I wouldn't like to broadcast this too widely in case everybody books holidays, but the Derby school holiday are out of synch and the children are off that week and I don't think Thomas Cook etc have found out yet.

SA – Ok, if anybody has any problems with the 13th can you literally wave at me because there are so many hands up, I'm going to get mixed u if I say hands. Nobody is waving so I think there is general agreement that 13th January is the date of the next meeting. I assume you do them at the same time, 5.30 til 7pm.

JC - We do sometimes do an earlier one, but I am completely comfortable if it is 5.30pm again, that is not an issue.

SA – Ok and is everybody happy for it to continue on Teams in this way? Again, wave if you want to be different. I think generally the consensus is yes. Now I think we have just got a few questions, I think Colin, do you want to go next just to wrap up?

CS – It was just a very quick note for, well clarity for the notes, things had moved on before I managed to jump in but Jamie said the 5th and 6th when there was a peak in complaints and emissions picked up by our MMFs, it was actually the 4th and 5th which Robert picked us up on straight away but if the notes could be amended to suggest that.

SA – Ok that is fine, thank you very much. And now I have got one last question from Mick, now Mick I know you're here as an observer aren't you so I'm not sure if it is procedurally correct for you to ask a question.

MS – It's not a question it's actually just something for Angela actually. It is also worth getting in touch with Mark Liddersh at the EA if you are getting in touch with Claire Dinnis. He's the project executive for the Walleys Quarry project at the Environment Agency.

ADS – Sorry what was the surname again?

MS – Liddersh.

ADS – Can you spell that?

MS – L-I-D-D-E-R-T-H

ADS – Ok thanks.

MS – You're welcome.

SA – Ok that's fantastic. Well, we are well ahead of time so hopefully people have time for an extra cup of tea this evening but before we end the meeting is there anybody else with any other points they would like to raise? Ok so we will wrap up there then. Thank you very much for your polite use of hand-raising, I think you have made it very easy, and I apologise for getting peoples names slightly wrong and mixed up during that call so I hope it wasn't too painful. It was lovely to meet you all and thank you very much.

JC – Simone, can I just say, thank you for standing in at such short notice, it is really, really appreciated. I hope we haven't eaten too much into your Thursday evening.

SA – No it is great, somebody else has had to make the dinner so it is a winner for me.

JC – Congratulations. Thank you everybody, I'll sign off there, bye bye.

12.Date of next meeting

13th January 2022 @ 5.30pm