

## Walleys Liaison Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Attendance

#### Present

Michelle Purkiss – Note taker (MP)  
Mukhtar Shaikh – Environment Agency (MS)  
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)  
Celia Jarrett – Silverdale PC (CJ)  
Simone Aplin – Chair (SA)  
Ian Barnett – Resident (IB)  
Helen Brownlow – Resident (HB) - Observer

#### Nonattendance

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

#### Apologies

Nesta Barker - NULBC  
Henryk Adamczuk – Silverdale PC  
Simon Tagg – NULBC  
Jamie Hayes – Environment Agency  
Marion Reddish - NULBC  
Anna Turner – Environment Agency  
Nigel Bowen – Walleys Quarry Ltd  
Anna Willetts

### 1. Welcome and introductions.

Sa – While we wait for others to join shall we start with introductions as we have a new member here today. Hi Jon, we were just going to do a quick round of introductions while we were waiting for you so if you don't mind, I'll quickly just carry on. For the benefit of Helen as she is new, I will go round my screen in the order which people pop up.

Michelle, I've got you first.

MP – I am Michelle Purkiss, I am here on behalf of Walleys Quarry, and I'll be producing the minutes for this evening.

SA – Robert, you are next on my screen.

RT – Hi, I'm Rob Thomas, I'm an Environmental Health Officer at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

SA – Thank you, and you're standing in for Nesta today, aren't you?

RT – That's right, yeah.

SA – Brilliant. Celia?

CJ – Celia Jarrett from the council of Silverdale.

SA – Thank you, Mukhtar?

MS – Afternoon everyone, I'm Mukhtar Shaikh, and I'm with the Environment Agency, one of the installation technical leaders working in Colin's team.

SA – Fantastic, thank you, Angela?

ADS - Hi, I'm Angela Drakakis-Smith and I am chair of Thistleberry Residents Association.

SA – Thank you Angela, and Ian?

IB – Hi, I'm Ian Barnett and I'm a local resident.

SA – Thank you, and now I've got Jon and Paul.

JC – Hi there guys, I'm Jon Clewes, Group technical Director.

PL – I'm Paul Lealman, Operations Director.

SA – Fantastic, and then Colin?

CS – I'm Colin Sully working for the Environment Agency, I'm the installations team leader.

SA – And finally, but not least, Neil.

NG – Hi, Neil Goodwin from Staffordshire County Council planning regulation team.

SA – That's brilliant, thank you everyone. Sorry to do that again but I think it's good if everybody knows who everybody is. Are you happy for us to start the meeting Jon, if I just quickly do apologies and then we can crack on?

JC – That sounds absolutely perfect Simone, and Simone thank you for standing in again. I really appreciate it.

SA – No problem at all.

## 2. Apologies

SA – We have got apologies today from Nigel Bowen, Simon Tagg, Marion Reddish and Henryk Adamczuk. I have taken the note that Celia you need to leave at 6.15pm. Then we have got two people standing in for people today, so we've got Rob Thomas for Nesta Barker as we mentioned, and Colin and Mukhtar are standing in for Anna Turner and Jamie Hayes from the Environment Agency. We have got a new member of the group, Helen Brownlow. I use everybody's first names but if anybody would prefer me to use their surname please just say. Helen, would you like to quickly introduce yourself to the group?

HB – Hi, yes, I'm Helen Brownlow, I can only apologise that I've not got a camera, it's not on this computer I'm afraid, it's about 300 years old. Just here as an observer really to see what is said and feedback as I can to interested parties.

SA – Thank you Helen, that's appreciated. I intend to run the meeting as I did last time so everybody is going to run through their updates in line with the agenda and then we'll take questions afterwards. If you are happy to raise your hand using the raise your hand function on Teams when you have got a question, it just helps me to get the order right and make sure I don't miss anyone. Just remember to take your hand down at the end unless you've

got another question and you want me to come back to you. If everybody is happy to proceed on that basis, we'll go through the minutes of last meeting.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

SA – Does anybody have any comments on the minutes for the November meeting? Nobody is shouting up so I think we can accept those as published. Oh sorry, Jon and Paul.

JC – Yeah, Henryk kindly emailed some comments in and Paul will just go through those.

PL – I'll read them verbatim for record. The first one to do with the last minutes was

*1 Brian Johnson – NULBC. Brian Johnson resigned as ward member for Knutton in the summer of 2021. The Knutton seat was subject to an election won by Derrick Huckfield on 25 November. Derrick Huckfield was also elected county councillor covering Silverdale, Knutton and Keele in May 2021 so he has now two distinct functions within the wider democratic structure.*

That reads as a point of clarity. He raises another point for the minutes to consider, which is

*2 Tony Eagles – Knutton representative. Tony Eagles was the previous council member for Knutton ie up to May 2016 and now has responsibilities shielding a family member.*

Relevant or not...

*He has not attended for 3 years. Also, he's not on email.*

*I don't think it is timely that Tony Eagles' name appears on the attendance list.*

That is perhaps one to review. He also suggests Derek Huckfield as a potential representative for this forum so there are a couple of comments, he made that I think need a bit of consideration.

SA – Thank you Paul. Moving on to matters arising.

### 4. Matters arising

SA – Obviously we are going to cover the updates but any matters arising? Angela?

ADS – Hi. I've got 2 pages of questions, but I don't know whether things are going to come up in the course of the meeting. I don't if you want me to go through the questions or just introduce them as people, the various agencies come in.

SA – Shall we go through the agenda and then you raise them as and when and then if there is any that we haven't covered by the end we'll pick them up then? Are you happy to do that?

ADS – Ok.

SA – Unless you think there is anything that might be unrelated that you'd like to raise now?

ADS – What might not come up is that we are still waiting for a breakdown of the £1,070,000 that the NBC awarded itself regarding the air quality monitoring around the site. We want to know how this money is being spent, not global sums but individual sums of how it has gone. Also, we understand that 7 Environmental Officers were going to be appointed by NBC, I wanted to know how many have been appointed so far. There is a job advertisement for one at the moment being advertised. I think the, I just wanted some clarification please on whether or not mediation was called for or not, there was a bit of, kind of difference of opinion on that one at the last meeting and I wondered if that has been clarified. Is the borough council and Walleys Quarry going to mediation or not? I think the last one, mainly that might not come up, again is the NBC Environmental department, have they had any results from their monitoring so far. That'll do for now.

SA – Thank you Angela. So there is a couple that Robert might be able to pick up. Robert, will you be covering those in your update? Or can you cover those if your update?

RT – Yeah, I can cover those.

SA – Fantastic and then ...

RT - ...

SA – Sorry there was a bit of distortion on the line then.

RT – Sorry, my Wi-Fi is terrible at the moment, I can cover it in my update if you like or I can cover it now, whatever you would prefer.

SA – Cover it now then and we can move on from there.

RT – Ok. With regard to the spending of the £1 million, I think we gave you a breakdown Angela as part of the response to your information request.

ADS – No you didn't, no, sorry. I was referred to the cabinet minutes which just gave global sums. I want to know precisely, you know where this money is going, what it is financing.

RT – Ok, it has been allocated as a fund available for the issue, it has not actually been spent as yet. I did see the response to your information request and there was a breakdown of how some of that has been allocated, I just can't put my finger to it at the moment. Here we go, so the report you referred to is that the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021?

ADS – Yes, we've had those figures.

RT – Ok, that's all the information I've got on expenditure so far. The remainder has just been allocated as a fund to progress the appeal. As yet it hasn't fully been spent or allocated.

ADS – Could I ask you if you could bring that information to the next meeting.

RT – I obviously can't bring the information if we haven't allocated or spent it yet because it is still sitting in the fund.

ADS – I'm just wondering how long it is going to sit in the fund for.

RT – Until it is needed, obviously the fund has been allocated for a project that is going to continue until possibly June next year. You know people will be removing funds from that until June or July next year.

ADS – Ok well as they are removed could we have a rundown?

RT – I can ask if that is possible.

ADS – Ok thank you.

RT – With regards the 7 environmental officers, where have you seen that? What are you referring to?

ADS – That was reported in the minutes of one of the meetings and I think it was also reported in one of the cabinet meetings or one of the meetings of the NBC.

RT – There is no intention to set on 7 Environmental officers as far as I am aware. We're attempting to recruit for a position that became vacant September. I haven't seen any mention about recruitment of 7 officers, it would be nice if we could but unfortunately. With regard to mediation, I don't believe that has been agreed as yet, I think discussions are ongoing, but it has not been agreed as yet. The results from the monitoring I can cover that in the update if you like.

ADS – Ok that's fine.

SA – I propose to move on to the Walleys Quarry site update now if that is ok with just a note that if you could cover that point on mediation that would be fantastic within your update Jon and Paul if that is Ok. Has anybody got any other matters arising outside Angela's queries?

JC – Could I just add something there Simone? My recollection Robert is that additional environmental officers or others in that department around the number of 7 was to be taken on and I'm sure that does appear in meeting notes provided by the Council. I think that merits a closer look by yourself for the next meeting Robert.

RT - ...

SA – Oh, you've muted yourself Robert

RT – Sorry, yeah, I wasn't aware of any requirement or any desire to appoint 7, I'll look into that.

SA – Thank you

## 5. Walleys Quarry Site update

SA – So we are over to Jon and Paul then for the Walleys Quarry site update.

PL – Thank you Simone. So, an overview of site, we saw this last time, it is a relatively recent photograph but just for the benefit of people on this call generally North is towards the top, slightly offset but North is towards the top, South to the bottom etc. Our current operations have been focused on principally cell 3 which is in the North east of the site, well central and north east of the site and continues to be the main area of our focus. In December it became necessary to move to a different part of site, principally because of the inclement weather we had in December so actually current operations are within the western flank so that is immediately in front of the entrance, the site main entrance to Walleys Quarry. We'll continue to operate in that area which is a previously lined and approved location for the

deposition of waste. We are looking to try and get materials back into cell 3 which involves two main activities, one is to bolster the road which runs around the northern perimeter of Walleys Quarry, just behind the Garners Garden centre and up into site and that is to enable road going vehicles to access and there is works going on, on that road. The other one, there is an internal site dumper track which runs from the onsite transfer pad into the main bulk of the waste facility and that is currently being re-laid to try and transfer the materials from the transfer pad up into the central section of site which remains our focus of operations. Unfortunately, the inclement weather in December has meant that the site is quite wet as you would anticipate, and we look forward to drier weather in due course. Leachate continues to be treated on site with good throughputs seen. That is particularly pleasing given the cold temperatures seen at the moment, the bacteria, the bugs that help treat the leachate in the onsite leachate treatment plant are working well which is good to see at this moment in time. Gas capture and extraction remains high at approximately 3000m<sup>3</sup> per hour and we have increased, principally I've mentioned this, because we moved location towards the western flank. Bird and pest control, particularly in winter is increased, principally because birds actually enjoy the slightly warmer temperatures near the landfill and the waste compared with ambient temperatures so there is some propensity to see more birds at this time, so we increase the coverage from the pest control contractor. That work will be focussed on the western flank at this moment in time. I mention it because people may well see that activity going on. Just to give the detail of what that is, we fly raptors, various different birds to help discourage the birds such as seagulls from congregating but we vary the deterrents. We will utilise lures which used as a deterrent scares the birds off in the same way that the raptors do as well as control via noise, things like pyrotechnics, bangers will be let off to dispel birds if they do congregate. Future operational plans, I have touched on some of these. We're working in the location on the western area, but our focus is to get volumes deposited into cell 3. We are going to start the installation of the site access road into cell 4 which will run along the southern perimeter of site and that will commence in January. Relocation of the western gas main, we anticipate that will be commencing to pick up the operations that are in the western flanks of site. Currently that runs halfway along the bank side adjacent to the entrance and that will need to be relocated in order to allow continued operations. We are reviewing the capping and phasing plan which is a document that runs generally on an annual basis and that is anticipated to be completed towards the end of January. Landfill gas management plan, we've currently updating the landfill gas management plan, we've been working on in conjunction with the Environment Agency since June and version 6 we anticipate will be submitted next week. Slightly aside, Walleys Quarry, we'd love to receive applications for the communities' fund, the landfill tax communities fund, they are open so if anybody has got any relevant projects they would like to put forward we would be more than happy to receive those applications.

SA – thank you Paul. Does anybody have any follow up questions?

ADS – have we had any reports from the gas group on their monitoring of emissions, aren't they supposed to be doing real time monitoring? Is that CLP gas, whoever it is, they are not here, they are still not round this table and I think they should be here, is there any reason why they are not?

JC – not sure of the reasons Angela. The data that you are referring to about the continuous monitoring, that is being provided on a regular basis to the Environment Agency.

ADS – Are they passing that on to the public or not?

JC – Perhaps Colin or Mukhtar could pick that up.

CS – It doesn't form part of our community updates, the data that is provided from Walleys Quarry for CLP, well it is direct from CLP, it is for us to monitor the performance of the gas systems so when there is peaks in hydrogen sulphide and other gases and obviously complaints that are usually directly associated with that we can go back down the systems to what, if any there has been any issues with their gas system. They're to try and zero in on what the cause potentially was of that increasing gas. So, no we are not publishing those things at the moment, and I'll be honest, it's probably no need to, we quite often talk about, mention the volumes of gas in total which is part of that submission.

ADS – But do you go back to this gas company and correlate the incidents of odour with their, you know, whatever it is they're doing or collecting?

CS – Yes, we do, that is part of the process. If we see an increase we want to understand why and we will go through that data, we look at weather conditions, we look at the number of reports, where they are reported from, and we look at our air quality monitors and try and piece that all together. Quite often we can't come out with an absolute result, but it does help us kind of think about where there could potentially be an issue on site. Quite often it is just simply to do with weather conditions because all landfills have, do release more odour when it is cold, when it is still, just like it has been over the last few days. Yeah, it is all part of our process, all part of our thinking that we discuss with Walleys Quarry and CLP, what could be done better next time, what is the causes and try to progress things and make things better for the future.

ADS – Sorry, can I just say again, I think it was Celia who mentioned that the odours were quite strong over the weekend, have you done any kind of investigation on that.

SA – Shall I just let Celia in here just in case her question is related, and then Colin you can probably answer both of them together.

CJ – I think actually Colin has almost answered my question. Over the last, generally there has been a big improvement over the last couple of months. I live close by, which is directly in line with the quarry, so I have a lot of personal experience with the problem, certainly on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> it did increase enormously, particularly in the evening. I actually had to wear my mask, not for covid but just to mask the smell when I took my dog out because it is

absolutely putrid. Is there any measurement taken in this part of Silverdale, North on Park Road?

CS – We have got our air quality monitors that encircle the site dotted around so, there isn't anything particularly where you are as far as I am aware, but I am not too familiar with various roads and where that is.

CJ – The northern most road that runs parallel with Keele.

CS – So the closest one, we've got one on Cemetery Road and one on Gallingale, that's right isn't it Mukhtar? So, if you are right next to Keele university there then you are in between the two so they should pick up odours there.

CJ – The old golf course is between Keele University and the road I live on. Are these units' moveable?

CS – No they're not moveable, they need a specific location which are secure, they need a power supply and how they have been assigned those positions is to do with those particular issues and we need to cross, we need to make sure they are in the right place. We have tried to seek the best possible locations with those specific set of needs that those monitors have. They are kind of a small cargo freight kind of container, sort of thing, so they can't be moved around very easily. Like I said, there are four of them dotted around and they are picking up a representative sample of where the gas is and obviously what you are experiencing, we've experienced it by being out and doing odour monitoring. We haven't got the data in for this weekend, we get that on a Wednesday, sorry we would have got it in yesterday but we haven't reviewed it just yet against what happened over the weekend, and we certainly haven't got it for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We are working through that process, we did speak to Walleys and I'll pass you back to Jon and Paul in a second just to see if they, if there was anything they were doing differently on site that would have caused it, which I will let them answer, but ultimately, like I said earlier, the weather conditions at the moment, like any landfill round the country are perfect for that gas, that odour, not to be dispersed in the usual way therefore it sits around, hangs round and it kind of builds up and it doesn't go away so that is the issue we are facing from time to time. It's one of the biggest issues that we will have over this winter period.

CJ – At midnight last night, I went out as I say with the dog, and I literally was finding it difficult to breathe because it was absolutely obnoxious. I haven't heard of any measurements being taken or readings being taken in this particular locality which is north of the village.

ADS – chair, could I ask Celia a question? Do you live anywhere near Station Road? Is your Road near Station Road?

CJ – No, Station Road is further up the village, I am literally within 200m of entrance to Walleys. There is the allotments and the tip, where all the refrigerators and things are kept and then there's the allotments and then there is the top road, which is the Racecourse and then it comes into the Road which runs to the top end of the village.

ADS – The reason I am asking you is because on Station Road there is the sewage works and at the entrance to the sewage works there are two very large vents belonging to the Coal Authority and they have big notices to say mine gases, inflammable, can cause suffocation. I don't know if anybody goes and has a tour around these vents from time to time to see what they're doing.

CJ – When the wind is blowing in a southerly direction.

CS – I have just googled you and I expect the Cemetery Road monitor that we have got would pick up the majority of the odours and the gas that would come from the landfill site towards you so whilst there is not one right next door to you there is one within a km/several hundred meters.

CJ – Ok, thanks.

SA – For the next meeting maybe we'll touch on that Colin, if you've got the data by then and if you're here we can just maybe square that circle.

CJ – I'm quite happy to give Colin my email address or telephone number if you want to liaise.

SA – Thank you, I'm sure Michelle will note that. Ok, I'm just trying to get everything in order, I can see your hand up Ian. Jon did you want to respond to Celia's question?

PL – I think it was Colin that redirected it to Walleys Quarry which I think in summary was, has there been any activities at Walleys Quarry that may have contributed to it. The extraction rate for the last, well certainly pre-Christmas but certainly to focus on the last 10-14 days has remained fairly constant around the 3000m<sup>3</sup> and hour. There is an activity that is planned in for Monday which is to put a knockout pot. What these do is take out the condensate which forms in the gas main and the gas infrastructure and that is to be put in on the eastern spur. The reason that's going in is the condensate typically drains back to landfill and what we identified in the early part of last week was that this drain is blocked. That is the only thing that is out of the ordinary, if it will, in terms of activities but that doesn't coincide with the levels of complaints seen because the extraction is currently at 3000m<sup>3</sup> an hour and continues to be so that is the only activity we have seen recently that is ad-hoc and we don't distribute it to the, there is an off-set period between what we have found in that drain and the complaint levels rising on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> as you have quoted, Celia.

CJ – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

PL – Ok, thank you.

SA – Thank you. Ok, moving on to Ian, would you like to give us your question.

IB – It is really in addition to that point. I can't speak to the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> that has been pointed out, but I do know, specifically on 11<sup>th</sup>, this is to Colin because I wish for the data to be interrogated once you get into the data. On the 11<sup>th</sup> I would class that as quite unusual climatic conditions, there was heavy mist, well there was mist around in the area, it was very cold, static air, mist holding any potential vapours and odours in and around, hanging

around the area and although I didn't believe from my personal point of view were in the threshold worthy of reporting to the EA I did obviously think there was a landfill odour which hung around and I would report a terrible night's sleep that night with smelling vapours through the night. Again, it is unusual weather conditions that bought that about so although the landfill cannot be held responsible for weather but because there is a landfill in the area it trapped those odours on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, I noticed them when I returned around 9/10 o'clock at night and there were sections of it throughout the night, from my perspective. That is why I request if you could interrogate the data specifically on that night to see whether there are any justifiable incidents that you can correlate.

CS – Yeah, thanks Ian, 160 people would back up what you said, they reported, 160 people reported to us on 11<sup>th</sup>. What I can do is, I'll send, in the coming days, probably early next week, once we've had time to review the data and come to any conclusions, I can just feed it back out to Michelle who can send our summary out. Does that hit the mark for people, that everyone gets to see our thought process?

IB – I would concur that over the last few months it has been a very much improved situation, just specifically on the 11<sup>th</sup> I thought that would be worth looking at.

SA – thank you.

CJ – I must have been asleep that night.

SA - If there are no more questions, I'll move on to the Agency update but first I just wanted to ask Celia, is that all of your questions for today because it probably go on before you have to nip off.

CJ – I would just like to congratulate Walleys on the effort they have put into it in the last few months and as I say, in general in the daytime it has been considerably improved and I would like to thank you.

SA – That is lovely to hear, thank you Celia.

CJ – That's unusual isn't it.

## **6. Environment Agency Update**

SA – So we'll move over to Colin, you've already had to speak quite a lot today but over to you and Mukhtar's update if that is Ok.

CS – Mukhtar will do this bit.

MS – Can I just ask; Michelle are you able to share your screen with the presentation I sent you. Is that possible? We have talked about this, or Colin has, odour reports, up until the last few days, last week or so the odour reports have been fairly stabilised, under the 50 mark. You know we have had the odd peak and that which has been due to various things like when there has been work on site, disconnections and connections as you would expect from landfill gas, the management of gas and obviously met conditions. The last couple of weeks which aren't on there we have had the spike which Colin has said well over a hundred complaints. We will interrogate that but as it seems from the outset, met conditions like low

temperature, high pressure and low wind speeds is probably a contributing factor. In terms of compliance activities, we would carry on doing what we do with any site that we regulate. We do site visits we have done a numerous number of audits, we still get the data as expected from the landfill which comes from quarterly and annual monitoring reports which various members of the team look at and get back to site and produce what we call a CAR form, recording our assessment of that data. I think we may have put this one out but where we do find a breach with the procedures or it is not according to how it should be, we score it using 4 categories, cat 4 is minor and obviously a 1 or a 2 is quite serious. In terms of compliance activities, the data is there for the number of times we visited in 2019 and 20 and obviously in 2021. Due to the issues with odour reports and sulphide levels and so on, we have visited the site a lot more than we would normally, almost doubled the previous years. We continue visiting the site, I think Colin visited New Year's Eve I believe so yes, we try and visit, although in the last few weeks it has been weekly. We have not received and procedure or data reports as yet, but they will come, I'm sure. Permit breaches are there, yes due to the issues on some things we have found on site there are a lot more than previous years and we continue to monitor the data. In terms of the compliance summary, so, if you look at what we've looked at in October and November and December. In October a lot of our visits were focussed on seeing how the site was progressing in terms of prep for the new wells, 28 additional gas wells went in at the end of November, I think or was it December, I can't remember but yeah, a lot of our visits were focused on how they were progressing with the prep work, how that was going on. That's pretty much what we focused on in October. We also did some advice and guidance; we asked the site to produce what we call an atmospheric dispersion model. This is basically where they look at the likely emissions from the site and see what impact they will have on the neighbouring areas around the landfill. In November, this was the month of reports, so we had fair few reports come in for November, ground monitoring reports, fire management plan which we reviewed, we reviewed and acceptance of procedures for pest management, CQA plans, we reviewed those as they come and additional groundwater monitoring. A lot, capping and phasing plan, so that is something we are still looking at, at the moment, one of the members of our team is looking at that, we have asked for some additional information which the site I believe are still to produce and submit, so that is being reviewed. That was November. For December, again pretty much all that happened in November, we carried on with a number of plans. The gas management I think this is something that is ongoing, every few weeks that is updated as the gas changes, we review that and get comments back to the site. Something that we have done differently in December that we've not done before, I believe, or not for a while anyway, which is we took samples of some incoming waste. So, two officers who would not normally be part of the Walleys team visited site and took a couple of samples. Obviously, the incoming waste, that has been sent away for analysis, we have not had the results back for that, I believe they are due at the end of January, early February. Again, as we said we are reviewing the capping and phasing plan still. In terms of the air quality monitoring data, those are the percentage figures so what that refers to is, the World Health Organisation, WHO, have designated a limit of 7 micrograms per m<sup>3</sup>. What that basically

means is if the level of hydrogen sulphide is above that level it is likely to cause annoyance with the general public. The percentage on this table as it is presented shows the amount of times the hydrogen sulphide monitors at each of the four locations has picked up levels above that 7micrograms per m<sup>3</sup> guidance level. For most of the monitoring stations, 1,2 and 6, which is the one near the fire station, the one near the pumping station and one opposite the site on the cemetery, they've all been pretty much 0 or 1 or 2 percent above the annoyance threshold. In terms of the last one which is the one at Galingale View which is referred to as monitoring station number 9, it is frequently above the guidance threshold and obviously, last week which was 16.2%. Yes, it is still above that guidance threshold a number of times. Just to let you know, again, we didn't stop, even in terms of the Christmas break, the data was still coming in and we were still assessing it and producing these reports. This is raw data, so this data isn't for using for making decisions on regulating and so on. Finally, all of the data we collect we forward publish it on our citizen space web page, we do what we call verification checks, we make sure it is correct and any calibration factors have been added. Once the data has been verified, we produce a monthly report, that monthly report is sent to the UK Health Services Agency, formerly Public Health England, they look at the data and they analyse, and they also produce their own monthly report and both their report and our report we publish on our citizen space webpage. I think that is it so yes there is two links there, one on the previous slide (<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-site-community-information/>) was the one that points to where the data goes and this one is where our updates go (<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/>), and that is it from us.

SA – Thank you Mukhtar, I don't know if it is possible to recreate those links in the minutes, but it might be useful for people to access them that way. I can see Ian, you have got your hand up, would you like to ask a question?

IB – Yeah, a couple of things occurred to me while, there was specific mention of a dispersion model, I'd like to know which software was used to run that and what was actually modelled, whether it be odour, H<sub>2</sub>S, whether it was populated using actual or Olfactometric data which I've been requesting for a long time, this actually surveyed over Walleys landfill or was it just a simple GasSim model, obviously it would be useful to know that. Since I'm still talking you can answer all these, I'm still waiting for my invite to actually view the monitoring station, I would just like to see it to be fair.

MS – Yes, shall I go first and then if Jon or Paul would like to add anything they can do so later. So, yeah the modelling used was AirMod, it wasn't just a basic GasSim model, it was detailed dispersion modelling so we have received that data, we've gone back to the site and also they use consultants to produce their reports and there's a few things that we have asked for, additional information just some background files and so on, so yes it was detailed dispersion modelling and as part of that model they compared the data from the predicted use of the model with what we've found from the monitoring stations as well.

IB – so it actually is H2S and fractions of PM10's so no actual odour.

MS – No.

IB – Ok, I would suggest that might be an additional step. Is the report going to be published? Or could I view it? I can interpret them quite well.

MS – Yes, well, you know, once a report has been sent to us and a report has been finalised it will be public information so yes if you did request it, we would have to provide it. I don't know if Jon or Paul want to add anything on in terms of the modelling they have undertaken.

JC – I think that was quite a fulsome description Mukhtar, thank you very much for that.

SA – I'll just check, Ian does that answer all of your question?

IB – Apart from the invite, I could do with getting an invite, it's just down the road from me, well a stone's throw from my house so it would be nice to actually look at the monitoring station, the Galingale View one.

CS – Ian, leave that with me, I'll be in touch if you can give Michelle permission to send me your email address.

IB – Yes, I have no problem with that.

CS – Brilliant, then I'll be in touch, and we can sort that out for you.

IB – Thank you.

SA – Ok, Angela?

ADS – I just wanted to ask, is there any explanation for the persistently high percentages at Galingale View, I mean, what, every other monitor seems to be, you know, whatever has been done is working but for Galingale View there seems to be still some kind of a problem. I'm wondering what's there that's not on our, you know, on any of the other monitors or not near to any of the other monitors. I mean, is the sump anywhere near Galingale View?

MS – My view is, it is a number of factors, 1, it is probably the monitoring station that is closest to the landfill, it is in the prevailing wind direction which is obviously south westerly, whether it is in a sump, I don't know the area that well but it could be a factor but all of these will be looked at as part of the dispersion model that has been taken .

ADS – Ok

CS – There is almost a slight valley from the landfill leading up to it so when conditions prevail it tends to be the first place it gets, like Mukhtar said, it's the closest but, the kind of, even with a slight gentle breeze or a change in temperature, especially at night when a lot of people report to us, the weather conditions draw that out of the valley around the landfill and because there is a little valley leading up to Galingale, catabatic conditions, if my geography serves me correct, it actually draws it back towards Galingale. So, yeah it is in a particularly good spot to pick up all the odours and the gases coming off it.

SA – If we move to Jon, did you have something you wanted to add at this point, or shall I go back to Angela?

PL – It was me Simone, just coming back to what you've said there Mukhtar, just for my own understanding, we 're referring to a sump and I'm a little bit unclear what the sump is, particularly as you say it might have an effect.

MS – I think the sump or a bit of a dip as Colin explained, is the valley where the gas may accumulate.

JC – Is that what you meant Angela when you said sump?

ADS – No, the sump is outside of the container, and it is underneath the container, and it is kind of a water balancing thing, not sure what the technical term is but it lies, I thought from the maps I've seen, in that particular area nearest Galingale View but I am not sure, that is the thing. It is underground so I don't know if anybody is checking on it underground to see what is going on. The Coal Authority did submit a graph to the MJCA report and that looked as if there was underground flooding i.e., the pumping wasn't keeping up with the volume of water underground. This is why I keep asking for the Coal Authority to be here because they need to answer these questions. That is my biggest query at the moment because you know, it looks as if there is evidence to show underground flooding and that will have an impact on your liner. I thought the whole point of the engineering was to have an equilibrium between the water underground and your container and goodness knows what.

JC – Yes, it is about hydraulic stability Angela, that's quite correct.

ADS – Ok well that's, those are just my thoughts looking at the information we've been given and trying to draw a conclusion and I wonder if anybody else is looking at that data and drawing any similar conclusions or is this something that the Coal Authority need to explain to us? What does this graph mean? Otherwise, we are going to come to the wrong conclusion and if we are looking for resolution then we have to have the right information and the right explanations otherwise it's never going to be sorted, is it?

MS – Angela, what I can say is that I know the Coal Authority produced a report and it is going back a few weeks if not a couple of months where they did investigate if they were, some of the mine workings, if they were a potential source or not. I think the gist of the report was they don't believe that any of the existing, or the old mines were a source. They are probably best to explain the findings of the report, I do have a couple of contacts and maybe for the next meeting I can ask, or request that they attend, but we can only try.

ADS – If you would because they seem to be self, regulating themselves, the Coal Authority, I'm not sure the EA has any input into looking at what they are doing in terms of the public ...

MS – No we don't regulate the Coal Authority, no.

ADS – Right, they are regulating themselves, so you know, we don't know what they are doing.

SA – Jon ...

CS – Sorry, just in addition to that, we do regulate pumped mine water discharges to water courses but that is a separate issue I believe.

ADS – Right, I mean, do you have any information on that and also with regards to the sewage companies pumping into the brook.

CS – As you will have seen on my email to you today, Angela, we can talk about that, probably outside of this meeting because it will have to be from one of our water quality specialists rather than the team dealing with Walleys itself. I will get James to make contact with you and he can answer all your questions about the Severn Trent pumping station, the sewage overflows and any other consent to discharges and water quality in the area, if that's ok, unfortunately myself and Mukhtar don't have that detailed local knowledge.

ADS – Ok, I did ask Michelle if she would mind circulating an article that was produced in the Guardian recently about the EA and sewage companies pumping water, sorry pumping sewage into water courses and they're not doing it anymore, they're not monitoring what sewage companies are doing.

SA – I know that article you referred to Angela and yes very important, but I think slightly outside the scope of this meeting. I know that time is, I'm just looking at the rest of the agenda and time's ticking on so maybe we'll leave that for a second. Jon did you want to quickly add something?

JC – Yes, I think it is quite a germane moment for Paul to read out the rest of Henryk's enquiry because I think that fits in very well at this point.

PL – Yeah just to add on that, I've got two points and I'll try and make them quickly. The first one is I'm interested in the sump that appears to be under the monitoring station. I'm wondering if the Agency know more details about the location that MMF is based at and what the sump is.

CS – Is that the Severn Trent pumping station?

PL – Not that I am necessarily aware of Colin. It is just there is reference to a sump directly below MMF9 in Galingale and I'm just wondering what that is and what the effect is that may potentially have on MMF9 and whether that has been considered. Then I will come on to Henryk's point that needs raising which is about the sewage pumping station on Silverdale Road.

CS – So all I would say to that is that it is on a Severn Trent pumping station so that gravity feeds all of the wastewater into a sump and then it is pumped out under pressure to a high level and then its gravities down to a sewage treatment plant. We wouldn't have sited an air quality monitor on a place where it would be affected by what is underneath, I can guarantee that, if you want more reassurance on that, or somebody wants more reassurance on that we can ask our air quality tech team to provide that.

PL – I think we probably do Colin and I think just for clarity, that is foul waters, foul sewage?

CS – yeah it would be the wastewater coming from the domestic properties on Galingale.

PL – But not surface, it is wastewater, it's foul. It's just that I know there is a vent for that tank within a few meters of the MMF so yeah, I think I would appreciate a bit more clarity on

the siting of MMF9. It kind of leads on and it's a point Henryk sent across for me to raise so I'll try and read it verbatim. It starts with

*Environment Agency Re Silverdale Pumping Station (and Effluent Release as a possible contribution to odour complaints in Silverdale and Knutton)*

*Please ask the EA representative to answer the following question (which is preceded with a factual statement):*

*Among the 2,289 entries for Severn Trent, the 2020 data for Silverdale Pumping Station gives 106 instances, recording the release of raw effluent into the Silverdale Brook with a total duration of 2,503 hours. The number of hours of 'spills' equates to 104.29 days during 2020. In addition, the monitoring was operational for 38.68% of the time.*

*How does the Air Quality Monitoring Point at Silverdale Pumping Station distinguish odour arising from raw sewage in Silverdale Brook from odour with Walley's Quarry Landfill as the origin?*

*If Environmental Health are present, then there might be a comment too from the rep.*

So that's direct verbatim from Henryk.

Apologies Colin you're on mute.

CS – Unless Mukhtar has got anything to add being a bit closer to the air quality side of things than I am, we can certainly answer that question, both for the air quality side of things and if there was anything hidden in there, the water quality side of things that our specialist would be able to answer. Mukhtar, have you got anything?

MS – Nah, that's pretty much it, it's just to say, in terms of odours, when we went through the hydrogen sulphide levels and the mean levels, the one on Silverdale doesn't, a lot of the time or the majority of the time it is below that annoyance threshold limit so it's not picking up a huge amount.

SA – Are you able to share that question with the Environment Agency just so that they have it because it'll take a while for the minutes to come out.

PL – Yeah that is fine Simone, obviously it will be baked into the minutes, but we'll send it across direct as well for your consideration Colin, Mukhtar, thank you.

SA – Thank you. Angela, you've still got your hand up, was that from last time?

ADS – Sorry, yes.

SA – Don't worry, everybody does it. We'll move on to Robert. Robert did you have something to add there?

RT – Yeah, what we're trying to do is visit where we see a cluster of complaints to verify it is potentially to do with landfill and not some other source so we are attempting to confirm the nature of the source of the complaint where we can.

SA – Fantastic thank you.

ADS – Sorry, do we get to see those results or that data?

SA – Was that for you Robert?

ADS – Yes

RT – What, the results of visits?

ADS – the results of the data that you're collecting on odour incidents.

RT – Possibly not, no because they might form part of any proceedings or be withheld as part of what is going on with regards to the legal processes. Certainly, I can ask about stuff that might be taking place at the moment and obviously because they are post notice and before any complaints date being looked at but at the moment, we are not releasing complaints response information at present.

SA – Thank you.

ADS – Can you throw any light on the mediation, did we get an answer to that? Are you going through mediation or what are you doing? Again, this is to Colin.

CS – Why is it to me? I'm not too sure what the ...

ADS – Sorry, no it's to Mr Thomas, NBC Environment officer.

RT – My understanding is that the mediation process has not been agreed but discussions are ongoing. I don't know any more than that at the moment.

ADS – ok

RT - Maybe Jon can ...

SA – Ok, we have got half an hour to get through the rest of the agenda and you're up next Robert, so I don't know if you want to kick off with your update and maybe catch some of that.

## **7. Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update**

RT – Ok, so in regard to the appeal process, that's the appeal of the abatement notice, the first exchange of documents to disclose processes has taken place on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the next important date is the 9<sup>th</sup> February where statements will be exchanged. Moving on to odour complaints, we are still receiving complaints, as are the EA, in October we received 190, November 251, December 185 and as of this afternoon for January we have had 252. We have seen a daily increase since the 4<sup>th</sup> of January and the highest complaint numbers was received on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> when we received 32 and 65 respectively. Over the Christmas period we were probably averaging about 3 a day but now that numbers have substantially increased what we will try and do is get out in a morning and try and verify what the odours are where we can. We are still deploying the Jerome's internally to properties where they are reporting health effects or regular ingress of odours. We have identified that the Jerome's are impacted by some interference and may produce erroneous results, particularly after their sensor regeneration phase so we are looking into that. The results need further consideration against other data sources such as complaint data, AMU data

and the complainant diaries, the diaries of what they are experiencing when the Jerome's are there. At the cabinet meeting the council have committed to publish the data. That should go on the website but unfortunately, I've not been given a date for that as yet but once it's published then we can possibly start to discuss what has been found. The noise complaint that we received is still open, unfortunately it has not progressed because we are awaiting further information from the complainant in the form of their complaint diary detail and what's affecting them and when and how long for. Once we have got that we can assess the significance of the issue and develop any potential noise monitoring plan that we will follow. Until we have received that we are unable to do much more. Planning have given me their update; they have suggested that there is nothing new occurring near the site. There are still a few conditions to satisfy in relation to the Persimmon's development and they have confirmed that the pumping station which was raised as a concern during the previous meeting is not subject to review with the local planning authority, that is an agreement between the developer and the utility company subject to building regulations. They have also confirmed that the Fowlers site which was raised as a concern at the previous meeting, is something that they are aware of, but they are not in a position to take any further action at the moment, there is an ongoing action with that. That's basically it from me.

SA – Thank you Robert. Angela?

ADS – Could I just, I was down at the new site of Persimmon a few days ago and they were digging a big hole and there was quite a strong smell of gas coming from there, I don't know quite what they were doing. Some of the residents had reported that there had been gas leaks where the new houses are and some of these houses now, at least 3, are now inhabited even though it's still a bit of a building site. I was concerned about the gas odour coming out of this hole that the men were digging, and I don't know whether there was gas coming out of the holes that are elsewhere being dug on site. There is an awful lot of movement and digging of earth on the new site at the field end which is closest to the infill site. I don't know if that is affecting what people can smell, everybody, a lot of people assume that any gas is coming from the landfill site when there might just be other reasons, shall we say, or other sources.

RT – My understanding is that gas monitoring, ground gas monitoring is to be carried out so there will be an assessment of ground gas. What I would say is if you do witness an odour which you think are relating to the site, report them and we will investigate. As I said, we do want to start investigating any complaints that we receive which are allegedly landfill gas odours to verify the source so if people report it, we will attempt to visit where we can and verify what it is.

ADS – Is that to your environmental department or is there a sorry where do you report it to? For the Persimmon site not the landfill site.

RT – there is an online reporting form so once that is filled in and it is marked as happening now, we will get a text and where an officer is available, we will attempt to witness where there is a cluster of complaints.

ADS – Ok, thank you.

SA – Ian?

IB – I wasn't going to mention it, so I'll try and keep this brief because I know time is moving on. About gas, I know, and it feels like time is repeating here, when we first moved into this estate there was a number, a rash of gas reports, however to the untrained nose landfill gas can be taken as just gas so this I feel muddies the situation, there are systems in place to detect whether it is coming from the landfill now and I think we should use those and not assume it is other gas emissions. The one question I was originally going to ask was do Newcastle Borough Council validate their actual reports when they are taken on the phone, the EA don't so they don't actually repeat back to the person to say is it a 6, they don't say so you are saying this, ah fine, they carry on, do Newcastle Borough Council essentially validate their reports of numerical values of odour?

RT – Where complaint numbers have been low, we have not attempted to visit but now they have increased again we do intend to go and investigate the complaint, verify the nature of the source and make assessments as to what the score actually is.

IB – I appreciate that but really it is just a simple validation of the phone call is all I'm talking about. Obviously on the online form they are saying 'it is...' and there is information on what that number actually means, you are either trained in what these numbers mean or you just general public and the general public don't know what these numbers mean, they just give a number and don't know unless it is fed back to them.

RT – It is my understanding that most of the complainants don't actually speak to anyone they just fill in the form and the form is the complaint report.

IB – The form does have an actual description of what they are saying which allows them to make the call correctly, that is really the only question I had. Thank you.

SA – We've got 20 minutes to get through the so, Ian your hand is up, is that from the last one, just to check.

IB – I hadn't put it down but I just did.

SA – That's fine I just don't want to miss anyone. You have covered the planning update as well haven't you Robert so we can skip that one but the next one is Neil and the update from the County Council

## **8. Staffordshire planning update**

NG – I'll not take 20 minutes for my bit. We continue, we have made monitoring visits since the last meeting which didn't flag up any particular concerns. In terms of the complaints coming to us I think we have only had 2 or 3 since the last meeting, we did have some in relation to mud on the road outside the site just before Christmas, I think that is related to

the works that were referred to earlier by Paul when he mentioned that they had amended the traffic route around the site to adjust for the weather conditions at the time. We haven't had anything over the last week or two since then so obviously that is an ongoing issue for us to keep an eye on, keep on top of but we don't have any particular concerns at this moment. I think that is all I really need to say.

SA – Thank you Neil. Anybody have questions for Neil? Angela.

ADS – Only on the potholes still outside the site.

NG – Yeah, again, as previously I know when I have spoken to the Highways officers, they confirm that they are within their program for remedial works. I'll drop them another message to see if they can let us know where things are in relation to when they might get around to them.

ADS – Ok, thank you

## **9. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update**

Covered by Robert Thomas in item number 7

## **10. Local councillor and residents' representatives' comments**

SA – So we are on to the last update which is from the local councillors and residents. Does anybody want to speak from those representatives?

ADS – There has been some press releases about illegal loads, are we allowed to discuss those? I mean they're allegations I understand but I think you know, the company is being judged on the basis of the allegations, so I just wanted to know, what is going on with that.

CS – From the Environment Agency point of view we cannot discuss anything about that and myself and Mukhtar aren't any part of that investigation or decision-making process so from our point of view, we can't comment.

SA – Thank you Colin.

ADS – But it is out in the public domain isn't it, you've put it out, although it is just an allegation, the press have got hold of it, somebody must have reported that information to the press.

JC – I believe the Environment Agency actually sent the document to the press.

ADS – So why would they do that if it is only an allegation that needs to be investigated, I would imagine, privately initially to see if it has got any legs.

CS – All I can say Angela is that decision was made well above our heads. It is what it is but I genuinely, I can't comment because I know very, very little about it so we are going to have to leave that one there, I can't talk about it.

ADS – Ok.

JC – I think we would have the opinion Angela that it is quite an unusual move for the commencement of an investigation, but again, not a decision that we were involved in.

ADS – I mean what does bother me is that already the run up to the local elections has begun, the politicking has already begun and when I met with the minister, I did ask her if

this issue could stop being used politically in the way that it has been used and the way it is being used. I don't know whether that is kind of being taken ...

JC – I think that is very wishful thinking in the current political climate Angela. Anything that distracts perhaps from work parties might be very welcome.

ADS – Right, it is just that what I am noticing is not good but ...

JC – That is what we're noticing too Angela.

ADS – Around here it seems somewhat unfair.

JC – I would add very to that.

SA – Thank you. Thank you, Angela. Ian.

IB – I will put my hand down immediately this time. The comments back from people who talk to me, I'll try and keep this brief again as, there are a number of fresh noses come into the area so they are detecting odours where existing residents may not detect those odours, they're only slight, generally people, apart from this rash of unusual weather which we have had recently, nobody has had cause to have, you now, it is a much improved situation but apart from, I do know some local new residents in the area had been reporting gas smells as aforementioned. Generally, we are quite pleased with Walleys continued attentiveness on to the situation. They have many local residents around them and in that respect we are happy.

SA – Thanks Ian. Angela.

ADS – I just want to say I also went and spoke to some of the new residents and certainly some of the existing ones and I was told, and this was on Monday or Tuesday that they hadn't smelt anything for two weeks and there was one person I was talking to and he lives in Galingale View and he has been quite vociferous in the past about odour and certainly the new people seem to be not too bothered by the landfill.

SA – That's great, good to hear. Ok, so, anything else from the councillors and residents?

ADS – Can I just ask about the SCG committee, that was mentioned at the last meeting, and I can't quite remember what it actually means but they are discussing aren't they, the issue of the quarry. Do we ever get to see any sort of transactions from this committee, do we get to see their minutes, do we get to have any input, does the operator sit on it? We don't even know who sits on it, I think we would like a full list of that.

JC – I can assure you Angela that the operator is not invited and doesn't sit on it and we've never seen any notes or outcomes from that but Colin or Mukhtar may be able to tell you who the members are.

CS – The Strategic Coordination Group is what SCG stands for, it is a group of partners that are interested in Walleys, so Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Environment Agency, Fire Service, Police, all of those players, UK HAS, all sit on that group and are there to bring together a combined response to make sure that all partners know what is going on and all partners progress to resolving any issues as fast as they can in conjunction with each other because there is always criticism that partners go off and do their own thing so that group is

there set to progress things forward. Under that there is a regulators group that myself and Neil and Nesta sit on to make sure that we are sharing data appropriately. There is a scientific group that Mukhtar sometimes sits on which talks about the air quality and all of the sciency stuff in the background so dispersion modelling and stuff like that will potentially get to them for discussion so that is what it's about. It is not an Environment Agency thing, we are just a partner within it so what I can do is put your request, Angela for information, minutes or whatever you need up through that system to the SCG to see what they come back with, or would you like me to put you in touch with someone who chairs, or one of the partners that chairs the meeting? How would you like to play that?

ADS – I mean, it depends on how you define partner here, I would have thought that the operator would have been a partner. If you are looking for a resolution, then surely anyone who has the ability or the power if you like to resolve an issue should be around that table. I mean, the TRA regards itself to be a partner in terms of trying to find a resolution, but you know, I only found out about this meeting via a borough council meeting that happened to be on YouTube. It seems to be, again, quite an enclosed circle of people who might just be naval gazing, who knows if the right people are not around the table, you don't get the right information to formulate a resolution do you.

CS – I don't necessarily disagree with anything you have said there Angela. It is formed out of this little contingencies' unit run by Staffordshire, and it is in the main, category 1 responders which look at all incidents, so it is an incident-based grouping of people to work to resolve that. Like I said, the Environment agency just sit on as part of that and share the information and work with partners that are there, and we don't necessarily instruct who should be on that group. If you come back to me and say what you would like I can send that through to the civil contingencies unit and they can assess what they can share and get in touch with you, if that is what you would like.

ADS – In the first instance we would just like to know a) what they discuss at their meetings and how far do these discussions go towards coming to some kind of resolution.

JC – We share your surprise Angela that the operator isn't included but I am sure there is a very good reason for it.

ADS – Well perhaps they should explain that.

JC – That could be good Angela.

CS – So, just, sorry Simone, if you're happy for me to share your email address Angela with the CCU I'll put those questions to them and they can respond back direct, are you comfortable with that?

ADS – Yes that's fine.

CS – I'll do that.

ADS – Thank you

SA – Fantastic, thank you. Ian.

IB – Quickly, we, obviously the residents, myself included, are very happy that the monitoring is ongoing, but I would like to ask how long is the monitoring going on for?

MS – Up until the end of March is what has currently been agreed so the four monitors will definitely be there until the end of March as that is what we agreed but, to be honest, likelihood is they will be there until at least this time next year. In terms of confirming that, that is yet to be agreed, certainly to the end of March but most probably until next year for now.

SA – thank you. Angela, is that a residual hand?

ADS – Sorry, I thought I was lowering it.

SA – That's ok. I'm not sure if they are very helpful or not helpful but it's an attempt isn't it.

## 11. Any other business

SA – Any other business then at this point? Or shall we move on to the date of the next meeting? No other business?

## 12. Date of next meeting

SA – Moving on to the date of the next meeting. Are we normally every month Michelle, apologies I'm slightly out?

JC – We've been going on a 6-week period at the moment rather than a 3 monthly period.

SA – Ok so that'll take us to the end of February. I assume it is a Thursday night is the best time. Do you have any days Jon which are particularly good for you?

JC – It is just that we need to ensure, for me and I imagine other too it avoids the half term weeks which I think would actually take us in to march, around the 4<sup>th</sup> or the 11<sup>th</sup>.

SA – Ok, so the Thursday, Thursday nights are the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 10<sup>th</sup>.

JC – Oh sorry, yes, even better now. Let me just take my glasses off so I can see my phone.

SA – I've actually got a calendar in front of me. Does anybody have a preference over the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 10<sup>th</sup>? Shall we propose the 3<sup>rd</sup> which will be 7 weeks.

JC – That's fine with me if that is fine with everybody else.

SA – Ok, and the same time, 5.30pm? \*Attendees nodding\* Fantastic, it'll be almost spring then.

JC – Something nice to look forward to Simone.

SA – Yes hopefully less covid and a bit more warm weather.

JC – So are we going for the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5.30pm?

SA – Looks like it. Unless anybody has got anything else to add I think that is the end of the meeting. Has anybody got anything else? \*no's all around\* We've covered a lot of ground tonight and thank you everybody for making it easy for me.

JC – Thank you for jumping in and chairing again Simone, it is greatly appreciated.

SA – No problem at all.