

Walleys Liaison Committee Meeting 3rd March 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)
Debbie Morgan – Staffs CC (DM)
Nesta Barker – NULBC (NB)
Celia Jarrett – Silverdale PC (CJ)
Ian Barnett – Resident (IB)
Carl Banton – Coal Authority (CB)
Peter Thorn – Coal Authority (PT)
Henryk Adamczuk – Silverdale Parish Council (HA)

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

Neil Goodwin – Staffs CC
Nigel Bowen – Walleys Quarry Ltd
Simon Tagg – NULBC
Jamie Hayes – Environment Agency
Simone Aplin - Chair
Anna Turner – Environment Agency

1. Welcome and introductions.

JC - I have an important apology to pass on, I'm afraid that the planned chair for tonight who is Simone Aplin, has actually been called away and can't make the meeting. I wonder if I might ask if somebody could put their hand up to chair the meeting for probity's sake that isn't an employee of Red Industries or perhaps working for an agency or the council. I don't know if we have any volunteers, it really is about keeping us on track and to the agenda.

Don't all rush. Ian, are you looking away because you want to volunteer but daren't?

IB – I was hoping Angela might step into the ring.

JC – Angela, any chance? I really would prefer it is not a Red employee for the sake of probity of the meeting.

Ads – Sorry, is my camera on?

JC – No we can't see you Angela, we can hear you.

ADS – Well I can't turn the camera on for some reason, I don't know why, it was telling me that it was off. I would but I've got a lot of questions to ask and as chair I might not be able to. Go Ian, you do it.

JC – Just think of the kudos that comes with it Ian.

IB – Yeah, absolutely. I don't see there is any volunteers, we do need to get moving on I suppose.

ADS – Yes, we do.

IB – There is absolutely no other volunteers?

JC – You're still looking keener than you might imagine Ian.

IB – Ok well ...

JC – Ian, thank you very much we appreciate it.

IB – Sure, absolutely. Well let's move on to item one then which is welcomes and introductions. We can go around, I guess now on my screen. Nesta, could you introduce yourself please.

NB – Hello, good afternoon or evening, I'm Nesta Barker, Head of Environmental Health at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and I'll try and represent the Borough Council including the planning service this evening.

IB – Ok, Angela?

ADS – Hi, I'm just the chair of the Thistleberry Residents Association.

IB – Paul?

PL – Hi, I'm Paul Lealman, the Operations Director for Wallets Quarry, thank you Ian.

IB – Next is top left, which is Walleys Quarry, which I assume you're the note taker for this evening.

MP – I am.

IB – Good. Sully C? I don't know names, so I do apologise, I normally just keep quite so ...

CS – That's alright Ian, It's Colin Sully, Team Leader for the Environment Agency.

IB – And Henryk?

HA – Good evening, Henryk Adamczuk, I'm chair of Silverdale Parish Council and also chair of Western Communities Locality Action Partnership which covers Silverdale, Knutton and Crossheath.

IB – And then Debbie Morgan?

DM – Hi there, I'm here instead of Neil Goodwin, he normally attends these meetings, but I am Planning Regulation Manager at Staffordshire County Council.

IB – And Shaikh, I hope that's how you pronounce it.

MS – It's Mukhtar, it's Mukhtar Shaikh. So, I am Technical Installations Officer in the team reporting to Colin.

IB – I've just thought I do have the minutes from the last meeting, I am just going to help myself by looking at names. Carl?

CB – Hi, I'm Carl Banton, I'm Operations Director at the Coal Authority.

IB – Ah, that’s why it wasn’t on my list for previous. Peter?

PT – Hello, I’m Peter Thorn and I’m Sustainability Manager at the Coal Authority and I’m in here in light of my, I’m a chartered geologist, hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience in both landfills and mining so that is my capacity here.

IB – Ok, Celia Jarrett? Can you hear me? Celia Jarrett? She can’t hear me. I will then introduce myself, I’m Ian Barnett I am a local resident in the area, not too far from Walleys, the Quarry and the EA MMF monitor.

2. Apologies

IB – Regards apologies, can somebody help me with this, who do we have for apologies this evening?

MP – We have received apologies from Simon Tagg, and Neil Goodwin has sent his apologies, but Debbie has already informed us that she is here on his behalf, Anna Turner and Jamie Hayes aren’t here, but we have got Colin and Mukhtar sitting in on behalf of the Environment Agency.

3. Minutes of last meeting

IB – Ok, moving on to the minutes, is everybody happy with the minutes of the last meeting? Are they taken as read? I assume everybody received the minutes, and any objections to receiving these minutes as a true and accurate record? Ok, Good.

4. Matters arising

IB – Any matters arising?

ADS – Ian, can I raise some matters please? Can you hear me?

IB – I can hear you.

ADS – Just from the minutes of the last meeting, was the monitor nearest to Celia’s house examined to see what the reading were on 11th November? Did this information get passed on to Michelle as promised? We were going to see if that monitor picked up Park Road.

PL – I think that is MMF1 isn’t it, Colin?

CS – Yeah, I’m not sure we actioned that, let us review that Angela and we’ll respond tomorrow on that. Apologies missed that in the minutes.

ADS – Ok. The other thing, and this would be to Nesta Barker because she is here from the NBC ...

HA – Excuse me Angela.

ADS – Yes

HA – It’s Henryk. I’ve got all the data on an excel file in front of me, which date do you want to know about?

ADS – 11th November 2021.

HA – 11th November, Ok. And which station was it?

ADS – 1. Was it station 1? Silverdale Road it would be.

HA – Ok so that's ... Yeah, I'm just scanning down. 0.618 was the average of the 24-hour H2S reading on ... Sorry on the 11th of November, sorry 0.837 was the reading.

ADS – Right so ...

HA – According to the data set that I downloaded.

ADS – So is that below the healthlevel?

HA – That's the raw data, that's the average so it is a different calculation for how far it is above or below the World Health Organisation but that's, that was the reading.

ADS – Right ok, well that's, sorry but that is not making a lot of sense to me so if we can get that from Colin Sully maybe, something more useable. Ok, and for Nesta Barker the last one I have, again we are going back to the money being side-lined for the abatement order, I want to know if anything else has been spent, because, as we said before, £1 million has been taken away from public funds for I presume public services and that has been for the whole of the last financial year so it means that money is not being spent on public services but kind of side-lined and we want to know how long is this going to be going on for. If you can throw some light on that it would be helpful.

NB – Yes, certainly, I will try and assist you relating to that. Now obviously that money is a reserve that was made so it isn't necessarily money that has been spent and is in relation to the legal proceedings and defence of the appeal that Walleys have made against the abatement notice. Those proceedings haven't been concluded; I can't give you a date when they will be concluded therefore, I can't give you a date when those finance reserves will remain in place for. Obviously, what we do try and do Angela, is in our monthly cabinet update is give an update in terms of those financial provisions so hopefully that will assist you in knowing where that money is and the regular updates in relation to that.

ADS – Associated with that is the remediation, have there been any more move towards mediation or not?

NB – Remediation or mediation?

ADS – Sorry, mediation sorry.

NB – Mediation, I don't believe that there have been any further agreements in relation to mediation, I believe the appeal process is continuing unless Walleys are able to update any further in relation to that, but my understanding is that there hasn't been any agreement to enter into mediation at this moment in time.

ADS – Ok thanks. Ian, sorry, that is all from me.

IB – That's ok, it is matters arising, so we now move on to item 5 which I believe is in the capable hands of Paul.

5. Walleys Quarry Site update

PL – Thank you Ian. This is the March update, as always there is an overview of the Quarry and the current state of play from an aerial shot. This one is probably approaching 6 months old currently and will actually be updated I think within the next quarter. When that exercise

is undertaken again, I'll update the overview and cover the items you can see from an aerial perspective. Our main area of operations continues to be in cell 3 which is in the eastern and central sections of Walleys Quarry, on the eastern flank. I estimate that this will be complete in March, that is what we are aiming for, there is a small amount of void available and currently our tipping operations are focussing there where it is possible. In addition to the infilling works we are currently trimming up and preparing sections of cell 3 in preparation for capping which I'll come on to in a short while but that's especially in relation to the lower flanks of the eastern phase. Western flank operations are undertaken periods of inclement and particularly windy weather because of the nature of where that area is, it is a little bit lower than the top of the eastern flank and therefore it is a bit more accessible when the weather isn't being so kind. In advance of the next area of landfill operation which will be in cell 4, in the southeast of the facility, there is road being constructed on the southern flank, that is ongoing and anticipate that will be complete in the next week or 10 days to allow access into that area when the eastern and western operations come to an end. We continue to treat leachate on site, we have seen very good levels of throughput through the onsite leachate treatment plant, it is performing very well currently. Landfill gas management plan has been agreed with the Environment Agency so that covers infrastructure as well as methodologies of how landfill gas is managed on site. Discussions are continuing with the landfill gas contractor, which is CLP Envirogas, in how we can develop and expand the infrastructure at Walleys Quarry in advance of our operations. Those discussions are continuing in line with the landfill gas management plan. I'll come onto this in a short while, but the capping and phasing plan has been agreed by the Environment Agency and there has been some progress there in terms of our next periods of capping. Relocation of 3 gas lines, this relates to 3 specific spurs that have been or in the process of being moved to allow access into areas requiring landfill operations. This is normal work that is undertaken on site as the landfill develops and we move across the facility. Bird and pest control is increased, I think we touched on this, certainly in the previous meetings we have had. We are in a period of winter working which sees an increased presence from our specialist contractor in terms of bird and pest control. For those that were on the committee for a period of time, Dean Broadhurst who will be familiar to some of the members of the committee has been recruited as site manager and has started work with Walleys Quarry as of Monday this week. That bolsters our management capability on site. I touched on capping and phasing plans, there is a plan, as I said, being formalised and agreed with the Agency and this is an exert of that capping and phasing plan. So, phase 1 shown on the left-hand diagram is our current eastern operations, the area, the flank, or the majority of the flank that faces the Galingale estate. The plans there are to trim and cover that area with a blinding material to allow capping of that area. It is likely that will commence in Q2 but more specifically in April of Q2 I anticipate we will be in that area capping and contemporaneously with those works we'll be looking clay cap an area in the

western flank. Phase 2 that is directly opposite the entrance to Walleys Quarry to give some perspective. Those are the 2 main areas we are going to be working on. I touched on, phase 2 is a clay cap whereas phase 1 will be a plastic membrane. There has been quite a piece of work done, looking at how Walleys is settling because of the depth of waste in Walleys Quarry, there is a fair amount of settlement, particularly where we have got weld the cap in phase 1 into the capping works, we did in April 2021. We have looked at those works but because we see it as important to cover, to cap phase 1 with the membrane as opposed to temporary cap with clay which perhaps is part of a normal operation on a site that has got the levels of settlement that we see in the waste. We have decided to go ahead with the permanent cap because I think it is in the interest of all stakeholders for us to do that piece of work. I touched on the differential settlement so that was looking specifically at the settlement in the area of previous capping in relation to the areas of active phase in the last 10 months it has been significant in terms of the settlement in that area, obviously under normal conditions, if you will, we perhaps would have temporary capped phase one and allowed that settlement or certainly some of that settlement to occur and then gone back to that area, stripped off the clay and permanently capped it because of the nature and focus that is on at Walleys Quarry, that I am sure everyone is aware of we have taken the decision to put a methodology around how we might tie the infrastructure, the two areas of capping together and that allows us to permanently cap that area and perhaps a little bit earlier than we would have, in a different situation, would have liked. Another piece of work that is going to go in the CQA plan is, in consultation with the Environment Agency, and CLP Envirogas through ourselves, is, there is likely to be additional wells installed in late March, early April, that is to both the eastern and the western flank in areas where infilling has occurred and there is now a depth of waste to allow those works to happen. I have touched on the clay cap previously to be installed into phase 2 of the western flank. So, our future plans, some of which I have touched on is the working location will continue on the eastern and western sections with the aim of finishing those off under our current operational plans in March, possibly into early April depending on inputs and the ability to access those areas, CQA plans being issued to the Environment Agency for the are of proposed capping in cell 3 which is down as phase 2. I touched on the road that is still under construction that we aim to have finished by mid-March. CQA plans submitted to the Environment Agency for the installation of the wells that I have just touched on in the eastern and western sections of site. We are actively working with CLP Envirogas to gain agreement and development of the necessary actions in line with the landfill gas management plan that is approved by the Environment Agency. The western gas main is in the process of being relocated up on to the top of the infilled area to allow further access to the western phase of our operations. We are in the process of acquiring and installing some additional pumping capacity into the gas infrastructure on site to help supress some of the perched liquor that is in certain well that has been identified and would benefit from having in situ down well pumps installed in to

them. I think that is it. So that is a run down of our current operations, there is a lot going on in there, if there are any questions, I am happy to take them.

IB – Ok, I have 2 people that I can see on my screen. Henryk, you have your hand up.

HA – Yeah, can I just ask you to explain what perched liquor is, I have not come across that phrase before.

PL – Within the landfill mass Henryk, there's things which I am sure you can appreciate, particularly on a day like today there is a lot of rain about, so CLP have just undertaken an exercise to dip all their gas wells and identify which gas wells and what the level is of liquid within those wells. The landfill leachate particularly within cells 1, 3 and 4 is low, the exercise that has been done is to look at those levels within those wells, comparative against the leachate to identify whether it is comparable to the leachate levels or actually it is sat at a higher level within the landfill. Where it is sat at a higher level within the landfill it could be because it's blinded within those wells. Or it is sat within a level on the landfill that's not allowing it to infiltrate down to become the basal leachate. What that exercise identifies, Henryk, is in those situations, if we install a pump, we are able to depress that liquor level within those wells.

HA – Thank you very much.

IB – Ok, Angela I can see your hand up also.

ADS – Yes, it is just in regard to accelerating the permanent capping whilst settlement is still going on, I mean, is this safe to be doing this?

PL – It is safe, Angela, what the, the difficulty we have is where we tie the 2 together so the settlement within the area capped in April 2021, we have had a review in terms of how that is settling and there is a difference between the waste level that we are putting in now and the waste level that it is currently at, the previously capped area is currently at. What we aim to do, and we are working with the Environment Agency on this, is identify a way that when we weld those 2 areas together, that we can leave them 'visible' because we will protect the liner from UV particularly, but what we want to be able to do is make sure we can observe, we can monitor, we can measure the join between the 2 areas of cap. Just if there then becomes an issue we are able to see that join, we're able to go in and make the necessary repairs just as the 2 areas of landfill settle. The alternative would be to cover in clay and allow that settlement to happen and then go back at a later date, take the clay off and put a permanent cap on. However, there is an opportunity to cause further disruption by doing that so the preference of Walleys Quarry is actually to install the permanent liner now and not allow that settlement in phase 1 in the eastern flank to happen under a clay cap but to go in now and cover with plastic in a permanent way but allow us to maintain access to the join too so we can observe, monitor and if necessary to remediate.

ADS -Thanks. Can I also ask then, with this permanent capping that has been going on, is there a reduction in, sort of, hydrogen sulphide emissions, would you say?

PL – There is a piece of work being done, Angela, looking at the flux and modelling the flux from surface, from the various different surface types at Walleys Quarry. Certainly, the flux that is on the majority of the site in view of Walleys Quarry is comparable with that of a temporary cap. Where there is permanent cap, certainly in line with guidance on permanent capping. If that answers the question. In short, yes, it's not that it provides that permanent cap to the surface, like I say the emission modelling has already been done on the various surface types and we are comfortable with those surface emission fluxes.

ADS – Right, ok. And sorry, just one more question on that, these surface emissions, do these kind of tally with what the monitors are saying? Your on-site surveys, do they in any way correlate with the monitors that are off site?

PL – I don't know that it is easy to correlate the surface emission flux with what the monitors are picking up off site, Angela, is the honest answer. What the flux data shows is that the surface emission fluxes, so the, in effect the amount of methane that's able to transmit through the various surfaces, if you will, is in line with the guidance. It is in line with the guidance for temporary cap and where the permanent cap is there with the guidance in terms of what it should be for permanent cap.

ADS – Ok.

IB – Ok, I see no more hands up so let's move on.

6. Environment Agency Update

IB – This is in Jamie Hayes and Anna Turner's hands. That is what it says on the agenda.

CS – Yeah, Mukhtar can you handle this?

MS – Yes, can you hear me, ok?

PL – We can hear you, Mukhtar.

MS – Thank you. This is just an overview of the complaints we have received from October to December. We have had these enormous spikes as you would expect but probably averaging about 50ish for the last quarter. The first three weeks we saw a bit of a spike in January, that was due to a couple of reasons, a couple of gas infrastructure issues that were resolved and also met conditions on a particular weekend along with that. From about the third week of January onwards it sort of dropped back down to averaging about 30 or so. No where near what it needs to be, but a lot less than it has been and certainly from the start of the year. Our compliance activities, they still follow the same 4 things which is either a site visit, an audit, looking at reporting data reviews and reviewing procedures. No change there. As you can see from the last 2021 it is almost double the previous years in terms of the amount of times, we have visited the site and the amount of procedure reports we did and breaches we had covered in previous CAR forms. From the start of the year, we have visited the site 7 times so far and reviewed 6 report and data reviews, yes, it is following the same rhythm as before but obviously it is subject to change as and when we need to visit the site. The next 2 slides summarise basically what we have done from the start of the year. Pretty

much most of the site visits have been routine. The is one for us really is something that Paul covered in his update from the site which is that we have reviewed and agreed the capping and phasing plan. That is a huge outcome for all of us and also, as Paul also said, the landfill gas management plan, we have also reviewed and agreed that one as well. 2 great outcomes for us on that one. That just again summarises what we have done in the last couple of weeks in terms of visits to the site. This is the air quality monitoring data, as you know we have got 4 monitoring stations covering, surrounding the site. We have got MMF1, 2, 6 and we've got 9 which is near the Galingale estate. The figures there represent the amount of times that we, you know, the monitors have picked up an odour above what we would deem the annoyance threshold level so WHO, the Work Health Organisation have said, you know, for hydrogen sulphide, 7 micrograms per metre cubed is the typical level above which people are likely to be annoyed in terms of it is causing them a nuisance. So, those figures there are the percentage of times when the monitor picked up the levels above the 7microgram per metre cubed limit. It's still above, you know, a few times, I think on 1 week it was 0 on all 4 but mainly MMF9 it is still higher than, you know, causing a nuisance at some times, obviously it is on 8-10% in the last few weeks. That is just a caveat really, so those percentage figures, they're, obviously that is unverified data so what happens is, the data gets downloaded, it is then corrected and verified before it is put in the public register so the figures there, the percentage figures are on unverified data so that's just a caveat to say that they could change once they have been verified or corrected. For the period covering, so the monitors went up March, the beginning of March and have been there, obviously, since so we've prepared, we've produced and interim report and covers a period from when they first went in which was around 4-5th March, until the end of September. So, for the 6 months the data was being collected we produce a report, an interim report, obviously the full report will be issued once we have 12 months' worth of data. That report is available on the, on our citizen space webpage if you are looking to view it. I am just going to go through a couple of high-level points that the report kind of shows. The data that we have collected for those 6 months is being compared against your air quality standards, WHO guidance where they are applicable and where they are available. The performance we have measured for all the four monitors is within those guidelines except hydrogen sulphide. The hydrogen sulphide, I mean, 7 micrograms per metre cubed as we know is the annoyance threshold that WHO say it is and it is obviously, the monitors regularly pick up annoyance levels above that. There is another level which is the 150 micrograms and that is the level at which WHO says, if it above that for 24 hours there maybe some health impacts. For those particular 6 months it is important to say it was just for the one weekend where that value was exceeded, and that value hasn't been exceeded since. The other thing the report highlights, it shows that, you know, met conditions and also diurnal trends along with catabatic flow which is basically the topography of Silverdale area as the gas flows down the drain slopes, it explains why it sometimes, clearly at MMF9 at

night-time the sulphide levels, they get elevated. Overall, from the start of when we put the monitors in, you know the hydrogen sulphide levels have been monitored by all monitoring stations has reduced, not where we want it to be yet, but it has gone much lower than when we started monitoring. Again, that also applies to methane emissions which is good because obviously we are picking up less methane on the monitors which means the fugitive emissions from the site are reducing also. And that is it for that one, it is on the citizen webpage so if anyone wants to have a look. There is a link to where you can get the communications data. So, site submitted a variation application, I think it was July 2020, so that's currently in the consultation period so if anyone, you know, wants to send in comments, I think there are 4 ways you can do that. The variation, the consultation period, I think ends, I believe the 21st of March. That is it from me, any questions?

IB – Ok, I see a few hands up. First on my screen is Henryk. Henryk, do you have a question?

HA – Yeah, just how can I get my hands on that first interim report please. Those addresses on the internet, you can't scribble them down in 5 seconds, is there a way of, are they available now or are they going to be on those websites.

MS – There is a link on our citizen space webpage, do you know where that is, do you have ...

HA – Yeah

MS – There is a link on there which takes you to the report.

HA – Thank you very much. That's it from me.

IB – Angela, you have you and up.

ADS – Yeah. Again, I just want to know, you know now we have the Coal Authority here perhaps they can throw a bit more light on things, it's you know, you seem to be doing a lot but you know, things are not really where they should be are they, or are the regulatory levels very low or very high that you cannot achieve, you know what you should be achieving. I'm just concerned that Galingale View is still not being addressed if you like. The levels are still high in comparison to the rest, so you know, I just want to know how you can address that or is that being addressed or is there nothing you can do? You know, we need to know, I don't think given the waste that is going in you are going to get an odourless kind of site, are you? But you know it's just puzzling me that's all.

MS – Yeah, I mean obviously the monitors have been there for almost a year now to be honest and whilst there has been a decline from the time when they first went in, they are still obviously, routinely above what we call the annoyance threshold which is the WHO guidance level which means you know if it goes above that level it is going to cause nuisance. So, yes they have come down but they are not where they need to be but in terms of, you know, we get that it's a slow progress and obviously as Paul mentioned in his update, as the site continues to improve, making additions to their gas infrastructure, more and more of the site is capped, you know, hopefully fugitive emissions released from site will go and down and the monitors will then reflect those readings.

ADS – Ok, I mean could I ask, I know you had to increase, or you have increased your visits to the site, I mean, how much are you being paid for these visits. How much are you being paid for this extra, sort of, regulation if you like? I believe, is it not the company that is paying you.

CS – So, all our regulatory activities are paid for through subsistence fees for permit holders so they pay us a yearly fee based on calculations on activity and risk. When we are in a situation where there is increased and extra work like there is at Walleys Quarry at the moment, we are able to bill for certain activities against the operator to cover our costs. So that is what we are doing at the moment and that is what we will do until this situation is resolved.

ADS – Right, and how, roughly how much might that be?

CS – I can't go into the details of that.

ADS – Oh, why not?

CS – I don't have them to hand as well because that is from our legal department.

ADS – Right, I mean, what bothers me about all this as well, and you know, to be fair, is that if there are false allegations it means you have to go in and you have to work all this out and prove whether or not they are false. Or allegations are coming in, you still have to go whether they are true or not, you have to go and sort them out, so does the company pay for that as well or does that come out of your government grant or whatever you get from the government?

CS – I am not too sure what you mean by false allegations, but we are following our regulatory path which has always been to regulate against the permit and focus our attention on the most important activities that will make the most difference to bringing hydrogen sulphide levels and other things back into compliance or reducing them in the levels in the community. I am not too sure where to go with that to be honest, Angela, where the false allegations come in. We follow our regulatory path and do undertake all reasonable actions to ensure the permit is complied with.

ADS – Right, as long as that is what you are doing.

CS – We are very experienced regulators; we know what to spend our time on.

ADS – Ok.

CS – Paul has had his hand up for quite a while now.

IB – He has I was about to say but Paul, you had your hand up.

PL – Yeah, just briefly because I thought it tied in with Angela's question. It is one of the reasons we want to install the permanent cap on that flank, those works from a Walleys Quarry perspective in terms of installing the plastic membrane the permanent cap, installing pumps, some of which are on the eastern flank and working with CLP Envirogas to make sure the landfill gas within Walleys Quarry is balanced and is managed and treated through the onsite utilisation plant. That is the actions we are taking, I think Angela, just in response

to your question in terms of, specifically in terms of Galingale they are things we can do and are doing.

JC – Yeah, that is our capital investment Angela in that piece of work in the permanent capping and that development I would think is about half a million pounds and that is why the decision has been taken to go for the permanent capping, whatever role we can play, you know we will. Obviously, we have the surface flux results which were very, very encouraging and actually, the more we permanently cap, the better those get, hence the reason we are pushing those on so quickly and going for permanent rather than temporary. Just to give you some comfort on the differential settlement, obviously that is not something we take on unilaterally in terms of how that is going to be engineered, that is something that forms part of a CQA plan drawn up by experts and approved by the Environment Agency before works begin.

ADS – Ok, as an add on to that could I just ask, how closely do you work with the gas management companies because I have noticed there has been a massive increase in your gas being generated from 1726m³, whatever it is to 7520 which is a massive increase and I understand that the gas engines can only deal with so much before they can become damaged. So, you know how closely do you work with the gas company to manage the gas?

PL – In response to that Angela we work very, very closely on a daily basis, continually through the process. That is both in terms of regular monitoring, balancing of the gas field but also in terms of the medium length projects, so moving of the spurs that I referenced in my update, there will be things we discuss with CLP Envirogas on kind of a medium term so that operations can continue into areas that are already engineered and then on a longer term scale you would introduce the concepts of landfill gas management plan which show the development in advance of areas being developed from a landfill perspective so the infrastructure is in those key areas ideally before those areas are finished. So, we work continuously, I wasn't quite sure and apologies for the level of gas you quoted. My current understanding is the gas, the bulk gas at the moment is around about 2500m³ per hour is what the reading is. That fluctuates as they balance the gas field, but the aim is to capture as much landfill gas and treat through the utilisation plant as possible. I think it is also important to identify what assets are on site because you are right to raise that concern in terms of the engines. The engines will treat somewhere between 600 and 750 cubic metres an hour each, something of that ilk, but the engines aren't there solely on their own so there are always 2 engines working at any one time, there is a third as a backup and then there is the flaring capacity on site so there are 3 flares currently on site which are able to handle around 2000-2500 cubic metres an hour, no it is not that, apologies I am giving the wrong figures. There are 2 x 2000 cubic metre flares plus a smaller one which is about 300, so there is the engine capacity plus the flaring capacity and that work is done to calculate the amount of assets that we need on site to ensure that we can effectively deal with the maximum amount of gas that we anticipate that we need to deal with, that is calculated through GasSim and also

monitored as we go through the development of the landfill to make sure that we always have the ability to handle the gas that is generated on site in volume.

ADS – Ok.

PL – Did that answer the question, Angela?

ADS – Yeah, well as far as it needs to, yes. Again, another question associated with that is, we have had an awful lot of rain over the last few months in fact and apparently rainfall is associated with sewage overflows and I don't know if the Coal Authority can come in here because it would obviously affect what they are pumping out from their mines, their managed mines at least. I am a bit concerned because recently I passed the Silverdale pumping station and there was an odour starting there, I reported it to the Environment Agency and they came back to say thank you for reporting a problem with landfill site and I hadn't actually done that, I had reported it with regards to the pumping station of the sewage works or the sewage pumping station, so there are odours and possible emissions, H₂S emissions coming from the sewage works. Now, will the, do the EA look at these at these times when there has been heavy rain and there are spikes going up on the monitors and so forth, do you look at other sources of odour like, you know, do you look at the Coal Authority graphs for example.

CS – Yes, Angela, certainly if you have got the incident report number and you want to send me that, I can see where that has been attached to on our incident reporting system. The other part of the question about, in terms of odours, yes, we do, and the air quality monitors are able to pick out difference between different sources as well so we are fairly confident that the monitors are recording what they need to record and our teams have worked an awful lot on that and Peter has got something to add on the Coal Authority side of things.

ADS – Ok, so you are saying they would be able to differentiate between H₂S from sewage and H₂S coming from the landfill site, can they do that?

CS -They will be able to pick through what, where sort of, different sources of gas because we look at a multi-parameter source of gas on the air quality monitors, so what we are picking up and what we report, that is all part of the validation process that Mukhtar talked about earlier is to show what is actually being read up on those monitors. As for heavy rainfall and sewage odours, the chances are that there would probably be less sewage odours during heavy rainfall if there is a combined system or there is greater dilution so it is one of those things, it is a very tricky thing to do, to look at but I would be surprised if there was substantially increased H₂S problems during heavy rainfall, that is just off the top of my head and I am not a water quality expert.

ADS – Right, I mean could the Coal Authority come in on their pumping activities here? What happens during these periods?

PT – Yeah if I can come in on that because there is a slight confusion I have got with your question if you like. You have talked about sewage odours and sewage pumping and talked about an odour round about the sewage pumping station, do you mean the sewage

pumping station or do you mean our mine water treatment system because that is a completely different thing so I would just like to clarify what you are talking about here to see where the issue is.

ADS – Right, well we know that you have sort of vents in Silverdale for example, they're labelled as such, you know dangerous gases might be emanating from these vents, so I am looking at them, particularly your stuff.

PT – Right, ok. So not a sewage pumping station then.

ADS – No it is your vents and your pumping underground which might sort of have H₂S kind of dissolved within the water that is being pumped up and down.

PT – Yeah so, I can talk you through our mine water treatment works is located to the west of Walleys Quarry Landfill. We do have small amounts of hydrogen sulphide which are dissolve in the waters but very low levels that generally you can only smell if you are very close to the actual mine water as it comes out of the ground, it dissipates very quickly after that. We have had some works going on in recent months with, so the treatment system, the water comes out of the ground, it is aerated down some concrete steps which adds oxygen and allows any dissolved gases to disperse which is generally carbon dioxide but with very small amounts of hydrogen sulphide. That then goes to large lagoons where the iron in the water drops out and then that water passes through a wetland with some reed beds which, in which they take the last bit of iron before it goes out into the local water course as clean water. So, what we have to do on a periodic basis every 10-15 years is dig out those reed beds and take the organic matter and the iron out so that, and they can be replanted so that it keeps the efficiency of that water clean up going. So that is what we did late last year, and I think going into early this year if my memory serves me right. So, if you had been in that area during those works you might have got some sulphurous odours from, not necessarily the mine water themselves but actually the organic matter that was being moved out of the area at the time. So if you think of a swamp type environment or an estuarine environment you get an anoxic environment where you have the sulphate reducing bacteria so any sulphate in the water will be used by those bacteria and they will give off hydrogen sulphide and use the oxygen from the sulphate to, for energy for themselves and those are the sort of things that live in wetlands so when we refurbish our wetlands when we disturb them you might get a bit of odour from that if you are close in the area but that would be short-lived and it would be very localised as well. So that might be but without having the, knowing where you were and when you were, we can look into that if the Environment Agency can give us that detail. There is also, if you are in that area and there is an issue, we do have a 24hour line that can be called, and an incident reported, or we have an email address that you can send stuff to as well. So, we will respond to incidents promptly when necessary.

ADS – Thank you, I mean it would be useful if you could send those dates when you were digging out all the organic matter to the EA to check with the really high spikes of odour

were coming from. Everyone though, or thinks they know any odour coming from anywhere is coming from the landfill site when we know that there is other sort of sources shall we say.

PT – Yeah, well as I say any odour would have been very, very localised and I would be surprised if you had anything other than people walking past because you are looking at very, very small amounts that would come from that. To put into context as well, from a mine water point of view which I know has been hypothesised as a source of hydrogen sulphide, we have been managing mine water in the area since, well, early 2000s, the only changes were between 2007 and 2009 when we allowed the mine water to rise up after it had been held down for some other activities and the water level has been maintained at that pretty much ever since, so there is a small amount of fluctuation. So, if there were to be any odorous events that was the result of our operations they would have been going on since about 2009 and I don't know what the timeline is on the issues that we are dealing with here.

ADS – Ok well as I say if you could just send that graph or whatever it is, that data the date to the Environment Agency so they can check with their figures. The other thing that concerns us and why sort of I asked for the Coal Authority to be here, we should also have Severn Trent as well around the table for them to explain certain things that are associated with their activity, is there is a sump which is underneath the container and water from coal, the Coal Authority pumping activities comes into this sump, now left sitting there I can imagine that you know, odours might kind of develop. Also dealing with underground flooding if there is too much water going on will affect the liner, so I just wanted to know whether you liaise with the company, whether you liaise with Severn Trent, whether you liaise with the EA to kind of get the whole picture of what is going on underground.

PT – Are you talking about the sump underneath the landfill?

ADS – Yes

PT – The groundwater collection sump. Right, ok. So, the groundwater collection sump deals with groundwater, which is within the clay, sandstone bands within the clay which the quarry was dug into so that is high level perched groundwater that comes from the Etruria formation. Now that water is at a much higher level than the water in the mine workings themselves. The mine workings below the site are flooded but they are maintained by our pumping at Silverdale, mine water treatment scheme at a level I would have to check my numbers, but they are approximately 100metres below the base of the site and have been maintained at that level or below that level since, during the mining and since mining ceased as well. So there is no physical way for mine water to actually enter that sump below the site. There is a large amount of clay in between the, and mudstone as well between the shallowest mining and the base of the site so any water within any mines goes to the mine water treatment that we are dealing with and sits at a level. That sump is purely for the purpose of dewatering those shallow groundwater, sandstone bands within the Etruria

formation and that enables, dewatering enable the landfill to be built in the first place, well a quarry to occur in the first place and then the landfill to occur after that and was put in specifically to stop the liner from buckling as that was built until there was sufficient pressure of waste to maintain the liner there. So, as I say we control the water level, if we didn't control the water below the site, it would be coming out at a lower point than the base of that, the landfill as well which is in another operational quarry nearby. We have looked at raising those levels but not got very far with that at the moment.

ADS – Right

IB – Thank you Peter. Are you finished Angela, is that all your points?

ADS – I think you have to move on, but I mean this raises quite a few questions. The geology is not that simple and there is sort of sulphur, coal type strata underneath all of this and this is an area of faulting so like I say there is quite a complex geology going on here and water will play a part in how it interacts with that geology.

PT - It's actually not that complex beneath the site, there is a fault in the area but that is very much localised in its penetration which we mentioned in our response note recently. In terms of stratification, in terms of the hydrogeology, it's actually fairly simple, you've got the high level hydrogeology of the water in the sandstone bands in the clay Etruria formation and that's the stuff which interacts with the sump at the base of the landfill and then the organic matter which is in the coal measures is at a much greater depth, which isn't brought to surface or raised up significantly by the faulting in the area. That mine water we maintain at a much deeper level as well so there is no interaction between the 2 there.

ADS – Right, and you can be sure of that can you?

PT – Yes

IB – Ok well I see no more hands, oh no, I have just seen Henryk's pop up. So, Henryk, you have your hand up.

HA – Yeah, just a question for the Environment Agency, how does the data collection link in with what the health authorities are involved in, it used to be the PHE now it is the UKHSA, how do you integrate what emissions information is being collected regarding the health of residents. What is the linkage so they can make judgements about whether the levels of gas emissions are significant for the health of the population?

MS – So the data we collect that then gets passed on to the UK Health Security Agency so also, they look at the data that we have collated, they review it, and they produce a report, and that report is then put on our citizen space webpage. We have a weekly or now fortnightly meeting it is part of a coordination group so also scientific advisory groups on which among other agencies that the UK Health Security Agency so that is one way and also at the end of every month when the data has been verified we forward that data on to the Health Security Agency so they produce a report, analyse the data, assessing the health impacts, producing a report and then that report is then publicised by them and then we also put it on our own website as well.

HA – Thank you very much.

ADS – Sorry, Ian, before we pass on, whilst we are on the data collection can I just ask the EA. There are an awful lot of variables in this, I mean there's, first of all there is complaints, do you take the location of these complaints, i.e. postcode, do you then correlate all of that with weather, with, I don't know what else have we got here, I'm just looking for it, just looking to see what all the correlations might be, I've lost it, sorry. We really need to look at the distribution, you know, where complaints are coming from and do, they correlate with the monitors because now that you have the monitoring system in place you have a base line if you like, you have an objective assessment of what is going on although that's not perfect. I think everything needs to be brought into the mix if you are going to get a realistic kind of explanation of what is going on and why some areas like Galingale View, are higher when measures for other, the other monitors have seemed to have worked and you know this needs to be kind of assessed if you like. It's not ... collecting of data, it is also a question of analysing those data.

MS – the answer is yes Angela, we do, generally speaking when we do have high peaks for example, a few in January and in February, they do generally correlate well with what the monitors are picking up. So, when we do have those peaks, yes, we obviously get it ... but when we have a number more than what we would expect we do investigate and that goes to look at met data, you know, pressure and wind speed and direction and also we look at you know, has the gas infrastructure in the best place it can be, you know, is it being maintained, we will do quite a lot with site visits and inspections and audits. It is being correlated, it is being looked at, it is not just for collection purposes and if you look at the report that has been published, it is on our website the data for the 6 months from March to September, it is interesting and it does show the data is being analysed and assessed and it is a good summary of what we have done.

ADS – Ok, sorry just one last question, as an add on to all of that you said that you were going to take your own samples for illegal waste, have you done that and what were your findings?

MS – Can't comment on the findings but that is a process that is ongoing, I am not sure if Colin wants to comment any more.

ADS – Right, can I say

CS – We can't comment on any enforcement cases but what we can say is we are taking waste samples at both Walleys Quarry as well as suppliers to look at gypsum levels within any wastes for which we haven't had any results back as yet.

ADS – Ok could I just add to that, if you say you can't comment on things that are being investigated but I notice that, you know, information is passed to the MP who then went to the press and even though these allegations have not been in any way validated or whatever, and then he went to the House, Westminster to report on this, now it seems to me there is some kind of imbalance with reportage, and also perhaps an abuse of privilege

here, even though no use of privilege but you seem to be reporting to some people and not to others now can you make this a little more equitable please.

CS – We do not report, even out to MPs, our enforcement action that we're taking. It is all held within legal privilege, it doesn't go outside of the people that need to know that and that includes MPs.

ADS – Well he claimed that you had actually, that he had been speaking with the Environment Agency and this information had been passed to him.

CS – My comment still stands.

IB – We are just going to move on, Paul had his hand up.

JC – Angela, I find myself in the interesting position of perhaps defending Aaron Bell. . . Aaron used parliamentary privilege to read some extracts from a document containing unsubstantiated allegations that had been passed to him by a journalist. He has never read them outside of parliament, I have my own opinion about whether it is an abuse of his privilege as an MP but he read it within those confines which is permitted. I think that Aaron, what he stated was that the emails that were part of what the journalist had passed to him had also been passed to the Environment Agency, rather than any suggestion that the Environment Agency had passed them to him. I hope that clears matters up.

CS – Thanks Jon.

ADS – Right well it does slightly, except all of this went out on his Facebook page so that is how I saw it.

IB – Ok well I think if we don't have any more valid points, no more hands up we should move on to Item 7.

7. Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update

NB – Thank you very much Ian, I'll give you a verbal update today in relation to the complaints that we have received. So, in relation to complaints since we last met in January, we had received 501 complaints, in February that level had reduced to 133 and in March to date we have had 48. So just in relation to our current activities, where we get clusters of complaints, we are actually visiting those, we are also continuing with our Jerome monitoring and undertaking internal measurements of the H2S, I think in terms of our current activities that's most probably where we are at in terms of responses at this moment in time. I also said I would cover planning so if you don't mind, while I am talking, I will carry on because I have spoken to my colleagues in planning today and they have said there is nothing new to report in relation to planning matters near to the site that are currently arising. So, hopefully that will address that matter on the agenda. Happy to take any questions that anybody has if I can help.

ADS – Sorry, my hand is raised. Sorry, I can't hear.

JC – You're on mute Ian, sorry.

ADS – Yeah

IB – Apologies, yes sorry, Angela you did have your hand up. I was just doing a bit of a cough and I forgot. So yes, you had your hand up.

ADS – I just wanted to ask the Newcastle Borough, we are led to believe from what the NBC have been saying that the Jerome devices are not wholly reliable, you know, could you comment on this, they don't distinguish the source, they take in also cooking, I suppose if you take them into the bathroom, they take in that as well. Every so often they calibrate, self-calibrate so that chucks up a spike, so you know, do we know what they are collecting or not?

NB – Yeah, I mean obviously Angela we have produced a report that has been published, it is available on our website in relation to the Jeromes, yes like any instrument, I mean, they are portable, but they don't tend to be carried round people's properties, they tend to be installed in one particular area. Obviously in terms of H2S they can pick up other things at particular times, so we do know what those interference are but what we do see is, you see that a number of those things do track some of the results from the air quality monitoring station relatively well. So, we are continuing to use those, we are aware of them. The regeneration cycle, we know from the data that they're put in, you know, like any monitoring equipment, you know, we do know when that happens and you know, we can see that and we know the levels that they are around so you know, they do serve a purpose in terms of you know, collecting data inside peoples homes because obviously the air quality monitoring stations although they are in the environment and they cover a wide, you know, a wider area they are not actually inside people's homes so this is the next best type of equipment that can be used for that purpose.

ADS – Ok

IB – Ok, I, Nesta can you confirm that you have obviously dealt with item 7, item 8 was also yourself and item 9, is that correct? So that is Newcastle-under-Lyme health update, Staffordshire planning update and Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update, is that correct?

NB – I'm afraid I can't take the credit for doing Staffordshire County Council update. I think Debbie is on the line who may be able to assist you with that one.

DM – Yeah, that's why I'm here.

IB – Good, so yes, we will move on now then.

DM – Do you want me to carry on? I can see that Henryk has got his hand up.

IB – I didn't see that. Henryk do you have a point?

DM – Oh it's gone again.

IB – You didn't have your hand up, you do have your hand up.

HA – Yeah, sorry I am playing some kind of weird dance down here, but my hand was up. Just a very quick one for Nesta, are you still collecting postcode data to provide those heat maps or are you doing it differently now?

NB – Yeah, certainly in relation to complaints that we receive, we do look at the analysis of that in a similar way to what Mukhtar's derived in how they analyse the data as well so you

know, postcode data is one of the things that we do collect and obviously we do look at the distribution of complaints that we have received so we do also collect that at this moment in time so yes.

HA – Thank you.

ADS – Could I just.

IB – Henryk you just put your hand up? Hang on a second Angela. You're not putting your hand up Henryk is that correct? Good.

HA – Correct.

IB _ Angela if you wish to speak, please put your hand up.

ADS – My hand is up. Sorry I just wanted to ask Nesta also about the complaints form on the NBC website, there is no verification re complaints received in real time and follow-up, people just self-refer as it were and there is no questioning of these complaints so anything can be fed into the process which leaves the actual or factual so when you say have 501 or 6000 complaints you know, it kind of, I don't know, it's, I don't think these are accurate in terms of complaints if you like. I mean people have complained but we don't know exactly the nature of that complaint and it was just a thing I noticed when I was going through the NBC complaint forms last forms last year, looking through the thousands that were coming in, you know some did not appear to be genuine shall we say that.

IB - This is to Nesta is this correct?

ADS – Yes please.

NB – Certainly in relation to the complaints obviously you know, if a complaint is made then, you know that is received but the complaints that we receive are, you know reviewed to see that they are in relation to Walleys. So, if somebody has you know, filled out the online complaint form and it is in relation to a different odour issue or a different premises they are removed from some of the figures, so we do have that verification there Angela.

ADS – Ok, and just one last thing. Could I ask you if the abatement notice statements have been exchanged yet?

NB – In terms of statements no, no statements have been exchanged to date.

ADS – Ok thank you and just lastly since you're doing planning as well, could I just ask, I mean, is there any liaison going on with Persimmon because they seem to be doing quite a lot of digging and delving near the boundary of the site and they're doing this pumping station and I don't know again if the Coal Authority know anything about this and whether they are talking to Persimmon, whether these pumping activities are going to be joined or whether this pumping is just for the Persimmon site. We've, as in the resident's association, have written to Persimmon and they have not replied, and we are not getting much sense from planning authority either at the Borough Council. The digging and the delving for this pumping station was made as a planning application, we are now told that they don't need any planning permission, it is something to be discussed with the, I suppose it is Severn Trent and that is another reason why we would like Severn Trent to be here, around this

table. So, is there any information or is there any clarity about the workings of Persimmon because they are also moving around masses of earth.

IB – Nesta?

NB – Peter has got his hand up I don't know whether he wants to go first.

IB – I'll come back to that in a moment.

NB – Ok then, just in relation to them, all I can say is I'll maybe have to seek some further information from my colleagues in relation to those but obviously the thing that the planning department is pursuing at this moment in time is in relation to any of those discharge or prior approval consents that are required from Persimmon so they are engaging with that and are seeking that information but in relation to the actual digging on site I don't think that is necessarily one of those planning matters that they would actually be able to follow up Angela. If there is a very specific question that you want an answer to then I am happy to take that away.

ADS – Right ...

IB – Sorry, I was going to bring Peter in now Angela just for a moment, thanks for your patience. If you could just do your point and then we will wrap up item 7 and 9 and move on to point 8.

PT – It is just for the comment that was made about the Persimmon site and whether the pumping was anything to do with our pumping or related to us so the pumping that we do is from hundreds of metres below ground in the mines, so it is just to do with mine water. So, it is nothing to do with sewage systems, it is nothing to do with surface water systems apart from when we have treated the mine water it goes into a local watercourse so anything that Persimmon are doing on pumping stations that's more likely to be sewage pumping stations at Severn Trent, so I just wanted to clarify that connection or lack of connection between Persimmon Homes and us. Whereabouts is the Persimmons Homes site by the way?

ADS – It's just on Keele Road, it's just on the corner by the roundabout.

PT – Right ok, I can see that yeah, I've got a plan up. So, yes, the only other way that there might have been a connection was if that was related to shallow mine workings, but it won't be there because the workings are many, many metres below ground surface so we shouldn't be having any interaction with Persimmon Homes, I can clarify that, thank you.

IB – Thank you

ADS – Thank you

IB – Angela, any more for points 7 and 9?

ADS – No

IB – If not then

ADS – Sorry could I, just one thing before we go off number 9. I did get a response from the EA about the SGC committee which is first responders apparently who are meeting to talk about Walleys Quarry, and I did ask for a list of members who are on and also if this liaison committee could have you know, some indication of what they discussed now they wouldn't

give me a list of who was on that committee other than to say that they were first, first, what's the word, first responders, category 1 responders now I wanted to ask is the MP on that SGC committee and you know what way is he a category responder because I understand that the operators are not on that committee and surely they are the very first people to respond if there is any kind of an emergency.

IB – I don't think that is strictly comes under 7 or 9 Angela. I believe Colin has got his hand up so I'll just, if Colin can answer this query.

CS – Yeah, thanks Ian. I just wanted to clarify that it wasn't the Environment Agencies response, it was the CCU which is the Civil Contingencies Unit for Staffordshire who co-ordinate all of this work for the category 1 responders, emergency services and such like. So, Angela, I have got a contact there, you probably need to direct your questions back through that route to get your answer. Just aside, I don't think the MP is allowed to be part of that so, but that is off the top of my head but please go back to that contact that you got the email off because it is not an EA response, it is a Civil Contingencies Unit response.

ADS – Ok thanks, I'll do that. It is just there's so much information that is not correct flying around that we need to find out what is what. Ok, thank you.

IB – Thank you Angela, that wrapped up point 7 and 9. Debbie I do appreciate your patience but moving on to point 8, Staffordshire planning update.

8. Staffordshire planning update

DM – Yeah thank you. I can keep this very brief, just really to say that we haven't received any complaints since the last liaison meeting. The last complaint we did receive was on the day of the last liaison meeting and that related to odour, so we directed that person to the appropriate authorities and organisations. We have had nothing since then. I am sure that Angela is going to ask the question about the repairs to Cemetery Road so I have contacted Highways before the meeting, I've been told that the repairs haven't taken place but they are in a program of works but they couldn't provide me with a date as to when the repairs will take place so I'm so sorry about that Angela because last time I stood in for Neil I know you asked this question so I can only apologise that these repairs haven't taken place but they do prioritise repairs obviously around the whole county so I don't know what is taking precedence over them. I have also contacted our development control team who deal with any planning applications, and I think Walleys Quarry Ltd, they put on their website that they had engaged with the County Council for some pre-application advice, that advice was given on the 22nd December and as yet no application has been received so I am guessing that Walleys Quarry Ltd are working on that. The only other outstanding matter was the submission of details that was validated on 16th October 2020 and that was for conditions 5, 6, 38 and 39 of the main planning permission for the site, the submissions haven't been determined but the only outstanding matter is that the ecologist has asked for more information on the restoration topsoil and drainage as part of the final restoration scheme.

That is the only update I have got, hopefully, there are not too many questions on that, I can see time is getting on and I won't really have the answers because it is dealt with by another team, but I am happy to take anything back with me.

IB – Thank you Debbie. Any questions anybody? Please raise your hands if needs be.

ADS – I just want to know.

IB – Have you got a question?

ADS – Yeah.

IB – Can you raise your hand then please; we need to try and keep this moving on.

ADS – Very quickly, is there a date for the reconstitution of the site, are you any closer to knowing when that might be?

DM – That is all part of the planning permission and so there is no changes to that, you know there are deadlines for when the, in effect, the smelly waste stops going in and it reverts to the inert materials so that is already written in the planning permission that has been there for, I don't know, since the 1990's, I think.

ADS – Ok

IB – Ok thank you. I think we have got Paul there, Paul you have your hand up.

PL – Yeah, just quickly, just to confirm the active, the approvals for active waste runs to 2026 and the approvals for restoration run to 2042 which I think answers your question, Angela.

ADS – Ok, thank you.

IB – I don't see any more hands up, so we'll move on to item 10. Thank you, Debbie, thank you for your patience with that.

9. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update

As above

10. Local councillor and residents' representatives' comments

IB – Any comments in this section? Angela, do you have your hand up?

ADS – Oh sorry, it wasn't up but since it is up, I will ask you as you are a resident, you went to have a look at the monitor, how, what, is there anything to report on that?

IB – Right, yeah, I was going to contain any comments I had to this section so there wasn't any confusion because I am obviously temporarily standing in as chair. Yes, I was invited by the EA to, I am saying this as a resident, I was invited by the EA to have a look at the monitors just, the one that is on Cemetery Road and the one that is in Galingale View which is of particular interest to myself. The, I did have a question to the EA about one of the, because the one that is at Cemetery Road, interesting transition is this, there was some, it looked, the monitoring station from my experience, I'm a little long in the tooth and there was one monitor that was actually not functional at the time, now I was assured by the operator that it was going to be dealt with, with all due haste, has that been done? Is the monitor fully up and running at the Cemetery Road site now?

MS – It is up and running so, yes, I mean, every fortnight I think it is the maintenance team from the air quality team visit the four monitors as part of that they'll look in to make sure they are recording as they should be. I think it is fair to say that the monitors average about 97-98% when they are collecting data, so it just so happens that when you visited, were they doing their maintenance round?

IB – Yes, he was in the maintenance round, and he was having, he was struggling he basically was trying to calibrate and maintain the units and he did notice that that unit was down so if it is up and running now, that's absolutely fine that's good, that's a good percentage by the way I must admit. So, to finish my little side note about my little trip around the monitoring sites, the one on Galingale View, that's a very new unit, everything new was in there and it calibrated very quickly, I am very happy with the operations of that site and Galingale View in my view is tip top. Any other, I do have some resident's comments, is there anybody else in this section that would like to make any questions before I move on to that? Henryk, I see you have your hand up. Henryk? I think you are on mute.

HA – It is a report in today's Sentinel about JCB no longer contracting with Walleys Quarry for their hazardous waste, is there any comment about that? I know it is just a very recent article, but the company might have something to say about it.

JC – I don't take the Sentinel Henryk so I haven't seen the article so there is no comment to make.

IB – Well I see no other hands so purely as a resident now I have a few questions. CLP, have they been invited again, and they have not appeared?

JC – Unfortunately Ian they were unable to make the meeting.

IB – Ok Jon, there was one question to yourself while I have you speaking, the, in the recent EA visit that I did, it came to light there is some information that I wasn't aware of before now that on Rosemary Street there is a strip of land that goes next to landfill, the EA did have a monitor there which arguably I would say is not in an ideal location, however from my understanding is that this was then thrown off the site by the management of the time which I believe would have been Red, I'm also not aware of when this land became part of Lafarge, then Red then Walleys property because it is just down as a street on the map so I am unaware of when this became part of the ownership of land, however the monitor was then thrown off site and then put in an even worse location being very compromised by building down wash which, there is a reason for me mentioning this, which would have delayed collection of suitable valid data so as with any site investigation you can only ever make recommendations for requirements, I am not speaking on behalf of the EA but any site under investigation until you have data. Now, this move, forcing the monitor to be moved into a very poor location because it was the only option at the time, unnecessarily delayed the collection of data which once it was collected, they then moved the investigation on and that is why we do have the Galingale View monitor now because a situation was found, not only just the complaints that were racking up because they were not being validated

because they were not detectable in my view, it is because they didn't have a very good location. I think that may have unnecessarily delayed collection of data so delayed the actions which quite rightly, you took and quite rightly they have had success. Since September last year I don't think we have had major cause for odour issues and such and certainly since the last meeting no residents have mentioned to me apart from certain transient events, there has been any major issues. So, my question really is, on, you'll probably say on behalf of some previous management, but do you regret that decision to throw the monitoring station off the land and delay the monitoring? You are muted.

JC – Who are you asking sorry Ian?

IB - Jon, I was talking to yourself then because you were speaking at the time, it is a request to Walleys, and basically do you regret the decision?

JC – That is news to me that there was any such decision Ian but thank you for raising it.

IB – Ok. I do have some other residents' comments, but I did see a hand up, it has gone off my screen now, ah.

JC – Mukhtar has got his hand up.

IB – Mukhtar.

MS – Ian, I think you might have got confused, I think there was a monitoring, this isn't the first monitoring exercise we've done on the site, there have been a previous 2 exercises, monitoring exercises in the past so I think the monitoring location on those previous exercises was changed, not sure what the reason were but I believe it was moved. In terms of the current monitoring exercise that is being done, the monitors where they are located now, since March/April last year, the locations haven't moved for this particular monitoring exercise although I am aware in the previous monitoring exercise, whatever the reason was they were moved but I believe that was possibly a few years back, I am not exactly sure, but the current ones have always where they have been.

IB – Ok and the information I was, it was actually moved off the landfill's land so that is the information I was given anyway. Angela, you have your hand up.

ADS – Sorry, just while we are talking about monitoring, has there been any monitoring results from the stream that you have been monitoring the stream just outside Garners by the pumping station and on Silverdale Road, have there been any results from that?

MS – I think I am best placed to answer this one being from a land and water background but there is a, what we call SON monitoring equipment which is upstream and downstream so that would rise continuous monitoring results and we do regularly look at those results, as far as I am aware they haven't shown any, whatever they are monitoring in terms of ammonia, pH and temperature and so on, they haven't shown anything out of the ordinary that would cause a matter of concern,

CS – That is correct.

ADS – I just wondered, OK. Last thing from me hopefully is, could we ask if Severn Trent could come to one of these meeting, please, I would like to thank the Coal Authority for

showing up, it has been quite useful to hear what they have to say but I think we could do with Severn Trent coming along.

IB – Ok, point made. Mukhtar you still have your hand up, is there anything more you wish to add?

MS – Sorry that is a legacy hand, apologies. Just going back to Angela's question in terms of an invite to Severn Trent, is that something that the site would approach, it is not necessarily one for us I believe.

ADS – Correct.

MS – Who was that question addressed to, who was the actual?

ADS – Well whoever sort of convenes the meeting.

IB – It is Walleys.

JC – I can try and find a contact that might know something about the sewage pumping at Severn Trent, there wouldn't be anybody that we would have any dealings with Angela.

ADS – No that is fine you don't have to have dealings with them, but they do have some kind of an input into the area given what the Rivers Trust have told us about sewage emissions in this location.

JC – Would the Rivers Trust have a contact I might approach?

ADS – I don't know I think just go directly to the boss at Severn Trent.

JC – Ok, I'll take that away and see what we can do.

ADS – Thank you

IB – Thank you Angela, I see no other hands up, so I do have, as a resident, a couple of final points. The dispersion model to the EA, is that that was promised at the last meeting, is that, has that been produced?

MS – Yes, the site produced what we call a T&V modelling exercise and we received it, I think last week so asked for initial information which was received last week, that is currently being assessed by our air quality monitoring team and hopefully we'll have some, we'll provide you with an update when we have the next liaison meeting in a couple of months I assume, so yes we have received the data and it is currently being assessed.

IB – Thank you. Obviously, we are not going to be able to get council input here for a moment, the way, though I always ask these questions when is the active filling going to end, this is to Walleys of course, I know I am not getting the answer to that so I could ask, when would the monitoring be extended to because I believe it is going to be there for quite some time, do you have a present, an extension to the monitoring period? This is to Walleys, to Paul or to Jon.

JC – The monitoring period, in terms of how long the MMF's will be around the site?

IB – Yeah, or the EA yeah if they can answer this question.

JC – I think it might be one for the Environment Agency Ian.

IB – Thank you, I thought you were ...

CS – Yeah Ian they are committed to March 2023 at the moment, and they will be under constant review to see if they need to be in place longer.

IB – thank you. I think it all my comments as a resident. Moving on I don't see anymore hands so we can then move on to any other business.

11. Any other business

IB – Any other business anybody? I see no hands so we will move on to item 12, date of the next meeting.

ADS – No, hang on.

IB – Angela are you putting your hand up?

ADS – Jon Clewes wants to say something.

JC – Did you say we were under any other business Ian?

IB – Yes, I didn't see your hand.

JC – Ian, very importantly I wanted to thank you for stepping into the breach and being a very effective chair, thank you.

IB – Much appreciated.

JC – And Carl and Peter thank you very much for taking the time to join the meeting tonight, it is appreciated.

ADS – Yes, thank you.

IB – Thank you very much. So now we can move on to date of the next meeting, item 12.

12. Date of next meeting

JC – My preference is that we now revert these back to quarterly rather than every 6 weeks because there seems to be quite a bit of repetition in what we are covering and actually there is an awful lot of external resources going out with citizen space, our weekly update, and many other matters, that would take us through to June.

IB – Ok I'll take it if nobody raises a hand then everybody agrees with that motion. Good, what date would fit in with your plans?

JC – Just grab my calendar.

PL – It would be somewhere around the 9th of June.

JC – How does the 9th suit everybody?

ADS – Is it a Thursday?

JC – it is a Thursday Angela, stick with it. And is it convenient at 5.30pm again?

ADS – Yeah

IB – If nobody raises a hand that can be agreed. I see no hands I think that is agreed.

PL – Thank you

IB – Thank you for calling this meeting, I have been happy to help tonight although it was ample notice of course. I hope that has taken care of matters and thank you everybody for all your time.

JC – Thank you very much, we really appreciate it.