

## Walleys Liaison Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> June 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)  
Nigel Bowen – Walleys Quarry Ltd (NB)  
Celia Jarrett – Silverdale PC (CJ)  
Ian Barnett – Resident and Chair (IB)  
Neil Goodwin – Staffs CC (NG)  
Stephanie Talbot – NULBC (ST)  
Stuart Hill – Severn Trent (SH)

#### Nonattendance

Robert Bettely-Smith – NULBC  
Tony Eagles – Knutton representative  
Graham Eagles – Poolfields Residents Assoc  
Dave Jones – NULBC  
Steve Meakin – Poolfields RA  
Elaine Moulton – NULBC

#### Apologies

Rupert Adcock - NULBC  
Henryk Adamczuk – Silverdale PC  
Simon Tagg – NULBC  
Nesta Barker - NULBC  
Simone Aplin - Chair

### 1. Welcome and introductions

JC – Thank you very much to the people who are here. Firstly, Ian Barnett, Ian chaired the meeting last time out. Thank you very much for that and thank you for agreeing to continue to chair. There were no objections to that last time, I presume there are no objections this time... Ok, thank you. So, Ian if I could hand over to you at that point, please, if that's ok.

IB – Sure, absolutely.

JC – Ok, thank you. Actually, just hold on just a second Ian I can see that Angela is logging back in again so we will get Michelle to re-admit Angela.

ADS – Sorry about that.

JC – That's ok.

Background noise

JC – I think somebody might be logged in on two devices.

IB – Just one please Angela.

PL – I think it might be you Angela.

ADS – It probably is.

JC – Has Angela disappeared all together? Thank you, Angela, can you hear us now.

ADS – Yes, sorry.

JC – Ian, sorry, I was being slightly unfair there, you should be able to see Stuart Hill who joins us from Severn Trent Water as was requested. Stuart, thank you very much for agreeing to join us and Stuart can answer relevant questions relating to sewer discharges etc to water courses around WQL. If I can hand back to you there Ian, I thought you would need to know that for introductions. You are on mute Ian.

IB – Thank you for that. I will do what I did last time which is go round my screen hoping most people's names will give clues as to whether they need to speak up to give introductions which is item number 1. So, obviously Michelle, you are not taking again, as previous I would imagine.

MP – Yes, I am.

IB – I have the Walleys Quarry contingent, would you please introduce yourselves.

NB – Hi, I'm Nigel Bowen, I'm the CEO.

JC – I'm Jon Clewes, I'm the Group Technical Director.

PL – I'm Paul Lealman, I'm the Operations Director.

IB – Thank you very much. Steph?

ST – Good evening, everybody, I am Steph Talbot, I'm the newly elected councillor for Knutton.

IB – Celia?

CJ – Hi, I'm Celia Jarrett, Councillor for Silverdale.

IB – Thank you. Stuart?

SH – Hi, I'm Stuart Hill, I'm from the newly formed river ranger team in Severn Trent Water.

IB – Colin?

CS – Hello, Colin Sully, Team Leader for the Environment Agency.

IB – Thank you. Neil?

NG – Hi, Neil Goodwin, Principal Planning Regulation Officer for Staffordshire County Council.

IB – Mukhtar?

MS – Evening everyone, I'm Mukhtar Shaikh, I'm one of the Installation Technical Leaders in the Walleys Quarry project team for the Environment Agency.

IB – Angela?

ADS – Hi, I'm Angela and I'm chair of Thistleberry Residents Association.

IB – Ok, I think I have covered everybody there. I am Ian Barnett I am a resident in the area hence why I have been asked to just facilitate the moving through these items today.

Hopefully we can move this quiet, at a good speed. I'm going to ask, basically I am going to refer back to previous meetings I have been at where we have, you have your questions and we can hopefully have an email later where more functionary questions which do crop up on

a number of occasions, can just get emailed and answered in a dual fashion, that's not the right word but, I am asking generally, this is just a request that if you have a question, you get a response and you get a reply to that response. There is no point in badgering if you don't get the answer you wish, you can maybe follow up on the email later, just to keep things moving on quite nicely.

## 2. Apologies

IB – Michelle, is there any apologies that you can tell us about?

MP – I have received apologies from Simon Tagg, Henryk Adamczuk, Robert Adcock and Nesta Barker.

IB – Thank you.

JC – Can I also, sorry Ian, can I also add to that, that two additional residents were invited, Julie Morowski and Kimberley Walley. I haven't received apologies but if we could just minute that they were invited because they were additional residents to last times meeting.

IB – Sure. Any more apologies?

ADS – Did you invite the gas management; anybody from the gas management company.

JC – I did Angela and unfortunately, they were unable to join us at this meeting.

ADS - Ok

## 3. Minutes of last meeting

IB – moving on to item 3, minutes of the last meeting. Did everybody receive the minutes and accept them as a duly correct record of what took place last time? I see no dissenters so we will accept those minutes.

## 4. Matters arising

IB – Moving on to matters arising, item number 4. Any matters arising?

ADS – Sorry, could I ask ...

IB – Could I ask you use the formality of putting your hand up on the screen as it keeps it easy for me to figure out what has been answered and what hasn't, thank you.

ADS – Sorry. Did the first responders group invite Walleys Quarry to their meetings, have you been invited yet or not?

JC – No, there was no invitation forthcoming from that group Angela.

ADS – Thank you.

IB – Ok, I see no other hands risen.

JC – One of the other matters arising Ian was of course to invite Severn Trent Water and Stuart is here.

ADS – Thanks for that.

IB – Ok, so no other matters arising, good. We'll move on

## 5. Walleys Quarry Site update

IB – Over to Walleys Quarry, site update.

PL – Could you share the presentation please Michelle? Thank you. So, as we always start the presentation this is an overview shot, actually from very recently in relation to the current meeting we are having. This was taken over the weekend from aerial photography we have done regularly at Walleys Quarry. I'll come on later to talk about some of the changes that are happening on site, but you can clearly see the areas of site which are currently undergoing capping works which I'll discuss later in the presentation which is centred on the centre of this image. You can also see adjacent to the entrance way, which is to the top of this image, is the temporary clay cap which is being installed. That's the bright red clay that is being installed towards Cemetery Road. Current operations, the new site access road into cell 4 which is in the southeast quadrant of the landfill was constructed between the last liaison meeting and now and that is allowing access into cell 4. That is our main focus of operational activity at the moment. We are also in the process of infilling the last remaining void in cell 3 which is the eastern and north-eastern flanks of the landfill. That is still going and in priority to cell 4 where we can get in there, that is where the material is going to get the surface prepped and ready for capping which I'll talk about later. We have commenced the permanent capping works on cell 3 which commenced in May. We have also commenced the western flank operations, apologies we have commenced the capping of the western flank where operations are now fundamentally complete. The leachate plant continues to treat leachate at a good rate on site as well as being bolstered by off-site disposals of leachate where necessary. The landfill gas management plan, which was agreed with the Environment Agency, we are in continued discussions with the landfill gas contractor, CLP Envirogas Limited to make sure that the landfill gas management plan is adopted and installed, or the installation works are installed in line with that plan. The horizontal wells which are part of the gas management plan have started to be installed in cell 4 which is the first action under the landfill gas management plan. Capping and phasing plan, we touched on this at the last meeting, that was agreed with the Environment Agency, and we are now in the process of undertaking those works. Bird and pest control continue as it always does, we are now on a summer regime based on the weather and the inherent fewer birds that we tend to see on landfills in general and particularly Walleys Quarry. 18 new wells were installed in May on the eastern and western flanks as operations in those areas came to completion. Landfill gas capture rates continue to increase, particularly the new wells installed, particularly with the capping, those works are progressing well. 17 pumps, down well borehole pumps were installed in gas extraction wells to aide the extraction of perched liquor within those wells with the aim of supporting the gas control and gas extraction operations. I'll just touch on this slide which I showed at the last liaison meeting which are the most pertinent ones out of the capping and phasing plan. There is phase 1 which is essentially cell 3, or the majority of cell 3 and phase 2 which is the temporary capping. Capping plans which are currently undergoing, are underway and are operating at pace, represent around £600,000 of capital investment. The permanent capping

is around 28,000 square meters, apologies there is a typo there, it says cubic metres, it is square metres for reference. The capping programme is continuing in line with the agreed plan. Both temporary and permanent capping timescales have been impacted by the difficulties importing materials and supplies into Walleys Quarry of late, we are working hard to make sure that those capping programmes try and pick some of that lost time up where we can, where it is possible. Phase 1 which is cell 2 is a permanent cap so that is an LLDPE cap. That has commenced on the upper topographic levels of the landfill site, and we are currently infilling and preparing the eastern, north-eastern and northern slopes of cell 3 ahead of further capping works. Phase 2 which is a clay cap, a temporary clay cap, that is being installed on the, it is actually the western flank, there is another typo there so apologies, to cell 1 and that has commenced and likely to complete in June. This is the aerial photograph that was seen at the front but with some schematic delineations of the various different caps that are in place and being constructed currently at Walleys Quarry. Phase 2 which is to the top of this image, opposite the entrance on Cemetery Road, it is marked temporary clay, that is the temporary clay cap that is being installed, you can see the clay just to the north on this image which is to the right-hand side being installed and that will continue through June. In the centre of the image, the permanent LLDPE cap, you can see the sections that have been added already onto that side, it is approximately a third of that area has been permanently capped and we continue into prep the areas in the eastern and the north as discussed previously, and they will be capped in due course with permanent LLDPE membrane. Just for reference, previous areas of the landfill that have been capped historically, are referenced there from temporary and temporary LLDPE for the various different capping mediums that have been deployed, just to give everybody on the meeting of the landfill site and what the surface tends to be. Future operations, we will continue with the capping on the eastern and western flanks. We will be infilling those, particularly in the east to finish ahead of those works, operations will continue in cell 4 for the foreseeable, it is the area of created void that is available to us now. Review of leachate management plan and actions is ongoing, it is in discussion with Environment Agency and at some point, in the future there will be, or likely to be some redrilling of some leachate wells that need installing, or re-installing. Development of the gas infrastructure will continue in line with the landfill gas management plan, and we will be reviewing the engineering needs in the southwest quadrant which is the last area of Walleys Quarry to be developed. And that is it from me. Does anybody have any questions? Celia, I can see you have got your hand up. Yes, I have had some talk, Adam and I have been talking. Would it be possible to send a transcript of this talk that you have just given because he has several questions that he wanted to ask? I couldn't physically take notes as you were talking so a transcript of it would be extremely useful. I actually sent some questions to Michelle via Adam because we want to know the percentage of the total landfill site that is now permanently covered by the impermeable clay, but we also want to know what the percentage of the total landfill site is

now permanently covered with impermeable membrane. Could you also please circulate a diagram showing the separate areas. In addition, we have got a question for the Environment Agency but perhaps we can deal with that later. If we could have a transcript, I think it has covered most of his points that he wanted to find.

PL – Ok, thank you Celia. I think a transcript, or I'm pretty sure a transcript of this meeting is sent out at the end of every meeting verbatim so that should be available for review and issue.

JC – Yeah, Michelle you'll send the presentation out, won't you?

MP – Yes

JC – Thank you.

NB – We are also working on those questions aren't we.

PL – Yeah, I was going to say you can see it is approximately a third of the area, the permanent capping to cell 3 is done, but I will send on in response to those questions and circulate the exact percentages where we are and also the percentages of the landfill that's currently got impermeable capping installed.

CJ – Ok, thank you very much.

IB – Ok, I see Angela with her hand up. Angela.

ADS – Yes, I mean we seem to be getting on reasonably well at the moment but one question that was asked was, are you on top of things in terms of projecting forward, for example, we don't want another kind of winter of odours and stuff because they usually occur in winter. So, are there forward plans with regards to how many wells you might need, I mean, do you anticipate gas emissions and gas generation so that you know, you have your wells in place or is it more complicated than that?

PL – Yeah, so, kind of answering I think the last question Angela first and then working backwards. There is a landfill gas risk assessment that is undertaken at regular intervals for the landfill, and it runs through a model called GasSim which essentially predicts the volume of gas generated from a landfill. This is in common with all landfills. Aligned with the findings from the landfill gas risk assessment, the landfill gas management plan will be produced and agreed which shows the infrastructure and the main actions needed to be installed to manage that gas. Then aligned with that, the capping and phasing plans that we produce for areas which are finished, both in terms of being a finality and being completely finished and being at pre-settlement levels, and for those areas that we are unlikely to be on for a period of time which get temporary cap applied to them. They are the main actions around forward planning and the prediction of gas control. If that answers your question. Are you happy with that Jon, is there anything you would like to add?

JC – Yeah, it is all planned around the GasSim model Angela, and it is incorporated in the step wise progressions in the landfill gas management plan and that is what Paul drives CLP to be putting in place and we ensure gets done, along with the regulator.

ADS – Is the GasSim model the same as the gas diffusion model or is that different?

JC – I would think we are talking about two different things there. The GasSim is the landfill gas, the gas dispersion, that might either refer to surface flux box monitoring or air dispersion modelling, Angela.

PL – Are you referring to the air dispersion modelling undertaken on the engines and the flares Angela?

ADS – Yes, it was mentioned by the EA last meeting wasn't it. They were thinking of adopting a dispersion model rather than the one that they are currently using. Did they say it was old fashioned, I don't know?

JC – I think they're all complimentary actually Angela because they are looking at different elements of it. So, the GasSim model is really important, so we know what the likely yield of landfill gas from the site is going to be. The flux box monitoring is looking at what might or might not be emerging from the various surfaces and the air dispersion modelling actually relates to the outputs from the engines and the flares and how do they behave in the atmosphere. So, they are complimentary as modelling around the site.

ADS – Ok, I mean the main thing is trying to deal with the emissions that are causing the odour and as long as you can be on top of that then the odour issue kind of disappears doesn't it.

JC – The key document there is the landfill gas management plan which has been approved by the Environment Agency and has been worked on for the last 6 months, 8 months?

PL – If not a touch longer.

JC – If not a touch longer than that and that is being driven through with the development plan that is in with the gas contractor.

ADS – Ok. Can I just ask one more thing? You say you're starting to permanently cap now so how is the rate of settlement going? Are you happy with that? Is the settlement being even so you can carry on capping or is it uneven?

PL – We undertook the first permanent capping in April 2021, and this is the second phase of permanent capping, we did look at settlement and it is a natural part of the process of landfill, that landfill will settle. It is assumed and we did have a concern, and did discuss a concern about differential settlement, you can see the difference in settlement between the new active phases and those phases that were engineered and capped in April last year. In effect we have agreed a methodology for keeping an eye on the join between the two to involve being able to visibly see that join over a period of time while the phase that is being capped now, permanently capped now, settles.

ADS – Ok, thanks and could I ask one more question for Henryk, he wanted, he just wanted to know about hydrogen sulphide 24 hour and 30-minute averages compared for the AQR 2018, the AQR 2019 and the AQR 2022 and what were the waste tonnage limits applicable in each air monitoring survey with waste.

JC – Has that question been put in writing as well Angela?

ADS – I don't know, has he put it in writing?

CJ – Yes.

ADS – Oh, that's ok then.

JC – Could we address that one in writing because I think there is quite a lot of information in there.

ADS – Yes, ok.

IB – Good, I think that is all the questions for Walleys. Are there any more questions for Walleys before we move on?

## 6. Environment Agency Update

IB – Moving on to item 6 which is the Environment Agency update.

MS – I'll take this, apologies my camera doesn't appear to be working but hopefully you can hear me ok.

IB – We can.

MS – Great. This is the odour reports that we have had for the last three months. As we can see from about the end of April onwards the complaint numbers have sort of gone down, certainly from the peaks of March. I think there are still relatively high numbers, we seem to be averaging at about 30 or so a day, we do still occasionally have peak but not anywhere near the peaks we have had in March. In terms of compliance activities, again, similar to what we said in the last liaison meeting, they are split essentially between three or four categories. We continue to do our site visits and then obviously we follow up with audits which are a bit more in depth compliance checks. Continuing with the report and data review, procedure reviews so all those four items, when we carry out those, we produce what we call a compliance assessment report form or CAR form. This just summarises the numbers really, in 2022, again a similar rate at what, you know, to what we carried out in 2021, a lot higher than 2019 and 2020. Site visits and audits continue, obviously they increase depending on the work being carried out at the moment with the site carrying on permanent capping of the site and temporary capping, probably a few more visits than we would normally from our engineering specialist just to make sure that things are progressing well. Celia, you have got your hand up, do you want to ask your question now? You are on mute.

CJ – Sorry, yeah, I have got a question from the chairman of the parish council who has actually put it in writing so again, I think if we could send him a transcript of the, of these figures, that would be useful. His question actually is in writing but was how did the hydrogen sulphide 24 hour and 30-minute averages compare for, and I've got all these numbers here, with the waste tonnage and it is applicable in each of the monitoring survey. If you could send a transcript as well to the chairman, I would appreciate it.

MS – Thanks Celia, I am not sure who the question was for, I think it was the same question that Angela asked?

JC – Michelle, you'll send that out won't you, the presentations are part of the pack and the answers to any of those questions as well Celia.

MP – Yes.

CJ – That's wonderful, ok, thank you very much.

JC – Thank you.

MS – So, I am not going to go through each of these, but it is basically a summary of the types of visits and audits we have carried out in the last three months. Again, a mixture of site inspections following on from the capping cop progressing, how that is progressing and normal waste acceptance procedure checks and again review of reports as and when they come in. Again, that is just a summary of what we have been checking against and there is one more slide after this on the same topic. This is the air quality monitoring data so we, the figures are the weekly figures that we normally produce and circulate among our partners. The numbers there represent the percentage of time above which the annoyance threshold is exceeded. So, the annoyance threshold is  $7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and that is the threshold above which the UK HSA and WHO, World Health Organisation, have said that people are more likely to detect it and for them to actually, you know, cause annoyance to them. The percentage figure is how many times that  $7\mu/\text{m}^3$  figure is exceeded. Monitoring stations 1 and 2 that are usually lower, as they have been for the previous months, but as you'll see it continues to be above that threshold a number of times, but we are seeing a slight improvement in the last few weeks and we believe that is not just a combination of the warmer weathers but also it is a fact of as more and more of the site is capped on phase 1 so it helps to seal the site and minimises the fugitive emissions being released and hopefully that reflects the numbers. This is just a caveat really, the numbers that we, you saw on the previous slide there were what we call raw data so the monitoring stations are there effectively as data loggers so every month at the end of the month we download the data, we then apply if there was calibration factors to make sure that all the numbers that you see are a reflection of, you know, are taking into account things like weather conditions and so on and actually represent the actual figure so that, you know, the actual figures are just raw data. So, normally at the end of the month normally we calibrate the figures and release the actual figure, or the actual measurements taken. Ok, so this was a request which came back off a request from partners, I think people felt that the, there wasn't much of an improvement comparing March and April this year comparing to March and April last year. What we asked our air quality monitoring team to do is look at the two months in isolation and see how the two compares. This is on the back of, if you remember, in February for whatever reason, possibly because it was slightly warmer than it would normally be expected in the month of February there was a bit more dispersion and dilution so that we did have good figures in terms of, you know, MMF data and also complaint numbers reflected that so people, and then obviously we came into March where we saw the peaks and the other complaints that we saw in the previous slides. So, air quality monitoring, what they did was they looked at

the hydrogen sulphide concentrations as an average for, you know, March and April this year and compared those for March and April last year. Although March wasn't as good as February however March and April compared to March and April last year, there is an improvement. I can't remember what the exact figures are but it's still, I think it was something like  $12.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  on average, so still above the annoyance threshold but compare that to what the average hydrogen sulphide concentration last year which was, I think it was about twenty something, almost double so an improvement for these two months compared to last year but obviously no where near where it needs to be. It is still causing annoyance we are aware of that, and again the percentage time of the exceedance level, again there was an improvement there as well, so it was a lot less number of times that figure was exceeded, these two months was less than what it was last year. Again, improvement this year compared to last year but obviously you know, no where near where it needs to be in terms of that annoyance threshold figure. Finally, there is a link to that report so if you click on our citizen space webpage, there is a link halfway down there which gives you the full copy of the report, if you are interested. Finally, there is a link there which is again to our citizen space webpage where all our updates including the UK HAS reports on our figures and just general updates on there. What we have done, I think the last couple of months, we've created a Facebook page on the back of requests from, you know, people saying they would like us to use this as an additional method of engaging with members of the public. There is about 360 members on there so if you want to join, the link is at the bottom, all it does when you click it asks you to accept a number of rules and that. Once you have done that, I understand it goes back to our people monitoring the Facebook page and once they accept your request you can then see what is being published on there. This Facebook is all new to me and I'm not one of those people who get on it but I think there's, we had one of Facebook live session, which was in May, that was recorded so if you do log on and you visit the webpage you can see the recording of that. Well, that's it from me, any questions?

IB – Angela, I can see your hand.

MS – Angela?

ADS – Now that we've got Stuart, I think it is from Severn Trent, I noticed on your tables that the pumping station at Silverdale is quite high still. I just wondered is that related to any pumping activities from Severn Trent.

SH – Sorry Angela I am not close operationally to the assets in and around the Walleys estate but when you say it is in high level, what do you mean by that?

ADS – Well there were high levels of, I mean, I think your data was showing emissions, weren't they? Your machinery was picking up  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  emissions.

MS – Yes

CS – Angela we've...

SH – Is EA monitoring on our site? I'm not "au fait" with the operations and what has been installed on our site perhaps someone from the EA might be able to help.

ADS – Ok

CS – Angela, can I just come in because you've asked this question several times previously and we have confirmed that what we measure is what is in the air but there are also other trace gases that are measured which can rule out what is coming from the pumping station. We have responded to you in that kind of manner before, so it is probably a little bit unfair to ask Stuart that question. Just to confirm that Severn Trent isn't the cause of those spikes of H<sub>2</sub>S.

SH – Thank you Colin.

ADS – Sorry, can I just come in there. The issue is not that you are responsible but if there are emissions coming from the landfill and there are added emissions from other sources then it all contributes to a kind of, global kind of odour doesn't it.

CS – You are absolutely correct, there is always going to be background pollution and that background pollution is picked up by all 4 monitors. You will find that anywhere that you go so I am not sure what else we can say to answer that question, Angela. If you want to further discuss it, then pop your points down and send them across to me and I'll get one of our air quality specialists to detail any further answers that you require.

ADS – Ok, thank you

IB – I don't have the full screen here as we are still screensharing, but I don't see any other hands up at present. Am I correct in that? Thank you. No, I don't see any more hands so let's move on.

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

IB – Next item is Newcastle-under-Lyme EHO update.

JC – I don't think we have a, I think we have an apology don't we from Nesta and everybody else?

MP – Yes.

IB – I was looking. So, we will move on then if there is nobody present, we will hold that over to the next meeting.

## **8. Staffordshire planning update**

IB – Next item is Staffordshire planning update which I believe Neil is here so, Neil, in your hands.

NG -Yes, not much for us to say, so, since the last liaison meeting, we have had one complaint about the operation which was in relation to the odours and hours of operation. I've asked for some more information about that but just the one for us. In terms of visits, we are due to make a visit, we haven't made a visit in a little while, so I'll be in touch with Paul to arrange coming on to the site shortly, having a look around but otherwise there is nothing really else for us to report. We have previously mentioned potential planning

applications to amend a couple of the conditions, that is obviously still with Walleys Quarry Ltd to discuss. No application has come in as of yet, from my understanding they are still considering whether that is the route they want to go down, obviously that's a question for them. So, otherwise nothing has really changed from our side on the planning. Thanks.  
IB – Ok. Any questions for Neil anybody? I see no hands raised so we will move on.

## 9. Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update

IB – I don't know whether we have Newcastle-under-Lyme planning update, do we have a representative for that, I don't recall.

JC – I don't think we have one attending Ian.

IB – I didn't think we did either, thank you for further confirmation. So, we will hold over to the next meeting.

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

IB – I will weigh in on this one because I have restricted my comments to this section while acting as chair here. Does anybody else have comments at this stage and I'll add mine on the end. Angela, your hand is up.

ADS – Yes, sorry, has anything been done about the lorries queuing up outside early morning. I mean, I don't know whose responsibility this is and whether it is the County or the Police, but somebody did mention to me that some mornings there might be up to 16 about 6 o'clock in the morning before the site even opens. I don't think it is the fault of the, particularly but you know the drivers need ...

IB – Is that at Walleys, Angela, is that question for Walleys or, who is it to?

ADS – Whoever is responsible, I don't know if it is the County that deals with lorries and permits and all of that.

NG – From our side at the County we control certain elements of that, we also control, we have a condition that limits the hours of operation at the site and the overall numbers of vehicles. Nothing that specifically refers to then parking outside. There are no restrictions currently on the highway there preventing parking. Obviously, they are not parking really, they are waiting to get into the site that is not open, yet which is the issue. Also, we are aware of the concerns about it, there have been discussions within the County between officers and Walleys Quarry Ltd and it has been discussed for a long time now to be honest, something that we have been aware of because obviously I know that there has been a suggestion of putting red line, double yellow lines down the road, they have been discussed by our highway's officers. My understanding is that for the moment they don't consider that they're an appropriate solution because they will basically just move the problem elsewhere and not really resolve it, but there are also discussions ongoing with the highways officers and will be for a while, yet I think.

ADS – So would it be a police matter?

NG – I think if they are causing a dangerous situation then yes that is a matter for the police.

IB – Steph I know you had put your hand up, but I am going to see if Walleys, I assume it is Jon, did you, was that a response to Angela?

JC – Yeah, thank you, I did put my hand up. Steph, do you mind if I go first because I thought it might be worthwhile recapping, giving a little bit of history on this one but, I don't want to cut across you if you would like to speak first.

ST – Yes, that is absolutely fine.

JC – Ok, thank you Steph, I appreciate it. Ian, you'll appreciate how we take this matter very seriously and we will contact transport companies regarding behaviour where they are not following good practice and we have gone as far and continue to go as far to ban some drivers that fail to follow good practice. Just in terms of recapping and I think this might be very useful and Neil, I appreciate finally getting an update, you may recall that actually the original matter of making Cemetery Road an urban clearway was raised at this meeting in November 2019 with an offer for Walleys Quarry to contribute or pay for those works. That was taken away as an action from the meeting by Simon Tagg and was progressed again at many of the liaison group meetings with no update and a letter was dispatched to the County council chasing again by the local MP, Aaron Bell in January 2021. It sounds Neil like we have finally got to an update that that isn't seen as a way forward. I'd certainly be interested to know the reasoning in that because it would seem like a very logical step to us. I think notwithstanding that it is also worth stating that the custom and practice of the site from around 2008 was that actually the site gates were opened at 6.30am so that vehicles could be parked off that road on the internal haul road prior to waste operations commencing in line with the planning permission. That custom and practice was revised by the County Council, and they are probably best placed to explain their reasoning for that. Notwithstanding that, our planning specialists are preparing a planning application on the basis that the gate times which will be with you presently Neil.

IB – Thank you Jon. Steph, you are up.

ST – Good evening. So obviously this is my first meeting so bear with me on some of my questions that might be obvious to most people around the table. First question from me really is around community representation here, I campaigned for the ward of Knutton in November and May this year and far and away the biggest issue on the doorstep was the smell from Walleys Quarry. I notice there is no representation from any of the Stop the Stink groups on this meeting and I just wondered if somebody could explain to me have, they been invited and not attended, was it decided not to invite them and just explain to me why really and just if you could just give me a bit of background really.

JC – Can I come in on that Ian, would you mind?

IB – Sure.

JC – Sorry Celia, I notice your hand has shot up as well. The two founders of stop the stink are invited to every meeting which would be Graham Eagles and Steve Meakin. Steve, I believe has attended one meeting, we haven't received any apologies, we continue to invite,

and we continue to share the liaison group meetings, the agenda and all the presentations Steph. Perhaps if you have any influence, you could encourage them to attend and take part.

ST – I think I have absolutely no influence, but I will encourage them to take part, yes.

JC – That's very kind Steph, thank you very much, I appreciate it.

ST – That was all.

CJ – Just quickly I would like to apologise, I have to leave the meeting now, I have got a parish council meeting at 6.30pm but thank you very much for all the information gathered and I am quite hopeful of the end result. Thank you.

IB – Thanks Celia.

JC – Thank you Celia.

IB – Ok, I see no other hands raised so on to my points as a resident. I will take these in order, let's see. I re-read the minutes of our last meeting and I wasn't fully convinced my original query had been answered about the delay in actions. Now as a resident of the area I think the actions that have been taken are having a generally positive effect and we have not suffered the effects we had in previous years and months earlier, but there was a certain delay to those caused by, quite rightly the EA took their time to gather the evidence and then act. Their actions were delayed by the fact their monitoring station was essentially kicked off the northern boundary to a less advantageous location as I view it. I didn't see any reason to why that happened, and I have not been given a reason by Walleys as to why that happened. I know it is retrospective now and it would be ideal that the EA's investigations hadn't been delayed but was there a reason for that? This is to Walleys.

JC – Ian, apologies if I appear to be obtuse but where and when are we talking about, I'm not sure where there was any MMFs sited on Walleys itself.

IB – Not on Walleys but on the road between the Garners Garden business and Walleys, there was a street there and a monitoring station was sited there just to the northern boundary of the landfill. Then that was moved because of objections from Walleys at the time, this was when they were Red, when it was called Red Industries, it was moved to a location on Garners just next to the kitchens. That delayed the Environment Agency's investigations and I'm wondering, I need somebody to, you know, look back at this, there must have been a reason for this, this was moved. This came back to me, new information to myself because as I reported in the last meeting, I reviewed, basically I got invited to a tour of the Environment Agency's monitoring stations and this reported that they did have a monitoring station on the northern boundary and it was forcibly moved off what is considered Walleys land to next to the kitchens of the business next door and as, there must have been a reason for that and I wanted to know what that reason was. If it involves obviously diving back into the records that would be useful to know because of course this has all pushed everything back. Now to qualify to start with, we have had good actions from Walleys and we are very thankful for the fact these, once the EA were able to act and clamp down on certain things that needed some improvement and have been improved, but there

was a delay and I want to know what that delay was, so people would know as to why this happened and obviously, hopefully it is not going to happen again.

JC – I don't recall any discussions with the Environment Agency regarding re-siting so I can't answer your question at the moment Ian. I am glad to have a look back and reply to separately, it's not a problem.

IB – We won't take any more time at the moment. Let's just ...

MS – Can I come in on this one Ian, can I just explain. So, the current monitoring exercise I believe is the third monitoring exercise that we are completing on the site so there have been previous exercises, I can't remember the exact years, maybe 2018 and 2017 and so on. I know that in one of the previous monitoring exercises there was an instance whereby the monitoring station did have to be moved for whatever reason. That may have meant that the report that we normally produce after 12 months of data or 6 months of data, or whatever it is, got delayed. I think in terms of the current monitoring exercise for which we are all interested in, the currently four monitoring stations haven't been moved at all. The first two monitoring stations went in at the end of March and that then followed by a further two monitoring stations at the first couple of weeks in April. The four monitoring stations that are in place at this moment haven't been moved for over a year now. I think there may be slight confusion in terms of the monitoring station that moved, that probably, from what I understand relates to a previous exercise going back a few years.

IB – Ok, yeah, I think it is some time ago, but I wanted some clarification on those points. So, probably we can follow this up on some emails. I do have one other, this is to Walleys again. CPL, obviously they are not here again at this meeting, which I think is a slight problem because the information about the extra wells and such and the extraction system improvements and development as the landfill evolves is all good, but the second half of that you know, equation really is CPL and their efforts to collect the gas and turn it into power and such. Now they are not here at this meeting, have they been requested again, is there any way to compel them, I don't know if that's possible.

JC – My hand isn't up but can I answer that one Ian, does anybody mind?

IB – Sure, it is to yourself anyway.

JC – Ok, so yes, we have been talking to CLP regarding that. I should add though Ian in terms of, CPL are actually the people who supply the carbon Ian, so I know it is the label you always see so I get that, I understand that.

IB – I know, I keep on doing that.

JC – It's fine, we all do the same Ian, don't worry about it. It is worth saying that Colin and his team have organised, there is actually data that comes out every week from CLP and some of that is constant monitoring data that is undertaken on a 24/7 basis and again that is a matter of public record and that's what is summarised by and shared by the Environment Agency, so in terms of updates that happens on a 24/7/365 basis and that information is shared. In terms of the development to the landfill gas management plan, sorry, to the

infrastructure that is as per the landfill gas management plan and as per Paul's summary, I don't think there would be anything different that CLP could actually share with you because they are all matters of public record.

IB – Ok, I appreciate it. Colin did you, you had your hand up momentarily, you're not weighing again at this point?

CS – No, I was scratching my head.

IB – Ok. Angela, I notice your hand is up.

JC – Colin, just while you are off mute before Angela comes in, that data is shared from CLP in your summary isn't it from the Agency?

CS – Yes, it is, like you say it's public record because we have requested it so if people want to see it then they need to put a freedom of information request in. Basically, it allows us to track what is going on on-site and to pick up issues and to question about the issues early rather than waiting for the results of potential impacts on the community, so it is a really worthwhile exercise, and we thank CLP and Walleys for their cooperation with that.

IB – Angela.

ADS – I just wanted to ask, with regard to the gas well, sorry, the gas engines, you have three, there was talk about another one, is that going to happen or not?

PL – Hello Angela, yes there was in the past, currently there is three on site, only two are operational at any one point, one is a standby. We are always open to looking at development of infrastructure and at the moment that isn't being developed further but that doesn't mean it won't be picked up in the future to be looked at again.

ADS – Do you hire them or do you buy them, how do you.

PL – They are, specifically about the engines, they are supplied by CLP, so they are their engines. I believe but don't treat this necessarily as fact, that they own them, that they're assets. In terms of the flaring capability, they have got on site, they own a proportion of the flaring capability and I believe they are hiring one of the flares in at this present time.

NB – If I can just shed a bit more light on that Angela, really, whether or not a fourth gas engines goes on there, because as Paul said, there is two duty which are the two that are operational and there's one that's on standby so if they are servicing or down time on the other two, that third engine comes in. A fourth engine would require an increase in the size of the grid connection, so it comes down to commerciality so at this moment in time, the two engines that are running, the two operational engines are being at capacity into the grid for electricity generation. If there then was the requirement, if we were then to put a fourth engine on there will be need for, we will need to go through a process of planning but also at the same time there would have to be a commercial decision that means investment in increasing the capacity of the grid connection would all form part of that kind of process of consideration. At this moment in time, it is CLP who operate the gas infrastructure and operate the engines and it is their view that it is not viable at this moment in time.

ADS – Ok, I mean, I notice that the amount of gas that you are generating is kind of going up, but it is just a question of making sure that you have enough capacity to collect all that gas and put it to the grid rather than it going to the air and, you know, cause odours and whatnot.

JC – In truth though Angela, that is the balance from the GasSim model and work with the Environment Agency and the contractor to have enough engine capacity and enough flare capacity and actually following the modelling, additional flare capacity in case there was a failure of engine. That is all part of the modelling and the infrastructure resourcing.

ADS – Ok, its just that we don't want a repeat of the last two winters where there is a lot of gas being generated but it is kind of going into the air and causing odour or whatever it does.

JC – Angela, quite right that the landfill gas management plan and the resourcing and infrastructure is part of that but now that is approved, we make sure that is implemented and that is what CLP are doing at the moment.

ADS – Ok.

IB – Ok, I think I initiated the question, I am happy with Walleys and Colin's input there, I am happy with that response. I do have one more question which is to the Environment Agency and potentially Mukhtar. Its about the air mod report, obviously I have not seen sight of this one, but I don't know whether this going to be produced, whether it is in purview at the moment, I am not aware of its progress. Obviously, I would like to drill down a little bit more into this and obviously it is going to deal with not only the point sources but more importantly the diffuse sources for Walleys and I would like to know whether this report is going to have a short-, medium- and long-term approach as that is the way I would obviously like to see this report going. Is there any update on this, the air mod report?

MS – So this would be the tier 3 modelling that was done, am I right? IS that what you are referring to the air dispersion modelling?

IB – Yes, absolutely yes.

MS – I think this is similar to what I said at the last meeting, so Walleys have completed this, what we requested them to do which was to do a detailed dispersion modelling using tier 3. We have done our preliminary review and we're satisfied that actually they have met the requirements, it has been reviewed by our air quality, not air quality monitoring, air dispersion modelling team so they have gone through and validated that they have used the correct model, the input parameters are fine so it is just a case of use issuing a, what we call a compliance report to say we are satisfied it has met the criteria and it will be public register once we have released it so it should be out there soon.

IB – Good, I just wanted to know if we were still, I hadn't missed something, so I appreciate that, thank you for the update. That is all my questions. I would say just from a residents point of view, we're generally happy with, I have been talking to people around and people come to me, they are generally happy with the situation, there were some odours at the

beginning of this week, not reportable but they were there, it is understandable, there is a landfill there but in general, I think people are generally happy with the way things are progressing. That is what I would like to pass on as comments. Now, is there any other comments in this section? No, ok then we will move on.

ADS – Here.

IB – Oh, Angela I didn't see your hand up, I was looking to the next point, not wishing to rush you but please, Angela.

ADS – It was just while we have Severn Trent here, I just wanted to know, is Severn Trent monitored by the environment Agency with regards to its pumping activities because your pumping stations are literally all the way around Newcastle.

SH – Is it with regards to H<sub>2</sub>S that you are concerned about Angela because our pumping stations are monitored but that is more around the actual flows and the sewage effluent rather than actual gas dispersion. Yes, we are monitored by the Environment Agency, you have probably seen in the press recently about the CSOs, so all our CSOs are monitored to see what is being discharged. Our flows to the works are being monitored as well so there is flow compliance monitoring. Yes, we are heavily scrutinised by the Environment Agency.

ADS – Ok thank you.

IB – Colin, I see your hand is up.

CS – Yeah, I just wanted to add to that because we have replied to you before Angela about the potential odour nuisance from pumping stations and other Severn Trent assets, they do fall towards Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council for the Environmental Health department, so I just wanted to re-iterate that point. We look at the watery stuff from Severn Trent but odours and the likes, that falls to statutory nuisance which is local authority.

IB – Jon, I believe your hand is up, or somebody from Walleys.

JC – Yeah, I didn't want to appear thick Stuart, can I ask what a CSO is please. I've got Community Support Officer, but I don't think it is.

SH – Ah yes sorry. It is compliance sewer overflows.

JC – Thank you Stuart, I appreciate it thank you.

IB – Ok, I see no more hands up at present in the councillors and resident's section.

## **11. Any other business**

IB – We will move on to the next section which is any other business. Does anybody wish to speak at this item? We have no other business it appears.

JC – Can I just add one thing Ian for AOB, I just wanted to thank Stuart for taking the time to join us.

ADS – Yes, thank you.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

IB – Well the next item is date of next meeting, so I'll hand over to Walleys.

JC – 3 months' time brings us to the start of September. Now I think Michelle we have been sent some dates when there are parish council meetings to make sure we don't clash with Henryk and Celia's ability to join. Steph, I don't know if there are similar commitments for you on a Thursday and dates we should avoid.

ST – No it is fine for me.

JC – Thank you.

MP – Henryk would request that we avoid the 8<sup>th</sup> so it doesn't clash with the parish council meeting.

JC – Could we go to the 15<sup>th</sup> then just to make sure all the school holidays are out of the way.

IB – I'll be ok.

JC – Is there any, I think Steph has got her hand up Ian.

IB – I was just checking my calendar but yeah, Steph please.

ST – Very selfishly I am on holiday at that date, but do we sort of send substitutes, is that the norm if we are unable to attend?

ST\_ We invited Steph and I am sorry I am going to forget the names, Dave Jones, Rupert Adcock and another name I am sorry I have forgotten Steph, so it doesn't have to be yourself, there were four nominated councillors we invited.

ST – Ok, it's just that I know Jacqueline Brown who was the other Silverdale councillor would have come tonight but I think it was decided that only Rupert would attend so I just wondered if I was unable to attend if it would be appropriate to ask her.

JC – I don't particularly have a problem if you want to go to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Steph if you are back, it is not ...

ST – I am back then.

JC – We don't have a problem with the 22<sup>nd</sup> if that suits other people. Does that work with Henryk's dates Michelle?

MP – Yes, it is just the 8<sup>th</sup> Henryk has said.

JC – And Ian you were looking at your calendar, I think.

IB – Yeah, I think I will be fine for both those options. Angela has got her hand up have you got some input here Angela?

ADS – Sorry, Henryk just mentioned that Amelia Rout is no longer a councillor.

JC – Yes, we had the updated list, that is where I had those names from Steph and Angela so that was sent out and Michelle has already revised the invitation list. There is no problem going to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, that is fine if that is better for everybody.

IB – It works for me.

ST – Thanks very much.

JC – That is no problem, Steph and, in the meantime, Steph, just for your benefit, Michelle will send out a draft copy of the minutes, the minutes are verbatim and there is time to get back with any comments on the draft so they can be incorporated in finals.

# WALLEYS QUARRY

Cemetery Road,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire, ST5 6SB  
[enquiries@walleysquarry.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@walleysquarry.co.uk)

ST – Perfect, thank you.

IB – Ok, I think that tops off the night, thank you for everybody's attendance, thank you for tolerating me as chairman again.

JC – Yes, thank you chair, appreciate that.

NB – Cheers Ian, thank you.