



## **Special liaison committee meeting held at Northacre resource recovery centre on Thursday 1 August at 10.00am**

### **Present:**

Mike Webster, group director, Hills Waste Solutions (MRW)  
Ed Dodd, divisional director, Hills Waste Solutions (ED)  
Simon Thomas, Northacre plant manager, Hills Waste Solutions (ST)  
Monique Hayes, group communications officer, Hills Group (MH)  
Martin Litherland, Head of Waste Management, Wiltshire Council (ML)  
Jo Riley, Waste Contracts and Development Officer, Wiltshire Council (JR)  
Cllr Francis Morland, Heywood Parish Council (FM)  
Paul Wilkinson, Environment Agency (PW)  
Paul Scotford, Environment Agency (PS)  
Graham Steady, Environmental Health, Wiltshire Council (GS)

### **Apologies**

Sue Ezra, Westbury Town Council  
Cllr David Jenkins, Wiltshire Council (DJ)

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ED stated that the reason for this meeting was to update the committee on progress that Hills had made to control flies at the Northacre resource recovery centre (NRRC).

ED advised that following the meeting on 18 July, Hills produced a public statement which was disseminated to local residents and businesses. The statement acknowledged Hills role in the incident, but did not admit liability. A supply of fly papers was also handed out as a gesture of goodwill and a residents' contact number was provided for members of the public to report their concerns to the company and request additional supplies of fly paper if required. Details had also been published on the company's website and issued to the local press.

ED confirmed that:

- A combination of mechanical processes and approved pest control chemicals were being used to control flies
- Routine manual fly spraying and fogging of the plant to target fly larvae and flies 'on the wing' would continue until other long term methods of controlling flies had been proved to be effective
- Waste inputs into the site had been deferred until the in-built door mist systems were fully commissioned and this was scheduled to be completed within the next week
- The Environment Agency (EA) and the Environmental Health Officers (EHO) had visited the site to undertake inspections and were satisfied with the control measures in place

ED and ST noted that there had been no further contact from Westbury Dairies. PS reported that the EA are liaising with Westbury Dairies separately and will be looking at their historical data on fly numbers. MRW requested if Hills would also be able to have sight of this data, PS confirmed that a request would be made to Westbury Dairies.

ED reported that the number of calls to the residents' contact number had been steadily decreasing with some being repeat calls requesting additional stock of fly papers. PW and GS confirmed that calls to their respective organisations had also reduced.

ED advised that Hills had appointed a consultant to work with the company to update its fly / pest management plan which will include routine monitoring. The data gathered will be shared with Wiltshire Council.

ED advised that following further identification the type of fly on site was the Common house fly and not the Lesser house fly as previously thought and that control of this species was easier as the larvae do not lie dormant for any time.

ST reported that two loads of waste which had been accepted at the site as a trial run did not show any evidence of fly activity. Hills and Wiltshire Council agreed that a joint fly management plan would be developed for when future periods of warm weather were predicted. This will cover situations such as loads of waste which, according to current regulations, could be rejected, and actions for Wiltshire Council such as regular cleansing of RCVs and communications to households on preventative measures they could take to reduce flies in their homes during hot weather.

PW stated that the Environment Agency was satisfied with the proactive steps that Hills had taken to control the situation in the plant and confirmed that flies were not emanating from that facility and that the control measures in place should ensure no future problems would be experienced.

GS agreed with the statement from PW. GS advised that residents visited by officers in the past days had reported a reduction in fly numbers.

ED offered to attend the next Westbury Area Board meeting to provide feedback on the actions that Hills had taken to control the situation. ED confirmed that Hills will encourage existing Councillors to attend future liaison meetings as they are the elected representatives of the public. ED advised that other public representatives may be considered once it was clear who the interested parties represented and how the group was constituted.

FM queried when the next loads of waste would be accepted at the plant and ED confirmed that this will not happen until site staff and the Environment Agency were satisfied that all control were in place and operating as required. PW advised that one of the key factors in the process is to increase the amount of waste in the site to raise the temperature to a level where flies are not able to survive.

FM queried if Hills had managed to produce an end product (solid recovered fuel SRF) and suggested that people should be kept informed on progress. ED confirmed that the next phase of the performance testing needed to be undertaken before the end product could be sent to Germany for use in an energy from waste plant. MH confirmed that the website had been updated and press releases issued to media throughout the build process to date and that this would continue and include the first export of SRF.

In closing, ED confirmed that the design features within the plant to capture flies are working, but Hills had made some modifications to increase their efficiency. ED advised that the additional, permanent controls that Hills was installing were not part of the original design and now far exceeded best available technology for this type of facility.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be held in one month's time if members of the committee felt it was required. Date and time will be advised as necessary.

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