



Minutes of the Northacre resource recovery centre liaison committee meeting held on 27 March 2014

Present

Wiltshire Council

Martin Litherland
 Dean Thomas (DT)
 John Carter (JC)
 Cllr Jerry Wickham (JW)

Westbury Town Council

Sue Ezra (SE)

Heywood Parish Council

Cllr Francis Morland (FM)

Environment Agency

Paul Wilkinson (PW)

Hills Waste Solutions

Ed Dodd (ED)
 Simon Thomas (ST)

Hills Group

Monique Hayes

	ACTION
1. Apologies	
Apologies were tabled from Cllr Jenkins	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting	
Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.	
3. Update on site progress	
<p><u>Site operations</u> ST provided an updated on operations at the site and confirmed that the plant had been running at full capacity since September 2013, refuse derived fuel (RDF) had been exported since October 2013 and the contract with Wiltshire Council has started on 8 November 2013. ST advised that the plant is half way through the testing process which should enable the plant to produce high quality solid recovered fuel (SRF) which can be supplied to concrete plants to generate energy</p> <p><u>Fire</u> ST and ED gave details on the fire at the site on 18 March and confirmed that all prevention systems and emergency procedures had worked efficiently resulting in no damage to equipment or the building.</p> <p>ST advised that whilst the plant was able to open again at 09h00 on 19 March, waste was only received again on 20 March as vehicles had already been rerouted.</p> <p>FM enquired what the cause of the fire was and ED advised that the most likely cause was that an aerosol can or other ignition source may have been pierced by the overhead grab which then ignited. PW stated that this type of fire was not uncommon in waste processing plants.</p>	

ED confirmed that Hills will continue investigations to learn from this experience as well as liaise with the fire services and implement any necessary changes if required.

Environmental Compliance

ED confirmed that following the outbreak of flies last summer, there had not been any further issues.

PW advised that the Environment Agency has received one complaint from a resident in Dilton Marsh but on inspection of the property he had determined that the flies found there were 'cluster flies' and not the type usually associated with waste operations.

JW stated that there had been mention of a fly increase in the area but that these needed to be taken in perspective.

ED confirmed that Hills would be attending the next Area Board meeting in Westbury on 10 April to advise local residents of the actions being taken by Hills to ensure there are no fly issues relating to the plant.

ED confirmed that a robust fly management programme had been agreed with the Environment Agency and implemented at the plant with the flexibility to increase fogging and spraying as the weather warms up. In addition Hills is in discussions with various suppliers to investigate the option of automating this process.

ML confirmed that Wiltshire Council is working closely with Hills on additional fly management methods by ensuring that household waste collection vehicles are washed out more frequently and information is being provided to householders through the Council's communications team on how to manage their waste bins.

FM reported that a property in The Ham had reported a fly issue around 2/3 weeks ago, but this had not been reported to either Hills, Wiltshire Council or the Environment Agency. ED confirmed that Hills had not experienced a fly increase at the site or on the boundary and the committee agreed that an increase in temperature was likely to cause an increase in fly activity but this did not mean the plant was responsible.

JW enquired if the Environment Agency were satisfied with the actions that Hills was and is taking to manage any potential fly issues, and PW confirmed that this was the case and that the fly management procedure was in place and that the site was regularly monitored. ED further advised that Hills is liaising with other operators of similar type sites and sharing information to ensure that Hills is following best and latest practice.

Air monitoring / emissions

ED confirmed that the results from the readings taken from the bio filter emissions were all compliant and within the permitted levels.

4. Planning applications

ED advised the meeting that there were no planning applications at this stage, but that there could some in the near future in relation to fine-tuning of the plant.

FM enquired about the planning application in relation to the fabric filter and ED advised that further testing and results were required before this could progress.

ED confirmed that members would be advised well in advance of any planning applications submitted and if necessary a special meeting could be called to discuss any potential applications.

5. Any other business	
<p><u>Vehicle movements / routing</u></p> <p>ED advised that a small amendment had been made to the routing of vehicles arriving at and leaving the site at the request of Cllr Prickett and to ensure that they followed the recommended HGV route for the area. Details were tabled for members information and subject to one additional amendment, it was anticipated that it would be effective from 1 May and advised to all HGV drivers visiting the site.</p> <p>SE reported that dust carts had been seen using Brook Lane. Both ML and ED asked for future incidents to be reported to Hills or Wiltshire Council noting the registration number of the vehicle along with the date and time.</p> <p><u>Refuse derived fuel (RDF)</u></p> <p>FM enquired if the RDF from the plant was still being sent to Germany. ED confirmed that Hills had secured a 5 year contract for exporting this fuel whilst a more local outlet for the product was sourced for when this contract ends.</p> <p>FM asked about the cost of sending this product to Europe, and ED confirmed that at this time it cost less to send the product to Germany.</p> <p><u>Photovoltaic panels</u></p> <p>ED confirmed that approximately 350 KVA of solar panels are being installed on the roof of the plant in the next few weeks as part of a joint venture with Wiltshire Council. Further details will be provided to members in due course.</p>	
6. Next meeting	
<p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 July at 4pm at the Northacre RRC.</p>	<p>All</p>