



Minutes of the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre liaison committee meeting held on Microsoft Teams on 8 June 2021

**Present**

**Wiltshire Council**

Jo Emery – Waste Manager, Technical (JE)  
Gary Tomsett – Environmental Control and Protection Team Manager (GT)

**Westbury Town Council**

Jane Russ (JR)  
Matthew Dean (MD) (also Wiltshire Council, Westbury West)

**Arla Westbury Dairies**

George Nicholls (GN)

**Hills Waste Solutions**

Paul Scriven (PS)  
Simon Allen (SA)

**The Hills Group**

Monique Hayes (MH)

	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
John Carter, Head of Public Protection, Wiltshire Council Cllr Carole King, Westbury North	
<b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	
Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.	
<b>3. Update on site operations</b>	
<p><u>Site Operations</u> PS confirmed that operations were running smoothly with no major issues since the last meeting. PS advised that the scheduled 5-day shutdown had taken place in February when routine preventative and scheduled maintenance had been undertaken. The next scheduled 5-day shutdown will take place in November 2021. PS advised that works commence on Monday 14 June for 12 weeks to change the biofilter material. This is done every 4 years. The Environment Agency has been informed of this work. GN enquired if this was done in one batch, PS advised that the biofilter is split into 3 sections and will be replaced a section at a time so as not to impact on the efficiency of the biofilter function. JR enquired if the efficiency of the biofilter has a knock-on effect on odours as she has received complaints about odours from the facility. PS stated that Hills had not been made aware of any odour complaints and that in future these should be made direct to the site so that they can be investigated. SA explained that having an exact date and time is useful when investigating odours as these can be correlated with any operations on site at the time along with prevailing wind direction and weather conditions. JE stated that odours can come from many sources, and asked if people should report these to the Environment Agency. PS advised that people can do so, but this may delay the time it takes for the complaint to reach Hills, and that it is better for the report to be made directly to the site so that employees can investigate it straight away.</p>	

### Brexit

PS advised that material from the site is exported to the Netherlands, and from 1 January 2021 there was an increase in the administration undertaken and costs incurred to comply with new documentation requirements. No other problems had been experienced due to the Brexit changes.

### Environmental Compliance

PS advised that one odour complaint had been received in the past few weeks, but that it was reported some time after the resident had experienced the odour and subsequent investigations could not establish any direct cause.

### Questions

JR – If residents are asked to sort their recycling, why is it all tipped into the same hopper?

JE – The current (blue lidded) service is for all recyclable material, except for glass. Glass is collected separately in the black box. Material in the blue lidded bin is taken to a processing facility in Calne, where all the items are mechanically separated for onward transport to reprocessors.

JR – Why is the recycling not 'sorted' at the kerbside?

JE – The kerbside recycling collection service in Wiltshire changed on 9 March last year to a co-mingled collection when the new waste contract was started. The change was based on detailed assessments on environmental impact and cost and the decision was made by Wiltshire Council to opt for the current co-mingled collection.

JR – What items from the co-mingled collection go to Hills?

JE – All the material goes to Hills.

JR – What items go to the MBT plant?

JE – The MBT plant is for residual (black bag) waste only. Black bag waste in Wiltshire goes to either the MBT plant or to the energy from waste facility at Lakeside near Slough.

JR – At the processing facility in Calne, is there a facility for recycling food waste?

JE – No, Wiltshire Council does not currently provide a separate collection of food waste. Food in the residual waste goes to the MBT plant or the energy from waste facility.

JR – Why does Wiltshire Council not offer a separate food waste collection?

JE – The cost of collecting food separately has historically been considered too costly due to the rural nature of the county. The new Environmental Bill is looking to mandate for all local authorities to provide separate weekly food waste collections, with the Government funding any additional financial burden incurred to fund this service, and this will make a big difference to Wiltshire Council. When this becomes law, the current contracts with Hills will need to be re-evaluated to account for the resulting loss in food waste tonnages.

## **4. Planning applications**

PS advised that there are no planning applications for the MBT plant.

### Northacre Renewable Energy (NRE)

PS advised that a planning application submitted will be considered at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on for 22 June, and has planning officer recommendation for approval. The application for an Environmental Permit for the facility has also been submitted to the Environment Agency.

### Questions

MD – if that planning application is refused, what would the consequences be for the MBT plant

PS – the MBT plant will continue to operate as it under a 25 year contract (currently in year 8)

MD – are there any break clauses in the contract

PS – not able to comment on this, but the MBT plant will operate as normal.

<b>5. Any other business</b>	
<p>MD enquired if Hills would consider supporting charitable projects from Westbury Town Council. MH advised that Hills welcomes applications, but may not be able to support all of them. MH confirmed Hills has supported numerous projects in the Westbury area, including renovations at The Laverton, Westbury RFC, Westbury Community Project and has sponsorships with some sports clubs.</p>	
<b>6. Next meeting</b>	
<p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 16.00 on Microsoft Teams</p>	<p>ALL</p>