



**Minutes of the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre liaison committee meeting
held on 03 May 2023 at 4pm**

Present

Wiltshire Council

Cllr Gordon King – Westbury East (GK)
Cllr Carole King – Westbury North (CK)
Cllr Mathew Dean – Westbury West (MD)
Jo Emery – Waste Manager, Technical (JE)
John Carter – Environmental health WC (JC)

Westbury Town Council

Cllr Jane Russ (JR)

Heywood Parish Council

Cllr Francis Morland (FM)

Environment Agency

Tom Fowler (TF) in attendance remotely via Teams

Arla (Westbury Dairies)

George Nichols (GN)

Hills Waste Solutions

Simon Allen (SA)
Paul Scriven (PS)

The Hills Group

Alex Henderson (AH)

	ACTION
1. Apologies	
Cllr Suzanne Wickham	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting	
Accepted It was noted that Monique Hayes (The Hills Group) had left her position at the company. AH was introduced to the meeting.	
3. Update on site operations and environmental compliance	
PS reported that there had been no operational issues of any significance since the last meeting. PS stated that the plant had been shut down for 5 days in February as scheduled for planned preventative maintenance with the next due in November. PS advised that there had been 3 separate instances of mechanical breakdown that had resulted in the site being closed for a total of 3 days where waste could not be received. PS confirmed that there had been no fire events since the last meeting. PS stated that there had been one complaint received via the Environment Agency since the last meeting. PS advised that the EA had responded by visiting the location of the complaint where the only odour detected being described as a brief odour of “cooking potatoes” and was therefore not considered to be from the MBT plant and classed as not substantiated.	

<p>PS opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>Questions: CK noted changes to the collection of waste streams, including shredded paper and asked if this impacted the operation at the site. SA explained that the change related to collection of recycled material and not residual waste processed at the Northacre site. SA highlighted that the change in waste collections for recycling included the introduction of battery recycling collection and the importance of this service in reducing the fire risk from lithium batteries being disposed in residual waste or incorrectly recycled.</p> <p>MD asked how the operations had changed following the accident at the site that resulted in the fatality of a contractor and the findings of the coroner's report into the fatality. SA stated that the accident was tragic and had deeply shocked employees based at the site and impacted the wider company. SA stated that lessons had been learnt and a full review of all controls at the site had been undertaken with assistance of expert external advisors. SA advised that this had resulted in an update of all relevant policies and procedures, particularly the procedure for the management of contractors. SA confirmed that full training in these policies and procedures had been given to employees at the site, all waste sites and also across the wider Hills Group. PS stated that immediately following the accident changes were implemented under direction of the Health & Safety Executive to allow the site to safely reopen within 48 hours of the accident.</p> <p>SA invited TF to address the meeting. TF confirmed that there had been no substantiated complaints received since the last meeting and welcomed the introduction of the segregated collection of batteries as detailed by SA earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>MD stated that he had not received any complaints from residents about odour in the first quarter of the year but questioned the level of complaints in the past and issues reported relating to flies and what measures were in place to control potential fly issues.</p> <p>PS confirmed that the site operated an odour and fly management plan and it had been in operation since the site opened. PS gave details of the waste reception door management and the maintenance of negative pressure in the waste treatment hall. PS also outlined that waste in the biohall was treated to control the development of fly pupae. Fly control was also undertaken at waste transfer stations prior to waste being transferred to the site.</p> <p>GK asked if the fly management controls had been changed. PS advised that on site fly number monitoring and advance weather forecasts were considered and fly management controls flexed to meet conditions as required. PS stated that there had been no recent issues with flies. JE stated that in the summer months Wiltshire Council recommended that residents double bag food waste placed in residual waste to reduce fly issues within collected waste.</p>	
<p>4. Planning applications</p>	
<p>SA advised that no planning applications were proposed at present. SA reminded the committee that there may potentially be a planning application submitted in the future to increase the height of the existing stack, but this was still under consideration.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	
<p>5. Any other business</p>	
<p>MD asked for an update on the energy from waste project and what steps were to be taken to keep the community informed of when construction would commence now the project had planning approval. SA reminded the committee that the remit of this liaison committee only related to the operations of the MBT plant and the energy from waste project was independent to the operations of the MBT plant. SA reminded the committee that Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd (NREL) was a separate legal entity and not managed by Hills and that Hills were a minority shareholder in NREL. SA confirmed that the land on which the planning application for the energy from waste plant (EFW) had been granted was owned by NREL and not Hills.</p> <p>AH advised that he understood that a requirement of the planning permission was the establishment by NREL of a liaison committee to keep the community updated on the project</p>	

<p>and that members of the public could make contact with NREL directly via its website. Following further comments from Councillors in attendance about the EFW AH and SA advised that these were best directed to NREL. SA and AH stated that the company would pass on the comments raised in the meeting to NREL.</p> <p>FM asked if the building of the EFW would impact the operations and outputs from the MBT plant. PS stated that the processing of waste by the MBT plant was under a 25-year contract with Wiltshire Council and therefore any change in output would require a change to the contract agreed by the Council. JE stated that the only change may be that the refuse derived fuel produced by the plant was currently baled for onward transport to energy from waste plants located in Europe and it was proposed that fuel could instead be transported by conveyor to the neighbouring EFW. SA confirmed that planning permission would not be required for this conveyor as it was envisaged in the NREL planning application granted permission.</p> <p>FM enquired if the planning permission granted for the creation of a vehicle depot at the site was to be built. JE stated that the Council had no plans to relocate vehicles to the site as part of the Council's waste collection contract. PS stated that conditions relating to the permission had been discharged and steps taken to ensure the permission could be implemented if required in the future.</p> <p>GK asked for details of the output and input into the plant. PS confirmed that the contract with the Council was for the treatment of 60,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum and that this resulted in the production of approximately 26,000 tonnes of refuse derived fuel with the majority of tonnage lost to water evaporation (33%) from the treatment process and the residual waste after extraction of metals being landfilled (24%). PS confirmed that the site had permission to treat up to 90,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum.</p> <p>CK asked if additional information about waste collection service and treatment could be publicised by the company. AH advised that Wiltshire Council were responsible for all communication on residential waste collection and disposal services. JE advised that the Council did put out press release and awareness about waste collection and disposal services. AH also pointed out a recent joint campaign with the Council highlighting the risks to the public of incorrectly disposing aerosol cans.</p> <p>There were no other questions.</p>	<p>HILLS</p>
<p>6. Next meeting</p>	
<p>The next meeting, date to be confirmed, will be held in November 2023 in person at the MBT plant site.</p>	<p>Hills</p>