



**Minutes of the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre liaison committee meeting
held on 04 October 2023 at 4pm**

Present

Wiltshire Council

Cllr Gordon King - Westbury East (GK)
Cllr Carole King - Westbury North (CK)
Jo Emery - Waste Manager, Technical (JE)
Dean Thomas - (DT)
Suzanne Wickham – (SW)

Westbury Town Council

Cllr Jane Russ (JR)

Heywood Parish Council

Cllr Francis Morland (FM)

Environment Agency

Tom Fowler (TF)

Hills Waste Solutions

Simon Allen (SA)
Paul Scriven (PS)

The Hills Group

Karen Hodder (KH)

	ACTION
1. Apologies	
John Carter – Environmental Health Wiltshire Council	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting	
Accepted. KH was introduced to the meeting. FM had raised that he was unhappy with Westbury Town Council as they had stated that he had misrepresented the council. This was not contained within the previous minutes.	
3. Update on site operations and environmental compliance	
PS reported that the plant was running very well and there had been no operational issues of any significance since the last meeting. PS confirmed there was a recent visit from the Fire Service to conduct a risk assessment at the site. PS confirmed there had been an increase in the number of complaints in recent months pertaining to odour. These go straight to the Environment Agency. It would appear that a large proportion of these complaints are from one or two individuals. GK stated that during a walk the previous week to Oldfield Park he had noticed the odour – but this had not been raised with Hills.	

<p>SA raised with GK it was frustrating that he hadn't let us know of recent reports from constituents that they had experienced an odour.</p> <p>SA then stated if this is done it supports better understanding of the weather conditions at the time. SA asked committee members to advise constituents when reporting a complaint to the Environment Agency - that this is also sent to Hills for investigation. Details confirming how to contact Hills were confirmed in the meeting.</p> <p>SA further highlighted the importance if there is an odour, it is reported in a timely manner so it can be fully investigated.</p> <p>EA stated that they regulate the site and the level of odour in the wider community was very low, typically when odour was experienced it would be at a 1 or 2 which is not considered to be a reasonable level of annoyance. Instances are often very transient. If there is an odour the best available techniques are utilised at the site to minimise the odour, but on occasion there is an odour offsite. The site continues to assess various other options to improve this.</p> <p>GK stated that people often smell it and often think there is something wrong, based on the occurrences over the last two and a half years.</p> <p>EA confirmed that 50% of reports of odour are from new residents who have moved into the area within the last two and a half years.</p>	
<p>4. Planning applications</p>	
<p>PS 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>5. Any other business</p>	
<p>FM asked why the meeting had been brought forward. SA confirmed that they were just about to come onto that.</p> <p>PS stated that Hills had received several anonymous threatening letters. Two examples of these letters were shared on screen for the committee members to see. This had not been highlighted to committee members until now, but the police had been informed.</p> <p>PS then shared a video from the Mixed Recycling Centre (MRF) of an incident where an aerosol can exploded as this had been incorrectly disposed of. This illustrates the potential risk and danger to employees who work in the facility and the infrastructure itself.</p> <p>SA asked for all committee members to actively communicate to their constituency that threatening letters had been received and to actively inform everyone of the potential consequences of this action. They were encouraged to ask communities to dispose of their rubbish correctly and be aware of the hazards this may cause if disposed of incorrectly. The letters suggested that items such as batteries, aerosols and live ammunition were being deliberately disposed of in the mixed recycling blue bin.</p> <p>FM stated that there are many EFW sites in the UK and despite what people say there are very few issues.</p> <p>There were no other questions.</p>	<p>Liaison Group</p>
<p>6. Next meeting</p>	
<p>The next meeting, date to be confirmed, will be held in April 2024 in person at the MBT plant site.</p>	<p>Hills</p>