



**Minutes of the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre liaison committee meeting
held on 24 April 2024 at 4pm**

Present

Wiltshire Council

Cllr Gordon King - Westbury East (GK)
Cllr Carole King - Westbury North (CK)
Jo Emery - Waste Manager, Technical (JE)
Patrick Russell – Waste Officer (PR)

Westbury Town Council

Heywood Parish Council

Cllr Francis Morland (FM)

Environment Agency

Tom Fowler (TF)

Hills Waste Solutions

Simon Allen (SA)
Paul Scriven (PS)

The Hills Group

	ACTION
1. Apologies	
John Carter – Environmental Health Wiltshire Council Suzanne Wickham	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting	
Accepted.	
3. Update on site operations and environmental compliance	
<p>PS reported that the plant was running very well and there had been no operational issues of any significance since the last meeting, however, there have been 9 days when waste was not received because of mechanical faults with the processing equipment. Six of these days were attributable to the baler and a failed hydraulic seal, which required a part to be delivered from Germany.</p> <p>CK asked whether it was common to have to wait for spares to be delivered.</p> <p>PS replied that the facility holds a significant stock of essential spares and also has very good working relationships with suppliers, and in many cases the manufacturer of the equipment. With the baler fault, the part was required in case there was damage to the installed one, but ultimately wasn't needed; this is now a spare we will hold.</p> <p>PS stated that there had been two preventative maintenance shutdowns since the last meeting, one in November 2023 and the second in February this year, both of which were productive and completed as planned. Planning is underway for the next planned shutdown in November 2024.</p> <p>PS stated that the biofilter has been working well and that the next filter medium change will possibly take place in November 2025, although this timing is flexible and will depend on the</p>	

<p>ongoing performance of the filter. It was also stated that, prior to the change, Hills will discuss the detailed methodology of the change with the EA.</p> <p>GK asked if there was just one filter or more, and does the process still carry on while the filter medium is being changed.</p> <p>PS stated that there is only one filter, but it is split into three sections, which allows one section to be exchanged while the other two operate, so during the exchange there are always two sections working. It was also confirmed that the process continues while the change takes place.</p> <p>FM asked if the plant needed to be shutdown during the biofilter exchange.</p> <p>PS confirmed the plant wouldn't need to be shutdown during the biofilter exchange</p> <p>PS confirmed there had been 11 complaints of odour made to the EA in the period since the last meeting in October 2023. At least one complaint was received when the wind direction was not in the general direction of the complainant and others mentioned types of odour not immediately identifiable as waste.</p> <p>TF stated that officers had been in the area recently and substantiated an odour, but only at level 3.</p> <p>GK asked why the odour concerns of 2021 had not led to a prosecution.</p> <p>TF replied that no prosecution was forthcoming as, following review of the case file relating to the events by three groups of lawyers, it was considered not to be in the public interest to proceed and that a formal warning letter should be issued to Hills instead.</p> <p>GK asked how that decision is made.</p> <p>TF committed to circulating a link to those present at the meeting, with guidelines on how Crown Prosecutors make decisions.</p> <p>GK stated that during a walk on the 19th April to the Swallows Rise area, he had noticed an odour – but this had not been raised with Hills or the EA.</p> <p>SA raised with GK that we would appreciate being notified of any odours, whether direct or through the EA, so that we can investigate at the time.</p> <p>PS stated that there had been no fire incidents or concerns since the last meeting.</p>	<p>TF</p>
<p>4. Planning applications</p>	
<p>PS stated that there were no current planning applications, but an increase the height of the existing stack was still under consideration.</p>	
<p>5. Any other business</p>	
<p>There was no other business raised.</p>	
<p>6. Next meeting</p>	

The next meeting, date to be confirmed, will be held in November 2024 in person at the MBT plant site.

Hills

DRAFT