

Blaise Farm Liaison Committee - meeting Minutes

10th March 2020

Attendees:

Brian Luker (BL) (Chair) Borough Cllr
Robert Waters (RW) NESG
Eamonn Hanley (EH) NESG
Hayley Adams (HA) NESG
Artur Wojciechowski (AW) NESG
Peter Thomason (PT) TMBC Officer
Ian Barwick (IB) Local Resident
Ian Westlake (IW) Site Manager Gallaghers
Rob Bolton (RB) Bio Construct
Joanna Holland (JH) Bio Construct
Giles Moir (GM) Bio Construct
Sarah Barker (SB) Kings Hill Parish Council
Sara Hohler (SH)
Offham Parish Council (OPC)
Gwyneth Barkham (GB) West Malling Parish Council

Apologies were received from:

Clare Innes
Brian McCabe
Paul Bennett
John Radclyffe
Cathy Smith
Elizabeth Bligh
Jim Wooldrige

1. Welcome and minute review

- BL opened the meeting.
- Introductions by attendees.
- Went through list of apologies

2. Review of the Combined Odour Log (COL) / Flies – NESG/TMBC/EA

- HA provided a commentary to the Combined Odour Log.
- 1 came in from Elizabeth Bligh but unfortunately there was a delay in receiving the email, so no investigation took place, HA and EB exchanged emails and confirmed the odour had gone.
- PT confirmed no odour complaints reported nor have they noticed a smell at the council offices, also noted that was 0 for the whole year.

3. Operational Update – NESG

- Introduced AW as the new site manager for Blaise who has taken over the day to day running of the facility, HA still involved but working on other projects for the group.
- HA did an operational update, not much to report. Quite on site this time of year. Biofilter efficiency report was submitted to the EA in January with the bio filter proven to still be doing a good job, odour bag analysis done on scrubber inlet to biofilter outlet.
- IB Asked if all the works had now been complete.
- HA confirmed all doors had now either been replaced or been closed off and blocked in with cladding, planned concrete works, drainage, replacement refrigerated walls in the halls and works to roof in reception 1 had all been complete. Nothing is outstanding from the action tracker. HA also explained while carrying out the works we've also been looking at ways to prevent the damage from happening and had put up steel in all the composting halls to prevent the walls from moving – also in the reception buildings steel walls had been put up to stop the material being able to get behind the wall and the cladding.
- HA informed everyone the site appointed a new SHEQ in October 2019.
- IB asked for contact details name etc.
- HA informed the group that NES as part of the review of biowaste sites had submitted their forms back to the EA which will be reviewed.
- IB Asked with Covid-19 was the site ready and did we have contingency plan in place for parts etc.
- EH went through the site and the groups contingency plans for Covid-19.

4. Operational Update – AD Site

- EH mention the surface water is coming to the NES site from AD plant apologies and explains it may not be the correct forum but explains communication is poor and the answers aren't coming back.
- IW agrees the communication has been poor.
- RB gives an update on the facility
- Group discussion on the AD Facility being built.
- IB reverts to the communication issues, as well as asking why they are working outside of their planning restrictions, noise from reverse beepers and cutting equipment at all hours including recently a Sunday which he has photos of.
- RB explains that due to access into Blaise IVC they were limited on time when those works could be done.
- IB asks why this wasn't discussed beforehand, there's a working relationship with NES and Gallaghers and it seems Bio construct don't want that relationship, questions asked at the last meeting still not answered.
- EH asks about the deliveries on artics and tankers that have been going into the site as well as the flare being alight? Some days up to 15 tankers a day.
- IB Asks without a permit how is that happening.
- JH/RB explain they are only putting through a product through the facility therefore it's not classified as a waste this is for the commissioning.

- JH explains the permit and how it's currently being reviewed.
- IB reiterates how the working relationship hasn't got off to the best start, and a noise complaint had gone in and no one had come back to him.
- Heavy discussion around the AD development from group members.
- BL asks if moving forward this can be improved.
- RB states he has spoken to and shown around members of Offham parish council and the visit was positive.
- OPC asked if this was Blaise IVC meeting why is all the discussion around the AD site.
- BL explained that all the sites have a section to discuss their individual sites.
- HA said as this is the first official liaison meeting, we'll break the sections down to all of the sites and change the name to Blaise Farm committee meeting moving forward.

5. Operational Update – Gallaghers

- IW Updates the group on the relocation of the footpath on the top of the quarry.
- IW also looking at moving the weighbridge to free up the traffic that will be on the main road down to the quarry – probably be next year.
- IW putting in automatic gates these will be set on a timer so open and closed as per planning permission for the 3 sites. We also had a break in and stuff go missing as well as a tractor stolen from NES.
- HA asks RB if they have a list of key holders because on more than one occasion the gates have been left open by their contractors
- RB confirms they haven't.

6. Report from the Environment Agency – EA

- Nothing to report. PB did ring this morning and said that Blaise EA Permit is due to review.
- AD facility permit is in the process of being reviewed.

7. Report from TMBC – PT

- PT nothing to report.

8. Report from KCC Planning

- Nothing to report.

9. Report from KCC

- Nothing to report.

10. AOB

- RB everyone is welcome to arrange a site visit on the new AD plant once it's operational.
- SH suggested for a section on the AD facility on the council website, to keep everyone updated with progress.
- SB asked if the minutes could be circulated sooner, preferably within 2 months of the meeting taking place this is so the can be circulated to those who haven't attended it also allows time for them to get any questions in.
- HA Agreed to the above.

11. Next Meeting

Next Liaison Committee Meeting will be held at 10.00 on **Tuesday 8th September 2020** in the Gibson Room at the TMBC Offices in Kings Hill. Please could all attendees go to the rear entrance of the Civic Centre and Peter Thomason will be there to meet and greet you. Please could everyone park at the rear of the Civic Centre.