

Record of Public Meeting with Mid UK held at Village Hall

11/07/23

(These notes are intended as a broad precis of the meeting and not a detailed account of exactly what was said)

Present

Andy Crawley CFPC

Simon Pattison Mid UK Compliance Director

Alexander Maughan LCC

Penny Milne SKDC

Approximately 60 local residents.

Introduction

Andy Crawley introduced the parties present and outlined the background to the meeting and how it should be conducted.

Mid UK Address

Simon Pattison gave some background on the company and their structure and the role of himself and the Caythorpe site manager. Stated they were the 3rd biggest recycling company after Biffa and Veola.

He stated that the waste taken in at Caythorpe plant was in 3 categories; skip waste (low food content but occasional green waste), C and I (packaging recovered as shredded) and Construction and Demolition waste (Rubble – screened, washed, crushed and recycled).

Questions were then invited from the floor.

SP stated that he was not aware of any pending plans for the plant in the near future, but this may change due to operational requirements.

Smell

Numerous residents gave examples of how they had been affected by the smell from the site which was noticeable anywhere in the vicinity of the plant and at times within the village (depending on wind direction) SP stated that there was no food waste processed at the plant and that green waste entering via skip lorries was moved to Honeypot Lane. and that stored material should be moved in 72 hours. He gave details of a smell suppression system that is available and is in use at their Bradford plant, but stated this had attracted criticism from local residents there. Some present at the meeting stated they did not want such a system.

SP stated that the company conducted checks of the site (including odour emissions) 3 times daily and in addition

received inspection visits from the Environment Agency. He further stated that the Company had a duty of care and an audit of loads entering the site was conducted and 1 or 2 loads a week were rejected. A member of the public raised the issues of flies arising from the site and quoted a company called Agrisound as an organization who could possibly help in fly identification.

Water used in washing materials was stored on site and then the sludge arising was removed from site.

It was agreed that the issue of smell was a major factor of nuisance and pollution to the village and needed identifying where it was originating from, and dealing with. A timetable to do this was requested. SP agreed to investigate

Noise

Discussion took place regarding noise from the plant. The chief causes were thought to be the trammel when in operation as well as lorry noise outside the plant. SP stated that a noise suppression system had been tried on the trammel processing gravel and aggregate, but this had not been entirely successful and alternative systems were now being investigated.

Litter

There was general complaint about the amount of litter produced from the Company operations and arising from wind blown litter from the plant and litter deposited from vehicles entering and leaving the site.

SP stated that they regularly sent out litter pickers to clear the lane approaching the plant and also along the A607 from time to time. It was agreed that there is still a problem despite this, and that prevention would be better than clearance. He went on to say that the new recycling process will reduce litter from the small pieces of plastic known as SRF as this would now be baled and sheeted before leaving the plant on curtain sided lorries.

It was stated that the village had held litter picks along the A607 despite this being an unrestricted road in places. LCC and SKDC reps were asked if they could contribute towards keeping the area clean.

Lorry Movements

There were several observations regarding the speed of vehicles outside the plant and in particular on the A607. It was agreed that if vehicles were being driven through the village (where they are not supposed to be) or at excessive speed,

then this should be reported to the company via the Parish Council. Unsecured loads should also be reported. Likewise it was agreed that examples of considerate and good driving should be reported as well.

SP stated that they fully comply with all legislation and regulations of their vehicles and drivers are subject to CPD. The drivers are hourly paid so should not be speeding to achieve targets etc. Feedback is given to drivers where applicable and sanctions against offending drivers. The company holds an O (operators) Licence.

Extended Working Hours

It was stated that there will be no increase in the operating hours of lorries entering and leaving the plant from those currently in operation. The extended working hours will not necessarily be used but have been applied for (and granted) as a fall back position if necessary to achieve a timely return on their investment in the new plant.

Discussion took place regarding the noise levels and it was stated that there were improvements being made to the buildings in which the new plant is housed to minimise noise escape. This included recladding the walls and roof and

installation of quick close doors that will be locked shut during night time and early morning operation.

Buildings

SP stated that work on buildings 9 and 10 (where the new plant is housed) had started.

He further stated that planning permission had been granted for rebuilding the burnt out building about three years ago and although it had been hoped to have started this work, due to various changes of ownership etc, this had not been started. He hoped that it will be started within the next 12 months.

In response to a question about the redundant chimney, SP stated he would try and find out what was planned to do about this but at present there were no plans to remove it.

Emergency Contact

It was agreed that an emergency contact point would be provided to CFPC and that they would co ordinate complaints to the company. AC asked residents to phone him at the time of an incident unless between 10pm and 9 am when email contact was preferred.

General

It was agreed that the meeting had been useful and SP understood the causes of complaint which seemed valid and were genuine He now understood the major areas of concern and would address these.

It was agreed that regular future meetings should be held on a six monthly basis unless an urgent issue arose, when they could be sooner.

It was also agreed to try and open a dialogue and means where complaints and news could be communicated. SP was made aware of the Caythorpe Village Facebook page and it was suggested that this be used.