

Arden Quarry Liaison Meeting

19th November 2013

Present

Alan Barrow	High Peak BC (Chair)
Gordon Whitaker	EA Area Environment Manager
Malcolm Doak	EA Team Leader
Denis Canney	DCC Planning
Andy Porter	DCC Planning
Beth Atkins	DCC Councillor
Jack Shaw	Save Sett Vallley Group
Tony Ashton	HPBC Councillor
Sue Barrow	Save Sett Vallley Group
Jenny Hallam	Local Resident
Valerie Richardson	Hayfield Civic Trust
John Hargreaves	Local Resident
Martin Jones	Hayfield Parish Council / Local Resident
Tony Barry	Casey
Tom Barr	Casey

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Keith Brisley (local resident).

Minutes of Last Meeting

No formal minutes recorded.

Terms of Reference

Sue Barrow raised the issue of format of the liaison meetings, suggesting consideration be given to membership, terms of reference, agenda, recording of minutes, etc. It was tabled that Casey record minutes and publish on the website once agreed.

Operator's Report

Gas Control

Eight new wide-bore deep extraction wells have been added to the gas-field since the previous meeting. These were installed in July and August and connected to the field in early September.

The gas field is currently extracting gas at 750m³/hr.

Consultants have been reviewing the gas system efficiency and recommending necessary actions for the installation of power generation. Casey intend to carry out

the necessary works and implement the planning consent for electricity generation on the existing gas compound. Minor amendments to the planning are anticipated to include a new transformer and meter housing. The engine stack height would also need to be assessed to ensure adequate diffusion is achieved.

Recommendations for improvements to the gas field include the temporary capping of the eastern and remaining northern flanks of Cell 3; this represents a significant improvement to the existing landfill gas containment and extraction potential. Construction proposals have been submitted to the Environment Agency and are currently awaiting their agreement before works can start. Construction materials are already held on site.

Beyond the scope of the next capping campaign on the northern flank and the temporary capping of the eastern flank, there is limited scope to apply further containment or extraction in the current phase of operation.

General

Cell 3 infill is near completion. Cell 4 construction has commenced, but the area has been scaled back due to delays. Engineering works are to continue this week. Gas extraction capability will be incorporated into the construction so the gas-field may be applied to the area in the very early stages of tipping.

Golder's (environmental consultants) are progressing the three-dimensional gas dispersion model and should be available shortly. Repeat monitoring of trace components in the landfill gas is due at the turn of the year. Monitoring of the flare emissions is scheduled for January.

The green waste composting planning application has been withdrawn, but may be resubmitted at a later date in a revised application.

Environment Agency Update (Gordon Whitaker)

Introduction of Malcolm Doak, taking over from Matthew Bennett who has been drafted into a national team. Malcolm has a background in industrial regulation and has been visiting the site 2-3 times per month over the past few months.

A big decline in the number of complaints has been observed between January and June. The Agency have been monitoring and recording complaints and analysing for trends. Feedback on complaints is usually provided, but this service is impractical when large volumes of complaints are received. This is seen as a short-term exercise and the Agency would look to refer the collation and monitoring of complaints back to the Operator. The EA will continue to record complaints it receives.

Some spikes in complaints have been related to events on the landfill. One was correlated to odours arising from leachate treatment, but the cause has since been rectified by improved dosing with sodium chlorite.

The Operator has employed the services of a specialist landfill gas contractor to help identify improvements. Although the Operator has invested resources in making improvements to the site, further progress is still necessary. Further capping of the landfill is seen as an effective action to improve odour control.

Matters Arising

Tony Ashton reports that the site still smells and odour problems are ongoing. Three particularly notable incidents had been noted recently. Between February and July the odours were perceived by some to have improved but had deteriorated thereafter. There was some discussion on this point but no universal agreement. The local community needs to be informed if works are being undertaken that are likely to have odour impacts.

Martin Jones noted the need to keep driving improvements for the amenity and health of the residents.

Malcolm Doak responded to concerns over chlorinated compounds emitted from landfill gas flares / engines that chlorine was generally accepted not to be an issue in municipal landfill. Tom Barr commented that there is some comprehensive EA guidance on flare / engine emissions for members that would like further information: LF TGN03 – 07 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/108918.aspx#landfillgas>).

Beth Atkins concurred with the need for improvement to local amenity and cited the importance of the locality as a tourist area. The EA agreed that they'd like to see more pro-active management of the site in the future to avoid being in a state of catch-up.

Alan Barrow noted concern regarding low-frequency vibration from the installation of gas engines. Tom Barr responded that the vibration would be considered in the construction design to incorporate necessary dampening.

Planning Officer's Report (Dennis Canney)

Dennis Canney reported that the composting application had been withdrawn citing problems with cumulative odour impact.

DCC Planning have been in discussions with the agent / applicant regarding license for mineral extraction / sale.

Following a recent audit, a planning contravention notice was served to address conditions requiring information relating to air quality and noise in relation to the gas engine permission. Andy Porter noted that the planning permission is specific to a certain gas engine, though couldn't recall the model. In response to comments that a quieter engine would be preferred, Andy Porter noted that there are specific conditions in the permission regulating noise / vibration.

Any Other Business

Comments were received noting that HGV's were running over pavements at the access to Oven Hill Rd. Tony Barry offered that the comment would be passed on to visiting drivers.

Sue Barrow reported concerns over surface water along Oven Hill Road. Tony Barry related the observation to a recent failure of an agricultural drain above the site. Tony Barry had previously organised the repair of the drain so the issue should now be resolved.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

A provisional date for the next meeting was suggested for Tuesday 25th February at 6pm.