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21 MAY 2014

## HAFOD LIAISON GROUP

### Notes of Liaison Group Meeting held at the Wynnstay Hotel, Ruabon on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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#### ATTENDED BY:

Ruth Thomas  
Ian Craven  
Gerald Owen  
Stephen Jones  
David Roberts  
Ian Oakes  
Adam Samuels  
Dorothy Tunnah  
Ann Griffiths  
John Stewart  
William Burke  
Robert Johnston  
Paula Williams  
Toni Slater

- Resident
- Cory Environmental
- Cory Environmental
- Rhos Community Council
- WH Jones Farms Ltd
- Natural Resource Wales
- Hafod Environmental Group
- Hafod Environmental Group
- Hafod Environmental Group
- Hafod Environmental Group
- Hafod Environmental Group
- WCBC Public Protection
- Rhos Community Council
- WCBC Public Protection

#### APOLOGIES:

Councillor David Bithell  
John Walsh  
Councillor Dana Davies

- WCBC
- WCBC Highways
- WCBC

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the parties identified above.

#### 2. Notes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

#### 3. Matters Arising

No matters arising that are not covered by remainder of Agenda.

#### 4. Cory Environmental Update

Ian Craven advised that:

- Disposal operations continue within Cell 3.
- Cory has successfully secured the 40,000 te/year Gwynedd Council contract, with some 6 daily deliveries from Harlech and Caernarfon. This started 6 Jan 2014.
- Inputs remain consistent, although the market in the North West is quite volatile with some RDF being produced for the north European market – this material does not attract landfill tax, making this treatment method attractive. Landfill tax will increase to 80 GBP per tonne in April 2014.
- The CQA engineering plan for the Western sidewall has been submitted to NRW. Discussions are on-going. Meanwhile, conditions on the slope are being monitored for "before" and "after" to demonstrate the effectiveness of the under drainage scheme. Work on this is being affected by the wet weather. Sufficient void remains for the foreseeable

future and the Western sidewall should be engineered during the coming year.

- The very high winds in December resulted in the site being closed for a couple of days. Litter picking has removed all of the material which escaped the fences, but this process is ongoing as strong winds have remained a feature of the winter to date.
- The high rainfall has resulted in high levels of leachate being removed from site.
- The saturated ground is affecting gas extraction, although the site is still generating 1050kW of electricity, which is the highest level for over three years. This should improve as site conditions dry out.
- Capping of parts of Cells 2 and 3 is proposed later this year, adjacent to New Hall Lane, once final levels are achieved during the summer.
- Flintshire Woodlands have been beating up the previous tree planting, replacing any dead plantings.
- A planting session was arranged via Ruth Thomas, including 2 local schools and planting of daffodil bulbs at the entrance. It is hoped the word HAFOD will be spelt out in Spring when the bulbs flower.
- A residents visit was held following the last Liaison Meeting. Just 3 residents attended (Cllr Bithell, Ruth Thomas and Paula Williams). A further visit can be arranged when the weather improves.
- There have been a number of complaints in January, from a specific location. This increase could be associated with the on-going claim via Hugh James. They are from an area we have rarely had complaints previously. It follows a pattern, as at other sites, including the way in which complaints are worded.
- The trees around the site have been surveyed, following the high winds, and over 6 spindly specimens have been identified as needing to be removed on Bangor Road. Apologies in advance if any temporary road closure causes inconvenience, but safety must be a priority. 2 felling teams are to be used in order to speed up the process.

In relation to planning matters, Mr Owen advised that:

- There have been 2 compliance visits since the last Meeting, looking at both the landfill and minerals permissions. No issues of concern were identified.
- The site restoration and landscaping scheme (already previously approved under the landfill permission) has now also been approved under the minerals permission and replaces an earlier submission that indicated the site being restored to a pond and which is clearly no longer relevant.
- The clay extraction application remains outstanding. Cory has provided the planners with information they requested and this is now the subject of their discussions with Wrexham CBC's Legal Section. It was confirmed the application is in the name of MWH.

## **5. Wrexham County Borough Council Update**

### **A) Planning**

No report received

### **B) Public Protection**

Robert Johnson advised he has not received any complaints about the site and assumes any complaints are directed to NRW.

### **C) Highways**

No report received.

## **6. Natural Resource Wales - Update**

Report by Ian Oakes: 3 matters -

1. The CQA report for the upper (west) sidewall was received in October 2013 and a number of matters were reported back to Cory on 5 November 2013. This mainly consisted of needing confidence that the proposals will have long term stability at the level where springs emerge, before any further engineering takes place. The proposals involve a series of vertical counterfort drainage channels feeding to a main horizontal collection drain to remove ground water; NRW need some evidence that the spacing of the channels is appropriate through monitoring of the moisture content, and that the slopes will support the engineering of the rest of the slope in the long term. When this has been done, the rest of the engineering can take place. The whole process has been delayed by the wet weather but hopefully progress will be made once the Spring comes. Ian Craven confirmed the use of the counterfort drains are a tried and tested method used elsewhere and not specific to this site; Cory would rather over-engineer the groundwater drainage system rather than have an issue arise in the future.
2. Two new leachate wells have been installed, with a significant reduction in leachate levels resulting, and are coping well with the increased rainfall.
3. In Nov/Dec an emissions audit was undertaken of the gas wells to ensure they are sealed and balanced (to avoid pulling in excessive air as gas is extracted). This identified the need for additional work to seal some wells, pipework junctions and to address gas extraction on the Cell 3 northern slope. Ian Craven has the report and is working to address these. This should reduce the potential for complaints from odour. The works are due to be completed by the end of March after which the site will be re-inspected.

Ian Oakes advised there have been 20 odour complaints in January. Dorothy Tunnah said there are odours every evening at about 6 o'clock. Adam Samuels said he has been told odours are due to hot weather and then due to cold weather, so they happen all the time. Steve Jones said they are not present every day and Dorothy Tunnah confirmed there are times when there is no odour at all.

Ian Oakes said he requires his team to attend at least every other complaint to investigate and they will visit individual properties to directly experience the odour as part of this. Also, he has told his staff to check for odours in the vicinity of the site whenever they are working in the area, to identify the

area(s) over which they can be detected. There are areas where it will be more noticeable than others, for example in the vicinity of the gas plant and leachate pipe joints.

Steve Jones said that the situation is better since Cory took over although there are still some odours. Things are moving forward, not backward. Adam Samuels confirmed things are better than with the previous occupiers.

Dorothy Tunnah said it tends to be when the site is closed that the odours are more obvious, although her husband never smells the site.

John Stewart said he doesn't smell the waste, it's the gas.

Ian Oakes concluded by commenting that the site is constantly changing as more waste goes in and we need to ensure the maximum is being done to minimise odour, and reminding the meeting that the audit had identified a number of matters which Cory is addressing and the site will be re-audited to verify the situation.

Ian Craven confirmed that Cory is responding constructively to the audit findings. Whilst ground conditions are holding up some works meaning they cannot be done as quickly as would be liked, the comments have all been taken on board and he will do all he can to address them.

Adam Samuels gave his appreciation to Cory's approach and response to issues. This was echoed by all. Dorothy Tunnah said she appreciates the site is constantly changing and that NRW monitors it to give as much protection as can be given.

## **7. Local Community Issues**

Ruth Thomas asked Ian Oakes if he could contact the Brother factory as they still have a gull problem.

Ian Craven said he is still undertaking the cull and will apply for a further culling licence when the current one expires in May, including increasing the number that can be culled. Brothers had 2 kites but, as at the Hafod site, these were both stolen.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Toni Slater said she was pleased matters have clearly moved on from earlier years, via the Liaison Committee.

David Thomas referred to a couple of local (off site) highway signs which are impeding visibility. Steve Jones said he would follow this up.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014: 6 pm at the **Johnstown Community Centre** (in the Little Meeting Room or the Computer Room).

## **Meeting Footnote:**

If members of the Liaison Committee receive telephone calls from the wider public raising issues about the site could these please be reported immediately to the site manager (rather than waiting until the next Liaison Committee meeting).

Immediate reporting means we can promptly investigate the matter raised and identify whether or not it is attributable to site operations. Waiting until the next Liaison Committee to report these matters means the opportunity to carry out an investigation is, essentially, missed. Many thanks.

## Hafod Complaints

