

Meeting Title:	Bryn Posteg Liaison Meeting			
Location:	Council Chamber, Town Hall, Llanidloes, Powys			
Date:	From:	14/10/2016 10.30am	To:	14/10/2016 12.30pm
Chaired by:	Cllr Gareth Morgan		Originated by:	Potters Waste Management
Minutes Approved by:				
Attendees:	Name		Organisation	
	Mr Robin Wynne Williams RW		Flintshire County Council	
	Mr David Powell DP		Natural Resources Wales	
	Mr Aled Zachary AZ		Natural Resources Wales	
	Mr Paul Bufton PB		Env. Health Powys C.C.	
	Ms Laura Samuel LS		Waste Management Powys C.C.	
	Mr Tony Webber TW		Site Manager Potter Group	
	Mr David Williams DW		Technical Manager Potter Group	
	Cllr Gareth Morgan GM		County Councillor and Chair	
	Cllr Graham Jones GJ		Resident and County Councillor	
	Cllr Ken Davies KD		Resident and Community Councillor	
	Cllr Edward Chapman ECH		Resident Llanidloes Community WC Chairman	
	Ms Margot Jones MJ		Resident and Llanidloes Town Council	
	Ms Pam Smith PS		Resident and Llanidloes Town Council	
	Ms Donna Benbew DB		Liaison Officer for Russell George AM	
	Mr Matt Watson MW		Resident	

	Ms Kristine Moore KM	Resident
	Mr Dominic Costa DC	Resident
	Ms Margaret Williams MS	Resident
	Mr Frank Williams FW	Resident
	Ms Ann Hughes AH	Resident
	Ms Liz Stevenson LS1	Resident
1 Introductions and apologies	<p>Various apologies, but not minuted</p> <p>The removal of resident Jenny Barker from the mailing list as she has recently passed away, however it is advised that the address is retained.</p>	
2 Update on landfill site developments David Williams (Potters)	<p>DW gave an update of operations on site for the 12 months since the last meeting:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leachate treatment for the site went wrong during autumn last year, the heating system that was put in place during January to increase the temperature of the lagoon has helped additional boiler currently being installed. Due to the backlog of leachate that needed processing its effect wasn't noticed until summer. As a consequence water levels have lowered and gas extraction has improved on site. Treatment progressed well until August. 2. Severn Trent visited the site during August and noted that 1 parameter of the permit was not being met – Chemical Oxidation Demand and this cannot be removed under current arrangements and solution has not been determined as yet 3. Gas Collection has increased with 2 gas engines fully operational and new gas extraction wells have been put in. 	
3. Purpose and Membership of Group – General Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MW & her husband stated that they live ¼ - ½ mile from the site and it's been a dreadful year for odour, one of the worst years in the past 30 years since she and her husband has lived there. She has complained a total of 56 times to NRW but could have complained more often. If windows are left open – landfill gas fills the house. 5. MJ/PM stated that a list of all complaints to NRW relating to the site has been sent to Llanidloes Town Council 6. ECH stated that the odour is so bad it can be smelled by the 	

	<p>Rugby Club and as far as Y Fan (to the North of Llanidloes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. DW stated that leachate is initially treated on site, then to public sewer and treated at Severn Trent's water treatment plant by the Rugby Club. Although Potters have been close to exceeding agreement with Severn Trent in the past, it is now in breach and finds it difficult to meet the requirements. 8. GM stated that this is the first year in many that odour has been so bad and asked if this was the consequence of the composition of waste now being brought on site. 9. DW stated that the chemistry of the waste had changed and more hydrogen sulphide gas (H₂S) was being created. 10. A question was asked if Potters were locked in to accepting certain waste types. 11. DW noted that they are locked into contracts but they are not locked in accepting specific wastes as such they can refuse to accept a particular waste stream if it is identified as problematic. 12. AZ stated that research by the Health Protection Agency showed that there are no cast iron links between air quality/health and living in close proximity to landfill sites, provided the site is compliant with its Permit. NRW monitored air quality close to the site in 2011 with a mobile monitoring facility (MMF) to assess the long term trend of H₂S. It was found to be below World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, but above thresholds likely to cause odour / nuisance. 13. MJ stated that there are real concerns relating to health as a result of the Bryn Posteg site and urged the monitoring exercise to be undertaken again. 14. AZ stated that although H₂S may be a nuisance the question is – does it cause ill health? NRW no longer have access to the MMF facility due to cuts in funding. 15. PB stated that although air quality levels may not be in breach, the possible health effect on residents may not be physical. Odour and perceived fear of ill health could be affecting the mental health of local residents. 16. GM asked if liaison could be had between NRW and the local GP's in relation to health. AZ clarified that Public Health Wales (PHW) are the experts on health issues and NRW would liaise with them on any health concerns raised. 17. PB thought it would be a good idea to invite PHW to future meetings.
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	<p>18. DC questioned whether Potters should be responsible in arranging the liaison meeting as he felt a bit uneasy with the site operator having responsibility for it.</p> <p>19. Consensus was that Powys C.C. should organise the meetings in future, that more invitations should be given to concerned residents, meetings should be held more frequently and a public meeting can be organised if required.</p>
4. NRW update	<p>Aled Zachary – Lead Regulatory Officer on behalf of NRW who has been regulating the site since July 2015 stated:</p> <p>20. The Environmental Permit contains a wide range of conditions specifying limits and requirements relating to environmental control e.g. Odour, nuisance, noise, water. Contravention of these limits can result in NRW taking various forms of Enforcement action.</p> <p>21. Since July 2015 NRW have undertaken 8 unplanned inspections and a two day audit to investigate all facets of operations at the site.</p> <p>22. Currently NRW are taking enforcement action relating to issues with leachate management and pollution of surface waters that occurred in early 2016. There were high levels of complaints Jan, Feb, March 2016 with an enforcement notice being issued in March, improvements have been undertaken but the full terms of the notice have not been met. Further poor performance relating to landfill gas control may result in further enforcement action. It was noted that severity of breaches will affect the severity of enforcement action but a balance must be struck between notices and requirements. Although the potential suspension of permit is seriously considered, the shutting down of the site and the suspension of waste being imported will not solve odour issues. The problems are associated with leachate levels and the gas extraction and it is not a case of flipping a switch - due process is required.</p> <p>23. AZ/DP stated that Bryn Posteg is amongst the worst performing waste sites in Wales over the past 5 years as regulated by NRW.</p>
5. Issues and concerns	<p>24. GJ stated that NRW cannot control the problems associated with the site and the volumes of waste needs to be cut.</p> <p>25. RW stated that with increased recycling the waste food and other putrescible wastes are dealt by other means e.g. Anaerobic Digestion as a consequence the waste now being deposited to landfill generally is less noxious.</p>

	<p>26. PM stated that although the enforcement actions being taken by NRW - problems appear to intensify, a comparison was given as to enforcement notices and speeding tickets and that bans are given following a set amount of tickets. The suspension of the site should be seriously considered.</p> <p>27. AZ stated that they had requested the submission of an improvement plan before the end of October. With the following requirements/improvements:</p> <p>Gas abstraction (extra gas wells, review of gas extraction processes)</p> <p>Leachate treatment and management (review the current leachate treatment arrangements)</p> <p>28. ECH within NRW's update memo, it appeared that the pattern of complaints reflected the annual rainfall for 2016 in which AZ stated that it is a factor. Concerns were also raised that the seagulls and vermin on site may contribute to disease among agricultural livestock in the area.</p> <p>29. AZ stated that the Environmental Permit requires the site to have a Pest Management Plan and this may need to be reviewed in light of concerns raised.</p> <p>30. GJ stated that there is a big concern relating to the lack of communication received from NRW following formal complaints. AZ responded by stating that every resident that has complained to NRW this year has been written to with feedback.</p> <p>31. ECH questioned how water from the site is discharged to sewer.</p> <p>32. AZ stated that the limits upon Potters are governed by Severn Trent who issue limits that are protective of their sewage works and the environment. There is an onus on Potters to sort out the leachate from the site at source rather than passing the problem onto the sewerage provider.</p> <p>33. Concern was expressed as to the capabilities of the landfill gas engines to deal with the gas being extracted and were the engines at their limits.</p> <p>34. DW and AZ Engines are not at their limits, should they not be able to cope the gas would be flared rather than allowed to transfer directly to atmosphere as Carbon Dioxide is less polluting than Methane</p> <p>35. RW gave an update on the proposed landfill extension on behalf of the Waste Planning Authority. Formal pre application was undertaken during May 2016 relating to the proposed landfill extension at Bryn Posteg. Such a development would</p>
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	<p>increase landfill void, fix the leaking liner and possibly improve the final landform of the site. The response on behalf of the Waste Planning Authority noted that in accordance with the aims of European, National and Local waste policies there's been a dramatic decline in the amount of residual waste disposed at landfill sites in recent years and sufficient landfill void is in place in Wales to meet the current and future requirements and it would be extremely difficult to justify an extension purely on need.</p> <p>36. It was therefore suggested to look into a more site specific justification for a landfill extension should they wish to pursue the proposal. Rather than landfill the WPA actively encouraged the company to look at alternative methods to deal with the leaking liner on site and also consider other waste management technologies that are higher up the waste hierarchy than landfill.</p>
6 AOB, date of next meeting	<p>Next meeting – Friday 9th December, 10.30am.</p> <p>37. Powys County Council to arrange the next meeting with Potters paying for its administration.</p> <p>38. Suggest that additional people (3 max) from the local community are invited to future meetings.</p> <p>39. Mr James Potter should be invited</p> <p>40. Suggest that Severn Trent be invited</p> <p>41. Public Health Wales should be invited</p>
7. Actions	<p>42. NRW to circulate HPA guidance notes on the health effects of living close to landfill sites</p> <p>43. NRW to provide an update at the next meeting on the action plan agreed with Potters</p> <p>44. Discuss health concerns with Public Health Wales and provide feedback</p>