



**Minutes of the Combined Waresley and Hartlebury  
Liaison Committee**

*23rd March 2016, Wienerberger Waresley Brickworks*

**Present:**

***Residents***

Ray Kirby	<i>Chairman and local resident</i>
Sheridan Tranter	<i>Hartlebury Parish Council Chair</i>
Peter Holden	<i>Local resident</i>
Eve Jones	<i>Hartlebury Parish Councillor</i>
Mr Hibbard	<i>Local resident (Field House)</i>
Clive Rogers	<i>Local resident</i>
Dr Dick Herbert	<i>Local resident</i>

***Regulators***

Jon Philpin	<i>Environment Agency</i>
Toni Ainscough	<i>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</i>

***Wienerberger***

Gordon Podmore	<i>Works Manager – Waresley</i>
Carl Roden	<i>Plant Manager – Hartlebury</i>
Stephanie Palmer	<i>Sustainability Manager</i>
Neil Bishop	<i>Technical Manager - Hartlebury</i>
John Sandford	<i>Secretariat</i>

***Biffa***

Russ Parrett	<i>Site manager</i>
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***Apologies:***

Doug Ingram	<i>Hartlebury Parish Council</i>
Kristy Thomas	<i>Worcestershire County Council Waste</i>

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were reported as listed above. It was also noted that Mark Cox has indicated that he is no longer involved in Contaminated Land regulation for WRS and a new contact is required. (**Action TA**)

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were proposed as a true record by Russ Parrett and seconded by Dick Herbert.



#### **4. Operational update - Wienerberger**

**Waresley brickworks** – Gordon Podmore reported that the Waresley factory had been out of production from November 2015 to early February this year but was now back in full production. During the break repairs had been carried out to the kiln which is now 25 years old. The current plan is to continue in full production for the remainder of 2016 but this will be reviewed in the summer dependent on market demand. Due to overall reduction in output there will be only one clay win in 2016 which is scheduled for August/September. Gordon reported that the factory is fully manned and has 3 apprentices currently. All recent vacancies have been filled with people from the locality.

Eve Jones asked about perceived occurrences of dark smoke from the Waresley chimney. Gordon Podmore responded that he was not aware of any recent issues but commented that the appearance of the plume from the stack can be very weather dependent and under certain climatic conditions may be more noticeable than normal. He asked that any occurrences of abnormally dark emissions should be reported immediately to the factory (Waresley – 07734 848700).

In response to a question from Eve Jones, Gordon Podmore confirmed that the kilns at both brick factories run continuously 24 hours per day and 7 days per week when the factories are operational.

Eve Jones asked if the brick factories were covered by the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and Gordon confirmed that this was the case. Toni Ainscough explained that the European IED was transposed into UK Law as part of the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Permitting Regulations. Under this UK legislation the Hartlebury and Waresley brick factories are required to have an Environmental Permit issued and enforced by Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Wychavon District Council. All information regarding these Permits – including results of monitoring – is available on the Public Register. Toni Ainscough confirmed that currently both factories are fully compliant with the relevant Permits.

**Hartlebury brickworks** – Carl Roden reported that the Hartlebury factories had also had a production break – in this case from early December 2015 until mid February. The factories had now returned to normal operation and again the broad plan is to continue for the rest of 2016 but this will be reviewed in the summer. The factories have a full complement of personnel.

During the shutdown the factory had installed improved dust control systems and carried out general building repairs. In 2016 there will be a single clay win which will take place late August/early September prior to the Waresley extraction programme.

Clive Rogers asked about recent flooding at the end of Walton Lane. Neil Bishop reported that contractors were currently working to dig out the ditches to alleviate this. Clive was now



happy that the work reported at the last meeting to resolve other flooding issues had been satisfactorily completed.

Peter Holden asked about vandalism which had been noted as a particular issue at the last meeting. Gordon Podmore reported only minor problems since the last meeting with no issues at Hartlebury and only some minor damage to quarry perimeter signs at Waresley.

Ray Kirby asked about the railings along the public footway adjacent to Station House which he suggested had been damaged by brickworks traffic. Peter Holden commented that this had previously been reported to Worcestershire Highways Department who had apparently accepted responsibility for maintenance. This needs to be chased up with WCC by the Parish Council. **(Action ST.)**

## 5. Operational update - Biffa

**Waresley landfill** - Russ Parrett reported that the only ongoing activities were removal of approximately three loads of leachate per week and generation of electricity from the landfill gas. The size of the generator set is likely to be reduced to 0.5 or 0.6 MW later this year to match the depleting production of gas from the site. Russ reported that some tree planting is to be carried out later in 2016. There have been no reported issues of vandalism at the site.

**Hartlebury landfill** - Russ Parrett reported that capping of the completed part of the site had commenced last September but had been interrupted by bad weather during the winter. All works on site to control landfill gas are now complete and approximately 450 – 470 m<sup>3</sup> per hour are currently handled. Import of restoration soils is ongoing but currently at low levels (3 to 4 loads per week) which is likely to increase to a peak of possibly 40 to 50 loads per week during this summer. At the current rate of input the restoration will take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

Russ reported no complaints in the period and no current problems with birds. Some bird control is still in place but this will be phased out from April. There have been some minor problems with vandalism – damage to parts of perimeter fencing adjacent to the footpath.

Russ reported recent monitoring results above trigger levels for landfill gas in Borehole 16 by the footpath close to Whitlence Lane. This had required notification to the Environment Agency and activation of the Emergency Plan required by the site Permit. National Grid had been notified and had checked the area close to Dr Herbert's house to see if there was a leak from the High Pressure gas main. The gas could be from the mains supply pipework; from the Biffa landfill or from the closed WCC landfill. Trace analysis is currently taking place to try to track down the precise source. Given the active and well designed gas management system on the Biffa site it is thought likely that the gas could be coming from the WCC site. This issue is ongoing but not deteriorating and there are now weekly meetings with the EA. *(Refer to section 7 below.)*



Peter Holden commented that there had been a lot of dust in Station Road recently – possibly related to mud on the road drying out. Russ Parrett agreed to investigate this with respect to the effectiveness of the wheel cleaning on vehicles leaving the site and also the effectiveness of the road cleaning. **(Action RP)**

**6. Operational update – WCC Hartlebury Landfill**

There was no one present from WCC Waste to cover this item. However Kristy Thomas from WCC had provided the following written comments:

*“Since the previous update was delivered to the liaison group the Pollution Control Team have carried out maintenance work to the on-site gas wells which has resulted in an increase in gas quality at the flare. We are also continuing with on-site vegetation clearance and intend to re-spray any brambles and nettles that re-emerge over spring, as well as tackling any ragwort we find on site.*

*We are currently working together with Biffa and the Environment Agency (EA) to investigate an episode of gas migration along Whitlunge Lane which resulted in Biffa completing a schedule 6 notification. Biffa, in line with their gas management plan, have since been carrying out daily monitoring in the area and have been supplying the results to Worcestershire County Council (WCC), the EA and Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS). All 4 parties recently met to discuss the situation and investigations are on-going. WCC will continue to work with Biffa and the EA to help resolve the issue.*

*Should you require further clarification on any of the above items then please do not hesitate to contact me.”*

The Chairman commented, and this was endorsed by the Parish Councillors and other resident members of the Committee, that he did not consider this report to be satisfactory given the open issues of landfill gas migration discussed previously. Peter Holden noted that these concerns should best be directed to the County Council and to the local County Councillor. The Chairman undertook to write to the County Council – probably at Chief Executive level – to express these concerns and to seek a representative from WCC Waste at future meetings. This correspondence should be copied to the Parish Council and the County Councillor. **(Action RK)**

Eve Jones and Sheridan Tranter expressed concern about possible similar migration of gas towards the incinerator site and asked if this had been detected in the Site Investigation works for the site. Russ Parrett commented that there had historically been some gas noted in the boreholes on the perimeter of the Waresley site and that these could relate to the previous uses of the land for MOD purposes. He undertook to check this situation with WCC. **(Action RP)**



## **7. Feedback from Regulatory Bodies**

Jon Philpin referred specifically to the current concerns of gas migration towards Whitlunge Lane. He explained the complicated situation where he (on behalf of the EA) regulates the Biffa site whereas officers of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) regulate the closed WCC landfill site on behalf of Wychavon DC. Given the currently unknown source of the gas this requires close co operation between all 4 parties (EA/Biffa/WRS/WCC Waste) until the situation is stabilised and the trigger levels are no longer exceeded. However, Biffa are required to take the lead role in the process as a result of the conditions in their site Permit. Jon commended Biffa in this respect for the actions taken to date.

Jon explained that work is currently taking place to update the conceptual models for the area and to attempt to identify the source of the gas. Appropriate remedial actions will then be progressed. Liaison between all four parties will continue until the problem is rectified.

On other matters, Jon reported that the EA are close to issuing an updated Permit for the Waresley site to take into account recent legislative changes. Interestingly this will include a review of the trigger levels for Methane at the perimeter boreholes. Jon reported that the EA have received no complaints about either of the Biffa controlled sites.

Peter Holden asked if there had been any progress in completing the simplified summary of monitoring results for the Hartlebury landfill which had been promised at the last meeting.  
**(Action JP)**

Toni Ainscough indicated that she was not in a position to comment on the gas migration issues on behalf of WRS. This issue was being handled by her colleagues Richard Williams and Neil Kirby.

She reported that both brick factories had been visited since the last meeting and no issues or concerns had been raised. Both brick sites remain classified as “Low” risk by her Department.

Subsequent to her inspections, Toni reported that she had been made aware of a noise complaint from a local resident concerning Waresley and had also received a noise report which suggested that two activities on the Waresley site were the source of slightly elevated noise emissions or emissions of a particular tonal nature – the exhaust on the dust extraction plant (LEV) serving the clay preparation plant and the noise from the kiln exhaust fan/discharge chimney. This had resulted in regular contact with the Waresley site to check on progress to improve this situation.

Gordon Podmore reported that approval of Capital Expenditure had been received recently and the necessary parts were now on order to carry out the modifications outlined in the noise report. The lead times are approximately 6 to 8 weeks for the silencer on the LEV and 8 to 10 weeks for the diffuser/silencer on the kiln exhaust. Installation will require availability of a suitable crane and will be highly weather dependent – particularly with respect to work on



the top of the chimney. With these provisos it is anticipated that both modifications will be complete within 3 months.

Gordon also reported that the main air compressors had been replaced and re positioned. He confirmed that a further noise report – following the format of the previous report – will be commissioned when all the modifications are complete.

In response to a question from Mr Hibbard, Gordon confirmed that the work had been designed to follow the recommendations in the noise report and the follow up survey will confirm the extent to which they have been successful.

Gordon offered to have a separate discussion with Mr Hibbard on the details of the work and also a factory tour so that he was more familiar with the process.

**8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business brought forward for discussion.

**9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016 commencing at 17.30. This will be held in the offices at the Waresley factory.

JMS  
29/3/16