

Biffa Brookhurst Wood Local Liaison Group

Meeting: 21st January 2020 at Biffa West Sussex Ltd Offices

Attending:

(SW) Steve Whyley - Chairman

(AB) Andy Burgess - Biffa West Sussex, General Manager – MBT

(PNC) Paul Curtis - Biffa West Sussex, Plant Manager – MBT

(DD) Dianne Dodsworth - Biffa West Sussex, Community Liaison Officer – MBT

(JSI) James Stewart-Irvine - Biffa Waste Services, Planning Manager - South

(LC) Lee Coulson - Biffa Waste Services, Brookhurstwood Landfill Manager

(JM) Jane Moseley - WSCC, County Planning Team Manager

(PC) Cllr Peter Catchpole - WSCC, County Councillor - Holbrook division

(BJ) Brian Johnson - Langhurstwood Road Residents Group

(EL) Eileen Lawes - Local Resident

(KP) Karen Park - Local Resident

(PB) Paul Bellringer - Local Resident (Horsham in Bloom)

(DS) Cllr David Searle - North Horsham Parish Council

(GR) Geoff Read - Warnham Parish Council

Apologies:

Gareth Rollings - WSCC, Commissioning and Infrastructure Manager

Michelle Harbord - WSCC, Principal Commissioning and Compliance Officer – Waste

Duncan Wright - Biffa Waste Services, Regional Operations Manager

Mark Neal - Horsham District Council

Paul Greenslade - Horsham District Council – Litter Picking

Kevin Slatter - Local Resident

*Action points are noted in **bold***

1. INTRODUCTIONS

All attending introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies as above.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were reviewed and agreed.

The four actions from the previous meeting were discussed as follows:

- 1) Butterfly and landfill presentation sent out to group
- 2) Condition of verges – discussed and minuted in Item 9
- 3) Complaint status notification – process set up and ongoing
- 4) AB contact with EA – discussed and minuted under Item 6

4. LANDFILL OPERATIONS UPDATE

LC gave an update on the landfill site which included photographs.

- Since the last meeting: Restoration soils – 25,576.94 tonnes, ARTF 6,566.14 tonnes, Total – 31,143.08 tonnes have been received on site.
- Restoration soils currently not being placed directly on top of capping due to wet conditions. Materials is being stockpiled ready for placement when the weather allows.
- Gas system current throughput is 1700 m3 per hour.
- Leachate Plant is currently treating and discharging circa 160m3 per day.
- ATRF
 - Throughput of the plant is currently 16 plus tonne per hour.
 - End of waste on sand and aggregate application has now been approved this now allows the recycled product to be sold to the open market.
 - The end products are being stockpiled as it is a challenging market at the moment.
- Demolition of brick kilns halted for the time being
- Development Update
 - JSI confirmed that Biffa have temporary 5-year approval for the soil treatment facilities.
 - SW asked if the members had any questions.
 - PC said that they had had their say at the committee meeting. Though they still felt that there should be a voluntary absorption of the additional vehicle movements by Biffa from the 392 existing permitted movements.
 - AB explained that the movements belong to WSCC and not to Biffa. If WSCC chose to award the running of the plant to another company, then the soil treatment facility would have to be able to stand alone.
 - SW asked if the number of vehicles was monitored.
 - AB & LC confirmed that every vehicle was counted.
 - BJ reiterated that he felt that the additional 75 vehicle movements given to the soil treatment facilities should be taken from the 392 vehicle movements currently awarded to the MRMC contract.

- AB said that we would continue to monitor the vehicle movements.
- JM asked if we had ever exceeded 392 vehicle movements.
- AB confirmed that we had exceeded this number on 2 occasions.
- BJ mentioned that the MBT & Landfill had only ever gone over 300 twice in a 6-month period.
- JM said that it was in all our interests to keep the movements low.
- AB confirmed that the MBT could not turn waste deliveries away, but we manage the outputs taken away from site. We also have to take soils brought to landfill into account.

5. MBT UPDATE

PNC gave an update on the MBT facility. This included the following information:

- The MBT received 44,915.1 Tonnes of waste October - December 2019.
- Achieved an RDF LF diversion of >27.83%.
 - BJ asked what 27.83% meant.
 - AB said that we are diverting +/- 60% away from landfill and that we were ahead of plan. In reality we should be currently running 50%.
 - BJ asked if the waste that wasn't baled went to Redhill.
 - AB confirms this was the case. There is some direct to landfill, but still running at about 62%.
 - BJ asked if the other 38% was going to LF and if WSCC was responsible for paying for cost.
 - AB confirmed that this was correct. He also explained that the Energy From Waste plant at Beddington took residual waste. Biffa splits the residual waste and only sends our Process Heavy Rejects to Beddington.
 - PB asked if the site was under pressure at the moment to get the RDF Exported.
 - AB said that it was challenging at the moment as Holland had introduced an incineration tax, and that we needed to export some RDF as there was insufficient capacity in the UK.
 - PC said that it was contentious to say there is not enough capacity of Energy From Waste.
 - AB said in his opinion we didn't have capacity within the UK for the required processing of waste including recycling at the moment.
 - PC asked if this was from the actual amount of waste and also asked if the decline in waste receipts was continuing.
 - AB mentioned that we could be around 5000t down from last year – about a 2% decrease. However, Christmas might still put 4000t on to this figure, but we couldn't really say until we get past Christmas.
 - GR asked if the increase in housing would affect this.
 - AB said there is currently not enough recycling capacity and didn't know how much more housing was planned.
 - JM said that they were reviewing this.
 - AB said that he doesn't know if the waste receipts would stay the same or if it would decline.
 - BJ asked what the tonnage was.
 - AB confirmed that this was minimum 200000t.

- BJ asked who paid for any shortfall coming in.
- AB said that this was covered by savings on outputs.
- KP asked how much got recycled.
- AB listed that roughly 20% was diverted to recycling or biogas, 7% to EfW, ATRF was about 3%, digestate was about recycling 8%.
- Continued with diversion of process heavies to EFW.
- Bale and wrap system is operational, having made 13,188.4 tonnes of bales in this quarter. The contract with Britaniacrest & Seneca is ongoing.
- Generated an average of 41 MWh of power per day.
- The MBT received odour complaints on 13 days in the last quarter of 2019.
- Activated carbon was changed on the 22nd December 2019 and the next change is planned for early February 2020.
- The system for cleaning the carbon pack has been improved. The heat exchanger is on a cleaning regime and will be cleaned as it becomes blocked.
- Analysis of odours:
 - The shift teams are out every shift to try and identify odours
 - We are doing 3 odour check per day: morning, noon and night
 - BWS have conducted an analysis of 2,280 odour checks at receptors over a 4-month period
 - An odour was detected at receptors on 47 occasions.
- Working in the community:
 - As part of a continuing education program, we conducted 14 tours/outreach events during the quarter of October – December 2019. We hosted a visit from Azerbaijan who wished to see best practise in the waste industry.
 - The staff at the MBT rescued a cat in our front hall who had been brought in on a vehicle delivering waste. The cat had been missing since September 2019 and had originally come from Worthing. A local vet cleaned him and confirmed that he was unharmed. He is now back at home with his family.
- Around site:
 - As part of a greater Biffa initiative, we have installed a bee hotel to try and encourage insect and small wildlife activity.
 - We have a sculpture in our Visitors Centre Reception called Sparky which was made by artist Adam Swain. Sparky was created to try and get people to think differently about waste.
 - We want to thank the MBT staff for their hard work over Christmas, which is one of our busiest times of the year. The staff that worked on Christmas day were given lunch provided by a local pub and we also installed a large Christmas tree at the entrance to the Reception Hall.
- PNC asked for complaints to be reported asap as makes it difficult for us to investigate otherwise.
- AB mentioned that the Biffa Group was also working with WasteAid to try and improve conditions in developing countries.

6. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE

- AB said that he had spoken to the EA officer for the MBT. She had confirmed that the EA would not be present at any future liaison group meetings as they do not have the resources and that non-attendance is across the country. However, they would provide statements to be read to the group.
- SW asked if some event had occurred that would have benefitted by EA presence.
- PC mentioned that EA presence was helpful at the Liaison Group Meetings.
- SW asked if something specifically arose that AB would then agree to take it to EA.
- AB agrees to this.
- DD read out a statement from the EA:

“At the end of last year, the revised list actions still had 11 that were in progress. The EA approved the Pest Management Plan and are reviewing the Odour Management Plan for the MBT.

The investigations into the carbon chamber yielded good results and Biffa were able to make modifications to improve the carbon performance and lifespan.

The items that are still in progress on the action list will be reviewed again shortly and Biffa will work alongside the EA to ensure the plant is functioning well and to best practise.”

7. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WASTES MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- DD read out a statement from WSCC:

“We are continuing to work with Biffa to maximise landfill diversion and RDF production from the plant. Various options for the use of Site Ha are being reviewed, so it will be some time until a planning application is submitted. When a timescale and plan for this is known, the group will be informed.

The facility has had a lot of waste delivered over the Christmas period as expected, so the focus on the coming weeks will be to clear the backlog and get back to ‘normal’ operating conditions.

Across the County, the ID scheme has been successfully implemented from the 1st December – this is to prevent non-West Sussex residents from using the sites and is hoped to deliver some savings.”

- BJ asked what site Ha and Hb were.
- AB confirmed Site Hb was the current Britaniacrest site. He explained that, if Britaniacrest got permission for the Energy From Waste facility, then the Biffa MBT would need Site Ha for trailers storage.
- BJ asked if this would be concrete.
- AB confirmed that it would be hardstanding and that we would need a fire prevention plan for EA. Biffa have asked the EA what they want us to do.
- BJ asked who paid for this.
- AB confirmed that WSCC would pay for the development of the site. The facility was only designed to move 50%, but we have to adapt.
- BJ asked how much the development would cost.
- AB replied that it depended on if fire water tanks were needed.
- BJ asked if there were any plans to erect buildings.
- AB confirmed that there were no plans at the moment.

8. HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL LITTER UPDATE

- DD read out a statement from HDC:

“I would just say that we have plans for litter picking the A264 lane one with mobile traffic management in next six weeks or so and litter pick the central reservation with lane closures as well on a separate week, also we are continuing to do the enforcement days which will re-commence at the end of the month after the Christmas break. Langhurstwood road continues to be on a three-week rota.”

- BJ – said that HDC had said that they would clean laybys and include Great Daux as well, but that these were not clean. He seems to recall that they said they had a van to go around once a week, but he felt that they were not being cleaned as promised.
- AB said that Biffa would ask HDC if the cleaning rota was being adhered to and that we would try and get a response as soon as possible.

9. VERGE MAINTENANCE

- LC – confirmed work had been done and that the area had been tidied up. The fence had also been repaired.
- EL asked if the area could landscaped.
- DD commented that it would not be landscaped as it was a woodland area.

AOB

- EL says our sign is in a state.
- AB replied that it was brought down in the recent high winds and that we would not be replacing it. It was originally put up by M+W who built the plant. We have asked our staff to remove it.
- SW said in reviewing the Liaison Group Meeting Terms of Reference he saw mention of an annual review of actions and asked if the Liaison Group Meeting this forum.
 - AB confirmed that it was and that it was ongoing, but we could do an annual review. This would be part of presentation slides.
 - BJ asked if this could be sent in advance for review?
 - AB said that we would try to send in advance.
 - SW mentioned that this could be a polite promise rather than commitment.
 - All agree.
- The next meeting date will be – Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 17:30pm.
- The meeting dates following that for 2020 will be: 21st July and 20th October

ACTIONS

- DD to ask HDC if cleaning rota is being adhered to. To feed back to the group as soon as possible.
 - HDC have confirmed that all cleaning is still being done as per schedule.
- PNC - Biffa staff to remove broken sign at site entrance road.