

WEALDON WORKS COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

MEETING 032 Minutes:

Date: 6th December 2023

Time: 6.30 to 8.00pm

VENUE:

**Roffey Millennium Hall and
Remote by MS Teams**

Attendees:**Chair**

Andrew Baldwin – County Councillor for Holbrook (AB)

Qair BCR

Gerrard Beelaerts	(GB) – by video link
Frederico Wegner	(FW) – by video link
Michael Rigby	(MR)
Simon Read – Coast Communications	(SR)
Keith Riley – Liaison Officer	(KR)

Residents

Karen Park	(KP)
Kevin Slatter	(KS)
Rob O'Brien	(ROB)
Donald Mahon	(DM)
Piers Chapman	(PC)
Brian Johnson	(BJ)

Horsham District Council

Thais Covre Delborni	(TCD) – by video link
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North Horsham Parish Council

CLlr David Searle (Vice Chairman)	(DS)
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Rusper Parish Council

Richie Gatt	(RG)
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The meeting started at 6.35pm

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all present at the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves and gave their designations.

2. Apologies for absence

The following apologies were received – Liz Kitchen, Peter Catchpole, James Neave and Luc Valaize.

3. Minutes and actions from the previous meeting held on 6th September 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

The only action arising was feedback from those that attended the visit to the Slough EFW on 19 October 2023 attended by AB, KS, DS, GB and KR. The plant was under construction by HZI.

DS stated that the visit was very good and well organised. A safety briefing was given on arrival and all fitted out with PPE. He commented, however, that there was nothing available to eat which caused him to make use of the medical facilities - which proved to be excellent. After a number of tests, he was then given something to eat before re-joining the rest of the party. What was interesting for him was how well the site was being operated. It was located in a busy industrial area with lots of traffic but was well run with good traffic control. There was also good liaison and communications with the local residents, which were located not far away. Newsletters were issued and an accident reporting system was in place where if there were no accidents within a period, £100 was donated to a local charity of the residents' choice. The welfare facilities were excellent and with around 500 people on site, no burden was placed on local A&E facilities. With the exception of one, all accidents had been dealt with on site. He also noted that parking was difficult and site workers had to park offsite and walk in.

KS generally concurred and stated that everything seemed to be what it should be - although he had nothing to measure it against. He thought it well organised but commented that as the Horsham site is in the countryside there may need to be more consideration given at CHER to prevent deliveries from interfering with local residents. He said that he was hoping to contact the local residents in Slough to obtain feedback directly from them.

AB had little to add but felt that the day was very worthwhile. He felt that HZI was living up to what they claimed.

KS noted that HZI had promised copies of the presentation given during the visit. MR agreed to progress.

Action 32/1 – MR to obtain copies of the presentation given by HZI during the visit to Slough and circulate.

4. Issues regarding the current approved operations

Public complaints /enforcement orders – KR reported there had been no complaints. MR stated that there had been an organised visit from the EA at which the transition between current and future operations were discussed.

Vehicle movements and quarterly tonnage details – KR had circulated the figures for YTD 30th November. There were no comments. ROB noting there had recently been severe traffic disruption locally, DS mentioned some flooding. MR stated that this had not impacted Britaniacrest operations.

Vehicle spillage report/ roadside litter – the Chairman reported that at a meeting at Biffa attended by KP, KS, BJ and himself, it was reported that HDC was making good progress in litter-picking the A264 from Great Daux to Moorhead roundabout onto Faygate but could not do the central reservation for health & safety reasons. He noted that he had seen a Britaniacrest skip on a driveway that was overfull. MR said he would bring this to the attention of the operations crew to ensure that it was properly packed to the permitted level before being picked up. Following a comment from KS that HDC had issued several penalties for litter dropping, MR confirmed that to the best of his knowledge, Britaniacrest had not received one. AB commented that HDC was active in enforcing compliance and hopefully this would change littering behaviour.

WSCC Planning Conditions – JN had confirmed by email to AB & KR that no planning issues had been notified to WSCC.

5. Update on the CHER development

MR reported that there was little to report. The detail design was continuing, and the construction contract would be closed once this was finished. He stated that financing was available and construction was expected to start towards the end of Q1/2024.

In response to a question by PC about heat delivery to the brickworks, MR stated that an offer had been made for supply of heat and power to Wienerberger, who were considering it.

SR (who had previously attended meeting 29 in April) re-introduced to the CLG Coastal Communications, who were supporting Qair. He stated that he was seeking to ease communications, and anyone should contact him if they needed to know anything or wanted to suggest something. He reminded the Group that there is a contact page on the CHER website.

The subject of newsletters was discussed. SR said that it would be better to wait until there was something to report before issuing one. MR confirmed that HZI should issue newsletters once construction starts. It was felt by the residents that an intermediate communication would be helpful, as Qair was not well known (as opposed to Britaniacrest), and many people are not aware of the incinerator. KS felt that air quality and health were the main issues. ROB added risk of fire and general awareness. DM suggested a general publication to explain who's who and the new names. KS said it would be better as a newsletter rather than through social media.

KP commented that it was the local residents that had spread the word on the exhibition. She also noted that there were now new residents in the North of Horsham development. DS suggested the use of the parish magazines. A discussion ensued during which "Holbrook Pages", "Our District" (free publication twice a year by HDC), "West Sussex County Times" and "All About Horsham" were mentioned. Not many people still buy West Sussex County Times newspaper. All About Horsham is an excellent publication which is well read.

Action: MR to inform the CLG whether or not they will do a written communication to the properties nearest the site prior to the main construction work starting.

Post meeting note: Simon's email address is: simon@coastmarcoms.co.uk.

AB has not received a copy of Holbrook Pages for a a long time and wonders whether it is still printed. The lady who established it (Julie Maxted) sold it on a few years ago.

6. Points raised by K Slatter

Details of the feedstock make-up covered by the new RDF contract between WSCC and Qair – MR stated that 150,000 tpy would come from WSCC, the remainder would be made up by waste from Britaniacrest within its catchment area.

BJ reported that in 2022, 191,000 tonnes went into the Biffa MBT plant. Of this, 65% was RDF, “heavies” were 10% and 6% went to Beddington. Thus 86% was burnt at one location or the other, equivalent to 160,000 tpy. MR confirmed that the new contract specifies a fixed quantity of 150,000 tpy.

Does the continuous monitoring include the measurement of dioxin emissions? – MR confirmed that dioxins would be monitored periodically, with the period changing with time as specified in the permit. KR confirmed that continuous monitoring of dioxin was not generally required due to the low contribution to the dioxin inventory made by modern incinerators. When it is required, it was generally because the incinerator was accepting hazardous waste – as will be the case in Slough. He then explained dioxin formation, how it was controlled in modern incinerators (post-1995) and why periodic monitoring is considered to be adequate.

What was the cause of the incidents at Bedding Lane EfW, South London and will CHER suffer the same? – MR stated that it is believed that the recent shutdown was due to a loss of grid by UKPN that cause the turbine to trip. It is thought that the puff of black smoke reported was due to the safe shut-down diesel generators starting up. KR added that there was a fire at the site about two years ago that was widely reported, but this was in the transfer station adjacent to the EfW - and was the source of odour release - not in the EfW itself. MR confirmed that it was not expected that CHER would suffer the same events.

Many household waste recycling centres and waste processing sites are experiencing fires often due to disposal of lithium batteries. How confident are you that the EA standards are sufficient to deal with this hazard? – It was noted that batteries are now collected by Horsham District Council for recycling and no longer so prevalent in household waste. MR stated that if a lithium battery fire did occur in the bunker, it would be extinguished locally. KS noted a lack of confidence in the EA fire protection requirements. It was confirmed that a fire protection plan had been produced and a risk assessment submitted with the permit application for CHER and that this will be supplemented by the insurer’s requirements as part of the detail design.

7. Horsham District Council – anything to mention?

TCD confirmed there was nothing to report and the air strategy protocol e.g. more air quality monitoring stations was still under review.

8. Any other business

KP, in an email dated 1st December 2023, had brought to the attention of the CLG an incident in France where residents had been advised to stop consuming home-bred chicken eggs due to dioxin concentrations in the soil in the Ile-de-France area. KR had circulated a response from Qair on the matter in which Qair confirmed that the CHER facility will operate with the emission limits stated within the environmental permit. It also gave information on the event in France that placed in in context. KP thanked Qair for the timely response.

BJ said the last item on the Terms of Reference under the item 8 “Costs” should say *“Representatives will each bear their own costs including travel to the meetings or any other event that may be organised unless otherwise agreed”*. This was agreed at the June meeting. The final version of the Terms of Reference, noting this, will be circulated again to ensure the latest version has been circulated.

9. Date of next Meeting

28 February 2024

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.