



HIGH HEAVENS LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 26th November 2014

Attendees: Cllr Jean Teesdale (JT) - Chair
 Gurbaksh Badhan (GB) - BCC
 Roger Seed (RS) - BCC
 Chas Farmer (CF) - Resident
 Harrie Cooke (CH)
 Julian Smith (JS) – Environmental Health, Wycombe District Council
 David Uren (DU) – FCC Environment
 Simon Hughes (SH) – Environment Agency
 Anne-Marie Kenward (AMK) – BCC, minutes

Apologies: Matt Rice (MR) – Environment Agency
 Geoff Edwards (GE) – Resident
 Jenny France (JF) – Resident and Gt Marlow Parish Council
 Charlie Trousdell (CT) – Countrystyle Recycling Ltd (CRL)
 Darren Hayday (DH) - West Wycombe Council
 Lorna Parkins (LP) – Marlow Bottom Parish Council

	Actions
1. Introductions	
Introductions made.	
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
Minutes agreed.	
3. Current High Heavens Site Update	
GB The site continues to deal with bio (green and food) waste. No problems with odours or driver misdemeanours which have been reported. CF mentioned an issue with odour when driving passed the Waspy Wood site recently. GB explained that she is aware there is an issue with general waste volumes due to recession/economy and the cells are taking longer to fill. This means the gas extraction and leachate systems cannot be placed into the cells – until filled. Veolia are trying to place vent seals into the cells to address the odour issue. CF acknowledged High Heavens does not have the same odour problem.	
4. Update on pre-works for the Waste Transfer Station at High Heavens – FCC / BCC EfW project team reps	
DU Work to clear and level the ground ahead of building the new transfer station has begun using a process called dynamic compaction. Old concrete removed from the site has been recycled for use as substrate. The site will close for Christmas from 19th December until 2nd January. 7000 square feet will be covered in two phases working from 8am-4pm week days only. Loud noise is not expected to be heard off site. DU to feedback issues raised regarding drivers.	DU
CF said he can hear large containers being dragged across concrete. Empty trucks	GB



leaving the site also continue to be a source of notice as they rattle more. GB to have CCTV reviewed as containers should not be dragged. GB asked if the removal of trees when building the access road had increased noise levels? CF said he did not think this was the case. In relation to DU update, JS asked that residents be warned via email a couple of days prior to noisier pieces of work being carried out. DU / RS will arrange this. RS Southern Electric are currently on the HH site working on a new transformer. The complex site power will be shut off briefly but the site will remain open. This is not expected to impact residential power supplies. Richard Marks from BCC will be on site during the works.	DU / RS
5. AOB	
Construction of EfW facility at Greatmoor - RS The time-lapse video showing construction of the main EfW plant at Greatmoor, now 15 months into construction, was shared. Following construction the site will first undergo cold commissioning tests this will be followed by the hot commissioning. The hot commissioning allows test to be undertaken to ensure the EfW is ready before the official opening due in Spring 2016. The first waste is likely to be needed at the EfW during late September / October 2015. During the period between commissioning and opening a stop/start approach to bulking is possible with some waste still going to landfill and this will be reflected in the numbers coming through High Heavens. GB highlighted that it would mean during late Sept/Oct 15 District Council and HWRC HGVs may be diverted into the High Heavens WTS so that the waste can be bulked and taken up to the EfW facility. HC asked about budgets and projected overspends. RS explained BCC is making a one off payment and FCC are absorbing the risks of overspending. DU added that to date there has been both over and underspending on different areas of the project FCC are managing the costs of construction of the Waste Transfer Station at High Heavens and the EFW facility. HC asked if the design is similar to that of other EfW plants. RS confirmed that is it with dozens in operation in the UK and 100s in Europe. The air emissions of such a plant are tiny compared to those from cars and other sources. The business case projects £150 million in savings over 30 years compared against continuing to send waste to landfill. Planning permission for a second WTS at Amersham -RS The application for the second waste transfer station at London Road East in Amersham has been submitted and is likely to be scheduled for a BCC Development Control Committee during 2015. There has been a lot of resident feedback and Chiltern District Council as a statutory consultee and they have voted against the development. If planning is granted it is accepted that this transfer station will still not be open by the time the main EfW facility is operational. In the meantime the waste will come through High Heavens but the maximum number of vehicles previously agreed will not be exceeded. An extra transfer station would allow greater resilience managing waste in line with the proximity principle of where it has been generated. The future of bio waste in Bucks - GB All current contracts for the treatment of Buck's bio waste are interim and coming to an end and new longer term contracts circa 10-15 year contracts are needed. Funding has been allocated for two transfer points within Bucks, it is unlikely Bucks will have in county bio waste treatment within the next 10-15 years. As discussed at the previous meeting High Heavens was one of 58 being considered for future options. High Heavens is now one of 3 sites being considered, more information will be known in July 2015 when the full report is published. This could mean the existing facility at High Heavens	



the dano building would need to be redevelopment / demolished and built new biowaste transfer building built. There would be no increase to vehicles as this involves vehicles that are already coming to the site to dump. The 3 sites will form part of the contract procurement process and it is possible that contractors may have their own suitable sites decreasing the chances of High Heavens being taken forward. HC asked what will happen to the old dano building. GB confirmed she already has a contractor interested in the A frames and other parts. Other building materials will also be reused where possible. Claymore Park concerns – CF CF feels that since the road improvements have taken place pulling out of the Claymore Park junction has become even more dangerous. The drains in the area are also blocked. RS will approach highways about having a safety officer attend to assess is traffic calming would be appropriate. RS will approach highways about the drain clearing schedule. CF has also been approached by local dog walkers to ask if the public footpath is still open as they are not able to get through. This may be because new planting is blocking the route which contractors would need to address. GB/RS will raise the issue with highways to confirm access and take other action as appropriate. HC asked if the replanting has been successful to date. GB confirmed 5 year check has been carried out and minors works carried out, work is now completed. .	RS RS / GB
6. Date and time of the next meeting:	
Wednesday 25th March 2pm	