

Thornhaugh Liaison Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 31 August 2023

Present

Alan Jones (AJ)	Peterborough City Council
Councillor Gavin Elsey (GE)	Peterborough City Council
Richard Clarke (RC)	Wansford Parish Council
Chris Smith (CS)	Thornhaugh Parish Council
Hally Hardie (HH)	Home Farm Residents
Gary Bower (GB)	Augean
Peter Oldfield (PO)	Augean
Lottie Ball (LB)	Augean
Eleanor Nicholson (EN)	Jennings Nicholson for Augean

- **Introductions**
PO welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees briefly introduced themselves and outlined their roles within Augean, Peterborough City Council and the Parish Councils.
- **Augean Corporate Update**
GB reported that since the last Thornhaugh Liaison Group meeting, Augean had been acquired by the infrastructure investment partnership of Ancala and Fiera Infrastructure and had now ceased to be a PLC and had become a limited company in shared ownership as of November 2021. **GB** explained that the management structure allows Augean to carry on business as usual operationally while there is an appetite for growth this must be underpinned by compliance and safety. John Rauch, the previous Chief Operating Officer is now the Chief Executive Officer and the new appointments of Shaun Pottage as Chief Finance Officer and Ian Jones as Chief Operating Officer had reinvigorated the board. In March 2023, Augean acquired Future Industrial Services. This has expanded the geographical spread of the company to 23 sites and increased its workforce to 700 people.

GB stressed how important it was for Augean to be a good neighbour and the value that it places on the Liaison Group and good relationship with the local community. He wished to encourage the representatives on the Liaison Group to feel that they could speak freely about any issues they may have with site operations or management and reminded everyone about the Open Door policy, Open Days and the availability of the Community Funds.
- **Site Update**
LB gave an overview of operational matters on site at Thornhaugh. She explained that:
 - Currently waste material is being deposited in Phase 4 South.

- The construction of a new cell -7C - is underway. The clay liner is being installed with clay taken from ENRMF.
- There have been no significant complaints regarding amenity issues. An effective road sweeper and wheelwash reduces the likelihood of mud on the road.
- Environmental monitoring is carried out around the site to an agreed programme and the results reported to the Environment Agency on a quarterly basis. There had been one leachate level exceedance due to heavy rainfall, however, this was remedied by pumping off the leachate and taking it to ENRMF which brought the cell back into compliance.
- **RC** asked about airborne dust/PM 10s. **PO** explained that these were covered as part of the monitoring regime but there had not been any exceedances. He is happy to speak to the liaison group in more detail about monitoring.
- **AJ** asked about restored and capped areas. **PO** explained that some parts of the site were still awaiting capping due to complexities of the engineering programme. Cell 7A would be next to be capped. **PO** undertook to set out a programme for capping and restoration.
- **HH** stressed the importance of planting trees as soon as possible after capping and asked what plans Augean had for replacing trees that had been eaten by deer. **PO** explained that while deer fences had been considered they had been discounted because of their impact on other species therefore trees with tree guards would replace any failed trees as part of the ongoing ecological management of the site. The intention was to cap, restore and plant quickly to prevent wash away of soils. The intention is to create a mosaic restoration scheme with areas of open space grassland rather than solely woodland.
- **PO** explained that once 7C was complete, Augean could start on the programme of re-engineering Phases 1 and 2. These cells had been filled with non-hazardous waste using an old method of landfill management called 'Disperse and Attenuate'. This practice no longer complies with the Landfill Directive and has been superseded by the principle of engineered landfill containment. Prior to submission of a planning application a number of trial pits and boreholes had allowed the company to fully understand the emplaced wastes, which were principally non-hazardous wastes which had been backfilled with mineral waste some of which was clean mineral and some contaminated. There was very little odour and any litter was compacted. Augean had been granted a planning permission in 2014 to remove the old waste deposited in Phases 1 and 2 and to place it in properly engineered landfill cells. This work would commence soon, progressively filling a new cell, capping and moving eastwards to the next cell. Protocols would need to be worked through to ensure that moving the waste was safe. **GB** commented that this solution provides a long-term containment of wastes, removes the pollution risk and provides the most economically and environmentally viable solution to manage the site in the long term with confidence. It was agreed that the Liaison Group would be notified when this work started, and it would be included in the Community Newsletter.

- **Cook's Hole Quarry**

PO reported that in late 2022 Augean had taken back control of Cook's Hole Quarry at the cessation of its lease with Mick George Ltd. The company had been considering options for the site. The current restoration plan was for a low level restoration scheme and for an agricultural after use. Augean was looking at a revised restoration scheme that would work across both Thornhaugh and Cook's Hole sites creating a sympathetic landform to restore the site for ecological purposes. At Cook's Hole this would need to be achieved by importing clean material like soils and not waste within the business principally from excavations for new cells at ENRMF. Plans were still being drawn together with an idea that a consultation could take place in October. Matters to consider would be public access footpaths and future possible uses for Cook's Hole Farmhouse which is a listed building as well as linking the scheme to the wider aspirations for the area that were currently being promoted by Rockingham Forest Vision and other stakeholders. A brief discussion followed regarding the aftercare programme for landfill sites.

- **Peterborough City Council Update**

AJ reported that the sites are monitored to check that they are being well run and are in compliance with the planning permissions. He is happy with how things are going but if anyone locally has any issues they should get in touch with him. This is also applicable to any of the other sites that are operated in the vicinity. Some initial discussions had taken place with Augean about their plans for Cook's Hole.

RC and **HH** spoke about a cohesive restoration plan linking the sites at Thornhaugh. **AJ** commented that he felt that such a scheme would be the most desirable outcome and that he would like to establish a restoration plan which provided as much connectivity as possible however with multiple ownerships under different planning obligations this might prove challenging.

- **Environment Agency Update**

No EA officer was available to attend the meeting, however there had been a recent site inspection of Thornhaugh and there were no reported issues.

- **Any other business**

RC reported that the A47 roadworks would shortly commence and wondered whether HGV's going to the site would be instructed not to go through villages. **LB** thanked **RC** for the information which she would explore further as Augean are able to instruct drivers to take specific routes to the sites.

- **Date of next meeting**

Since the last meeting, we have secured the use of the Christie Hall in Wansford on Wednesday 25 October 2023 to explain and discuss our proposals for Cook's Hole with

the local community. We are pleased to invite Liaison Group members to a preview of the exhibition at 2.30pm before the exhibition is open to the general public at 3.00pm. We would suggest that we follow up the consultation with a meeting in mid November.