

-Minutes of a meeting of the Kings Cliffe Local Liaison Group held at Resource in Kings Cliffe on Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Attendance:

Werner Schultze – Collyweston Parish Council
Sandie Parsons – Duddington Parish Council
Fiona Cowen – Collyweston Parish Council
Michael Days – Kings Cliffe Parish Council
Nick Simmons – Environment Agency
Gene Wilson – Augean plc (chairman for the meeting)
Simon Moyle – Augean plc
David Nicholson – Augean plc

Apologies:

County Councillor Heather Smith – Northamptonshire County Councillor
Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council
Andrew Howard – Kings Cliffe Parish Council
Hilary Blunt - Kings Cliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 September 2009 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Operator's Report

It was reported that the company was focussing on the introduction of new waste management technologies, particularly at its Teesside Port Clarence site, where a thermal desorption (recovering oil from waste) facility was now on stream.

The LLW planning application regarding low-level radioactive waste would be determined in mid-March. Augean had answered in detail all the points raised in consultation letters in respect of the application. Northamptonshire County Council had appointed Tony Denman to act as its expert consultant for the application. Members of the Development Control Committee would be undergoing radiation awareness training prior to determination of the application. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Environment Agency would assist in the delivery of this training. The company has responded to the questions raised by the Environment Agency (EA) and its response was expected in February.

The company has engaged with 19 parish councils in the course of its consultation on the application. Barrowden and Tixover Parish Councils, supported by Rutland County Council, had asked to join the Kings Cliffe LLGp. This was agreed by the meeting and Gene Wilson would progress the initiative with Phil Watson.

On site, work on cell 4a was almost complete; operations on cell 4b started in mid-December 2009; work on the construction of cells 5a&b was yet to start.

There had been no complaints about mud on the road. The company had been putting extra efforts into keeping the road clean given the recent bad weather. The wheel spinners had been refurbished. The flare was working satisfactorily.

The soil treatment plant was in operation and handling between 1500 – 2500 tonnes per month. The market for soil washing had been affected by the economic downturn and by rogue operators.

There were no comments on the Radon Report requested by the Group at the last meeting. Gene Wilson invited the committee to contact him should they have any queries.

Environment Agency Report

Nick Simmons confirmed that the flare was running satisfactorily. He explained the EA's national initiative to ensure that wastes were handled in accordance with their permits. He wished to put on record the help the EA had received from Augean to achieve a national rollout of this programme.

The re-charge rate (the rate leachate accumulated in the cell) was not an issue because of the low organic content of the imported waste.

He confirmed that the EA had not received any complaints about mud on the road since September 2007. The relevant equipment was in working order. He invited those with concerns to ring the EA's 'emergency' incident number 0800 807060.

Historically, cell 2a had required completing. The cell has now been filled to the required level with treated material from the soil treatment process, covered and dressed with soil. This area was particularly sensitive as it is right next to West Hay Cottages.

Although not directly involved in the LLW application, he had been advising the national policy team responsible for assessing the application. He emphasised the Agency's transparent approach to authorisation and stated that there would be a public statement of EA's response to the planning application at the same time as the decision was communicated to the other agencies and Augean.

Date of next meeting

Subject to confirmation by Phil Watson, the next meeting would be held at ENRMF on Wednesday 7 July at 2 p.m. and include a tour of the site. In principle, however, meetings would continue to be held at Resource at Kings Cliffe to avoid possible conflict of interest.