

Kings Cliffe Local Liaison Group Meeting

Meeting 7th July 2010

Present

Phil Watson
Roy Boulton
Simon Moyle
Gene Wilson
David Nicholson
Rona Smith
Roger Glithero
Pauline Bradberry
Michael Day
Mary Wharton
Nick Simmons
Robin Gifford
Werner Schulze
Fiona Cowan
Deborah Fouler
Felicity Stevenson
Philip McCrone
Heather Smith

Representing

Northamptonshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Augean
Augean
Augean
Woodnewton Villager
District Councillor
ENC District Councillor
King's Cliffe Parish Council
King's Cliffe Parish Council
Environment Agency
Apethorpe Parish Council
Collyweston Parish Council
Collyweston Parish Council
Woodnewton
Easton on Hill Parish Council
Laxton Parish Meeting
NCC County Councillor

NB: Two local residents from Woodnewton had turned up to the meeting although they were not representing the Woodnewton Parish Council. It was agreed by Augean that the company did not mind them remaining in attendance on this occasion. They were advised to go back and speak to their Parish Council, to see if the council wished to nominate future representatives to attend the meeting.

1. Apologies

Andrew Howard King's Cliffe Parish Council
Hillary Blunt King's Cliffe Parish Council

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 Nick Simmons commented on the previous minutes (27th January 2010) and made the point that in the Environment Agency Report where it deals with leachate, he had said that the leachate cells were non-compliant.

3. Operators Update

- 3.1 Leachate management proposals. Gene Wilson (GW) reported that having reached agreement with the Environment Agency, the leachate is now being utilised in the stabilisation plant following which it is then able to be put back into the landfill, within the stabilised waste material. There was a discussion about this matter. In response to questions GW confirmed that if permission was granted to deposit Low Level

Radioactive Waste (LLW) at the site there would be further discussions with the Environment Agency to ascertain if the Leachate could continue to be treated in the stabilisation plant.

- 3.2 Appeal Progress – GW reported that a timetable has been established for the procedures relating to the public inquiry which is to be held on the 26th October 2010. There was further explanation and discussion about this process.
- 3.3 GW explained that for the deposit of LLW to proceed, as well as requiring planning permission, there is a requirement for an Authorisation under the Radioactive Substances Act 1963. This is dealt with by the Environment Agency. There is a draft authorisation already prepared by the Agency but this has not yet been issued.
- 3.4 It was also explained that there is another process to be completed before it would be possible to deposit LLW at the site. This relates to European Union legislation and the need to make an application to Europe under Article 37 of Euratom Treaty. This requires the Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to consult the European Commission on any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste. This process is expected to take several months. Augean has made its application to DECC and is anticipating that this process would be completed by November 2010.
- 3.5 The Pre-Inquiry Meeting is to be held on 22nd July 2010. The purpose of this was explained by Roy Boulton (RB). The venue for this meeting had not finally been determined as it was uncertain how many people may wish to attend. The aim of the meeting is for the Inspector to clarify the process up to the inquiry. It is not the time when evidence is presented and examined. This would be done later at the inquiry. The Parish Councils would be kept informed of the venue for the pre-inquiry meeting.
- 3.6 GW explained the latest plans for Augean, firstly related to the land adjacent to the Thornaugh Landfill Site, which is not far from the King's Cliffe site. Augean also owns mineral land to the south. The mineral permission needs reviewing and Augean will be applying to Peterborough Council for new planning conditions. There is a liaison committee already established for this site. The mineral permission allows working of ironstone and minerals overlying.
- 3.7 GW turned to future plans for the King's Cliffe site. He explained that the company has difficulty in knowing how long the site will take to fill. The property building market has seen a downturn and Augean believe that the permitted life of the site will need to be extended to 2016. He went on to explain that Augean had previously made representations to the Minerals and Waste Development Framework for additional land to be allocated for hazardous waste disposal into adjacent land holdings. He confirmed that Augean do wish to extend the landfill site area and feel it would not be sensible to come back in 2 years time. It has been estimated that a further 1 million cubic metres representing an estimated 10 years of void space could be created on land within the existing permitted site. It is therefore proposed to apply to increase the area of the landfill site at the same time as applying to extend the life of the current site until 2016. Whether the deposit of LLW would be included in that application would be dependent upon the outcome of the current appeal. The environmental studies relating to the proposed planning application are being undertaken and the application would not be

until the middle of next year (2011). Augean will start a consultation exercise early next year.

- 3.8 County Councillor Heather Smith commented that the local community had accepted the presence of the existing approved site and would have been likely to understand if there was a need to extend the life of that permission, but the prospect of a new site is horrifying.
- 3.9 Robin Gifford (from Apethorpe Parish Council) said that in his opinion this was a trust issue and Augean have broken this trust.
- 3.10 GW commented that he did not feel he had broken the local communities trust. He felt he had always been open about the company's desires for the future.
- 3.11 Rona Smith (RS) (a resident from Woodnewton) confirmed that she agreed with Apethorpe's views.
- 3.12 County Councillor Heather Smith commented that the proposed extension of the area of the landfill is a difficult issue in the local community.
- 3.13 Philip McCrone (PM) (Laxton Parish Council) said that he was against an area extension.
- 3.14 RS asked whether Augean would seek to extend in the future the current proposed types of LLW and asked if an assurance that this would not happen, could be given?
- 3.15 GW responded that there was no commercial, operational or planning intention to increase the levels of LLW that are currently proposed.
- 3.16 Deborah Fouler (DF) (Woodnewton resident) said she was concerned as a mother about the health impacts on children and would like to know more about this matter.
- 3.17 Fiona Cowan (FC) (Collyweston Parish Council) commented that there was quite a lot of literature on the subject of health impacts of LLW. She referred to the "Parish Watch" process which had been set up for the exchange of information between parish councils.
- 3.18 Roy Boulton drew attention to the fact that under the current regulations any application to extend the area of the hazardous waste landfill operations would be a matter to be determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). This deals with facilities which would have a throughput of over 100,000 tonnes per annum
- 3.19 GW commented that whilst the hazardous waste inputs were over 100,000 tonnes per annum, the amount of LLW he would envisage coming to the site would be in the 10's of thousands.

Other Operational Matters

- 3.20 GW confirmed that the leachate management plan was being adapted as the leachate was now being used in the stabilisation plant. He commented that the green tanker previously used to export leachate, will not now turn up at the site every day.

- 3.21 GW also confirmed that replacement of damaged fencing had been undertaken and that disposal operations had now commenced in Cell 4B. He also confirmed that no complaints had been received from the public since the last meeting.
- 3.22 Simon Moyle (SM), the Augean site manager confirmed that he now also manages the company's site at Cannock, so would split his time between sites. Derek Simpson (DS) is the Assistant Site Manager and he would be on site at all times. He confirmed that he or Derek would be happy to show members of the public around the site if they phone to arrange a visit.
- 3.23 In answer to a question asking who pays for the long term environmental controls at the site, GW confirmed that by law Augean will pay and there is a fund set aside with monies for these controls.

Environment Agency Update

- 3.24 Nick Simmons (NS) commented that the Leachate variation had already been discussed.
- 3.25 He confirmed that the permit sets the leachate limits. Action levels were an issue which were breached. The way of rectifying this issue and therefore to a position of compliance with the environmental permit has been agreed with Augean.
- 3.26 NS referred to the Waste Acceptance Criteria requirements and the fact that the site must keep records to demonstrate compliance. The Environment Agency had recently undertaken a full days audit and he could confirm that the findings were that the operator was OK.
- 3.27 He commented on the historic cells. Some waste needs further cover. There also has been testing of dust and particulate monitoring levels. These did not indicate a problem off site. Overall he felt that Augean are managing the site well.
- 3.28 If LLW is accepted at the site then there will be another officer from the Environment Agency who would be assigned to inspect the site. This would be a specific radioactive waste inspector.

4. Date of Next Meeting

- 4.1 19th January 2011