

# Thornhaugh Liaison Committee Meeting

## Minutes

Thursday 24 January 2013 at ENRMF

### Present

Theresa Nicholl <b>(TN)</b>	Peterborough City Council
Kevin Burton <b>(KB)</b>	Environment Agency
Martin Witherington <b>(MW)</b>	Thornhaugh Parish Council
Hally Hardie <b>(HH)</b>	Leicester Road Thornhaugh
John Gough <b>(JG)</b>	Mick George
Gene Wilson <b>(GW)</b>	Augean
Simon Moyle Augean <b>(SM)</b>	Augean
Eleanor Nicholson <b>(EN)</b>	Jennings Nicholson for Augean

At the start of the meeting Dr. Gene Wilson introduced John Gough, the Planning Manager for Mick George.

### 1. Matters arising

**SM** reported that a litter protocol had been established. **HH** felt that this was not working properly as there was litter both along the bridleway and in Bedford Purlieus, although the road and other footpaths were relatively clear. **SM** agreed to ensure that litter was removed and that he would review the protocol with **KB**.

**Action SM**

**MW** thanked **GW** and Augean for their contribution towards the white lines on the A47 and reported that it had already made an immense difference to the safety of the road.

### 2. Site Update

**SM** reported that present leachate levels were above permitted levels. He explained that this was common to many landfills because of the high levels of rainfall during 2012. A leachate management plan had been agreed with the Environment Agency to bring down level as soon as possible. Phase 5; adjacent to Bedford Purlieus would be temporarily capped to help maintain acceptable leachate levels.

Additional newt ponds were to be created alongside Bedford Purlieus

No engineering would take place in 2013, but construction of Cell 7a was scheduled to take place in 2014. The new cell would be on the Eastern boundary alongside Cooks Hole. It was a possible option that the construction of the all three cells that make up Phase 7 would take place.

The Environment Agency had rated the site as Category A

**MW** reported a regular occurrence of a marsh gas like odour particularly noticeable when the air was still. **HH** reported a gaseous smell. **SM** and **GW** encouraged both **MW** and **HH** to ring the site immediately if odour was noticed so that the leachate caps and the gas flare which may be potential sources of the odour could be checked as soon as possible.

### 3. Thornhaugh Planning Update

The Planning Committee of Peterborough City Council had approved the application to extend the operational life of the site to 2029 in early November 2012. There were Reserved Matters to be agreed; restoration and noise monitoring. The planning permission implements a new restoration scheme. The specific detail still needs to be approved. It was hoped once the scheme is approved that planting could start taking place in Spring 2014. As cells were completed restoration could be achieved progressively.

**HH** was keen that the footpath to the north of the site should be open for public access early on. **GW** reported that there had been some issues in bridging a surface water ditch and creating a path that was of a suitable standard to accommodate bicycles and bridle path users. It was hoped that it would be open by the end of Summer 2013.

### 4. Monitoring

**GW** presented a summary of the most recent monitoring results.

**Groundwater** : Boreholes were tested on a monthly basis and samples analysed for a range of parameters including salts, organic compounds and metals. Typical indicators of problems at landfill sites are ammoniacal nitrogen and chloride. Ammoniacal nitrogen is an indicator of materials with a high organic content that is breaking down. Chloride levels are commonly low in summer and raised in winter; usually due to road salt run off leaking into the boreholes. The combination of high levels of both ammoniacal nitrogen and chloride would be a typical indicator of leachate escaping from the site. The groundwater monitoring results show there is no such problem at Thornhaugh.

#### **Air Quality:**

- **Gas:** Methane levels have not been exceeded. Carbon dioxide is commonly present in limestone but the levels are low.
- **Asbestos:** no fibres have been detected.
- **PM 10 dust levels:** the monitoring results show no values of these breathable particles.
- **Deposited dust:** limits have not been exceeded. There are peaks in the data but not for any obvious reasons like engineering works taking place.

### 5. Peterborough City Council Update

**TN** reported that she was anticipating a request to discharge conditions of the planning permission at Thornhaugh to be made by the end of February.

**HH** urged a vision of a cohesive restoration plan linking the three sites at Thornhaugh. He was keen to see the cycle path continued along from Thornhaugh II to Wansford. **TN** commented that she felt that such a scheme would be the most desirable outcome. However it was subject to further applications at the sites, the result of the appeal at

Thornhaugh II to import inert material to restore the site, and co-operation between the owning parties. **GW** and **JG** undertook to approach Aggregate Industries to discuss.

**Action GW and JG**

## 6. Environment Agency Update

Since the last meeting **KB** had made three visits to the site.

- **July 2012** The older area of the site had been inspected to see how it had been finished off. There was good surface cover. The litter had been picked from the northern side of the site along the A47. The landfill gas flare had been checked.
- **November 2012** The surface water run off had been checked. There were no issues to report.
- **January 2013** The site had been checked in a general visit before the liaison meeting. Unfortunately some asbestos had not been adequately covered. 2012 had been a record high rainfall year and most landfills were having problems with rising leachate levels. **SM** had submitted plans to reduce the levels to maintain compliance which **KB** was possibly in a position to accept. **HH** questioned whether exceeding leachate levels would result in landfilling operations ceasing. **KB** explained that plans to keep leachate at acceptable levels would include pumping out and tankering off site or recirculating it through the unrestored phases of the landfill to saturate the waste materials again. There was a contingency of head space in each cell to ensure leachate levels are not exceeded.

## 7. Cooks Hole

**JG** explained that Mick George had leased the site from Augean. The pre-commencement planning conditions had been discharged. So far 34,000 of mineral had been extracted from the site. Mick George had submitted applications to re-site the weighbridge and rephrase the workings so that the original Phase 2 was the first phase to be worked. A ROMPP application would be necessary at Thornhaugh II.

**MW** and **HH** reported that there were problems with the wheel wash and a level of mud that was more than staining leaving the site. **JG** undertook to investigate further.

**HH** thanked **JG** for arranging to move the hedge beside the stile, but wondered if it was also possible to fill with aggregate some of the very deep rabbit holes that were a significant hazard. **JG** agreed to look into the matter.

**Action JG**

## 8. ENRMF Update

**GW** explained that at the time of the last Thornhaugh Liaison Committee meeting the permission to dispose of LLW at ENRMF was being further challenged in the Court of Appeal. An application for an injunction was withdrawn and the first load of LLW was imported on December 21 2011. Consignments have continued throughout 2012.

The application to the National Infrastructure Directorate for a time and void extension was submitted in March 2012. The examination process; a series of hearings and correspondence on matters raised by the community and by the Examining Authority had closed on Tuesday 22 January. The Examining Authority had three months to write his report and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local

Government who would make the final decision whether or not to grant a Development Consent Order by mid-July.

The planning permission on the presently consented part of the site had been scheduled to run out by August 2013. As the process of the application to the National Infrastructure Directorate had taken longer than anticipated, a variation application had been submitted to Northamptonshire County Council as a precaution against time running out before a decision had been made by the Secretary of State. In September 2012 NCC granted permission to continue the operational life of the existing part of the site until 2016.

**9. Any other business**

None

**10. Date of next meeting**

It was proposed that a meeting should be arranged to take place in June 2013