

# King's Cliffe Local Liaison Group Meeting

27 August 2020

## Present

Phil Watson (PW)  
Gene Wilson (GW)  
Simon Moyle (SM)  
Peter Oldfield  
Eleanor Nicholson (EN)  
Fiona Cowan (FC)  
Daphne Sharpe (DS)  
Chris Leuchars (CL)  
Joe Williams (JW)

## Representing

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)  
Augean  
Augean  
Augean  
Nicholson/Jennings for Augean  
Collyweston Parish Council  
Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council  
King's Cliffe Parish Council  
Apethorpe Parish Council

## 1 Apologies

Greg Wilkinson - Environment Agency  
Michael Day - King's Cliffe Parish Council

## 2 Operators Update

- 2.1 **GW** reported that he has been the lead person for this site for the last 14 years but his role is changing and he will be replaced in due course.
- 2.2 **SM** reported on progress with landfill site operations:
- 2.3 Phase 6 has been completed and they are currently filling Phase 10 (after changing sequence). Phase 7 is now being constructed and the containment engineering works is to be undertaken shortly. This will include placement of clay and the plastic lining membrane to prevent leachate (contaminated water/liquid) from seeping from the site into groundwater. **SM** confirmed that the next few weeks will be a good time for anyone from the local community/parish councils to arrange an appointment to be shown the engineering works that go into making the site safe.
- 2.4 In the period since the last meeting there has been lots of capping works to facilitate restoration of areas of the site mainly on the east and northern sides. In response to **JW** it was explained that the capping is the placement of the clay and plastic seal over the waste to enclose and seal the waste in perpetuity, and then the replacement of soils over this to enable the final restoration to mainly a grassland use.
- 2.5 **SM** also confirmed there is a replacement soil mixing plant located close to the main soil remediation plant.

- 2.6** Site entrance improvement works are planned to be undertaken in the next few months and should be complete by the end of the year. Repairs to the highway just outside the site are also being pursued with the Highway Authority. Augean pay £5,000 a year towards highway improvements on the section of road from the site entrance to the A47 junction. The improvements would make the access wider and therefore improve HGV movements.
- 2.7** **SM** confirmed that the site was continuing to fill at a rate where completion would be by 2026, mainly with hazardous waste. 2019 saw the largest amount of Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) at just over 14,000 tonnes, but this year it is likely to be much less due to decommissioning site operations ceasing during the Covid 19 lock down period.
- 2.7** **GW** reported that there had been an issue last March which related to flooding in the northern area of the site from the excessively wet winter and the various named storms. Elevated levels of chloride were detected in the boreholes in the north side of the site. As the groundwater moves from north to south it was clear that the issue was not caused by the materials in the enclosed landfill site. The matter was reported to the Environment Agency under the environmental permit requirements and it was investigated. It was traced to surface water runoff from a site haul road near the soil treatment plant. The geology of the site outside the site immediately to the north has a series of shallow depressions where the natural clay cover is thinner and flood water pooled in these. The boreholes also showed some slightly elevated levels in other contaminants but nothing above the trigger levels in the natural environment. The remedial action involved concreting the northern and eastern haul road and bringing it all within the site flood resilience and containment regime such that any runoff could no longer leave the site. Since March the elevated levels have reduced and are continuing to do so. The boreholes south of the site are showing lower concentrations of contamination and there is no risk towards King's Cliffe. Augean are continuing to liaise with the Environment Agency and if any further action is required it will be undertaken.

### **3 Proposed Site Extension Application**

- 3.1** **PO** confirmed that Augean had been reviewing the possibility of a site extension over the last couple of years and been undertaking feasibility studies and Augean were progressing with an Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the National Infrastructure Projects regime.
- 3.2** **PO** A presentation of the proposal was used to explain the proposals. The site area involves an extension to the west on agricultural land before the woodland, which also extends further north than the current site. The clay would be extracted to establish a void for waste disposal and the clay would be partly used on site and also exported for use at Thornhaugh landfill site and elsewhere. The final design of the extension has not been finalised as there is a limestone feature which divides the extension site area.
- 3.3** The amount of waste disposal will increase and there would be an increase at the treatment plant from 200,000 to 240,000 tonnes, mainly because there is an

increased demand for treatment of Air Pollution Control residues (APC) from incinerators (due to more energy from waste plants operation nationally and expected to continue to grow). It was confirmed that this material is already treated at the site. The waste regulations require all hazardous waste to be made less hazardous before disposal and this is why it is put through the treatment plant.

- 3.2 **EN** explained the public consultation part of the process. Augean have to produce a Statement of Community Consultation. The DCO process requires extensive consultation prior to submitting the application with Local Authorities, Statutory Undertakers, Parish Councils and local communities. Augean hope to be able to include public exhibitions as part of this process where Augean personnel would be able to explain and answer questions although this needs to be carefully risk assessed and managed due to Covid 19. Leaflet drops and use of newsletters and similar media would be involved. Use of the internet will also be important. Augean will endeavour to accommodate speaking with person who consider they are unable to attend any public exhibitions.
- 3.3 There was a discussion about which village halls would be suitable and **DS** commented that Easton-on-the Hill was not on the list even though it is relatively close to the site. **EN** confirmed that the list was based on previous application but this is not set yet and comments on where is appropriate will be welcome.
- 3.4 The potential timetable for the DCO process includes:
- Consultation - November 2020
  - Application Submission - April 2021
  - Examination in Public - Aug 2021 to Jan 2022
  - Inspectors Report – May 2022
  - Secretary of State Decision – July 2022
- 3.5 **JW** asked if Augean were aware of leisure proposals for the area regarding lodges in Fineshade wood? **PO** confirmed that he understood this proposal was no longer being pursued by Forestry England.

#### **4 Environment Agency Update**

- 4.1 Unfortunately no Environment Agency officer was available to attend the meeting.

#### **5. NCC Update**

- 5.1 **PW** Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2017) is still the adopted plan.
- 5.2 Local Government re-organisation on Northamptonshire is to take place as of 1 April 2021. At this point the County Council and all the District and Borough Councils will no longer exist and two new Unitary Authorities will be formally created. **North Northamptonshire** will include East Northamptonshire Council, Corby Borough Council, Kettering Borough Council and Wellingborough Borough Council and half of the Northamptonshire County Council County functions (less Childrens Services which will be run by a countywide commission). **West**

**Northamptonshire** will incorporate Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire Council and half of the Northamptonshire County Council functions (less Childrens Services). This is a big reorganisation task but services will continue to be delivered.

- 5.3** As far as Mineral and Waste Planning is concerned both new unitary authorities will be responsible for this service but it is almost certain that the current county council minerals and waste team will be kept together as one unit and be employed by North Northamptonshire Council, but provide services also for West Northamptonshire Council.

## **6. Community Fund**

- 6.1** 14,511 tonnes of LLW deposited in 2019, at £5 per tonne this provided £72,555 for the Community Fund. The 2020 figure is expected to be much lower due to LLW imports falling significantly due to Covid 19 lockdown resulting in land remediation projects being delayed.

- 6.2** **JW** asked for confirmation of how to apply to the community fund. **PW** confirmed that the fund from LLW disposal was administered by Northamptonshire County Council and details of how it works and how to apply are on the county council web site as part of the 'Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme' at <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/Pages/empowering-councillors-and-communities-scheme.aspx>

- 6.3** **GW** commented that this is a separate fund to the government's landfill tax scheme which is operated for Augean by Grantscape at: [www.grantscape.org.uk](http://www.grantscape.org.uk)

## **7. Any Other Business**

FC confirmed there is a new LLG member for Collyweston (in addition to herself). This is parish councillor Haynes. Augean confirmed he had been invited to the meeting.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

December 2020/January 2021 after the public consultation on the DCO. This will be held by Zoom and Augean will arrange a date

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