

Boughton/Pitsford Local Liaison Group Meeting

19th September 2011

Present

Phil Watson (PW)
Mark Laurenson (ML)
Alex Barter (AB)
Robert Jackson (RJ)
Lucy Booth (LB)
Margaret Smith (MS)
Derek Bland (DB)
Gordon Poole (GPoolle)
John Clarke (JC)
Edward Rogers (ER)
Judy Shephard (JS)
John Brooks (JB)

Representing

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC, Chair)
NCC
GP Planning
Bennie Group
GP Planning
Local resident
Church and Chapel Brampton Parish Council
Boughton Parish Council
Boughton Parish Council
Pitsford Parish Council
NCC Councillor (Moulton)
Bennie Group

1. Apologies

Gill Pawson (GP) GP Planning for Bennies and Barton Plant
Charles Phillipps EA

Charles Phillipps apologised the following day and explained that he had been called out to a pollution incident.

Simon Scott to be sent minutes and be put back on the distribution list.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (18th April 2011)

2.1 Agreed 18th April minutes are a good record.

3. Operators Update

3.1 **Robert Jackson (RJ)** – Landfill running, restoration ongoing, K-Lime operations working well. Business not great but okay. No complaints to RJ.

3.2 **John Clarke (JC)** – Mud on the road has been raised as an issue to the County Council and Cllr Shephard. The road looks generally muddy. Is restoration in line with the approved plans?

3.3 **Phil Watson (PW)** – Yes, the plans are for a domed shallow hill.

3.4 **JC** – Is there monitoring to ensure it's in accordance with plans?

3.5 **PW** – Confirmed he is satisfied with contours and restoration practices. It is domed for stormwater run-off and settlement.

3.6 **JC** – Commented that K-Lime storage was previously above the permitted height restriction, although satisfied height is now below permitted level.

- 3.7 **RJ** – Agreed it was previously marginally above the 3 metre restriction but is now well below.
- 3.8 **PW** – Complying now. Asked RJ for details of current activities and stock levels.
- 3.9 **RJ** – Still processing. It's a busy time for lime spreading as crops are coming off the fields. The amount of material coming to site has dropped off due to issues at Rugby Cement. This has given RJ a chance to catch up.
- 3.10 **JC** – There have been issues with dust monitoring reports which were due to be submitted to the EA.
- 3.11 **RJ** – No, we have been supplying reports but the air quality consultant is away at present. The third lot of results are due shortly and will be circulated in due course. RJ confirmed that they have agreed to undertake a further 3 months monitoring.
- 3.12 **PW** – Referred to a recent meeting (13/9/11) between John Clarke, Judy Shephard, Greg Oakes (EA), Charles Phillipps (EA), Ian Collings (Daventry District Council EHO) and PW. Meeting came about due local concerns re potential health issues arising from K-Lime dust
- 3.13 **JC** – Reassurances were provided that there is no health risk.
- 3.14 **PW** – The EA were very open. Charles Phillipps explained that K-Lime is primarily chalk and calcium hydroxide and is classified as hazardous due to its pH value and it's not carcinogenic - that said you wouldn't want to breathe in the fine particles all day everyday. Charles wondered if proper risk assessments had be done for workers.
- 3.15 **RJ** – Confirmed they had been done.
- 3.16 **PW** – Charles Phillipps had received a complaint from a Vyse Road resident re dust. Monitoring equipment and samples have been taken by the EA and there are now 2 months of samples to be tested with results to be distributed. Charles clarified that the product is not quick lime and that water is added at Rugby Cement to stabilise the material. Charles was generally of the view that most of the dust was being held on site and noted that additional bunding was proposed on the site to the west and south of the K-Lime storage area.
- 3.17 **RJ** – Understood that a bund was proposed adjacent to the access road only.
- 3.18 **PW** – Thought Charles had indicated bunds were proposed to the west and south of the access road?
- 3.19 **RJ** – Agreed to clarify with Charles.
- 3.20 **PW** – Understand that an action group in Rugby have been in touch with Boughton Parish.
- 3.21 **JC** – Explained that Boughton Parish Council are quite satisfied if the EA are monitoring and testing. The explanation that it is hazardous only due to a high pH is not sufficient to satisfy concerns of Boughton residents. That is why the Parish Council seeks reassurance as some dust does get out of the site.

- 3.22 **PW** – This was discussed at the recent meeting with Charles Phillipps and he understands what is required and therefore analysis is also being undertaken at Rugby Cement to check there are no chemical changes. The EA is also monitoring and liaising with the Health Protection Agency and the District Council EHO, notwithstanding their belief that K-Lime shouldn't be causing any issues. PW asked that the operators continue to fully co-operate with the EA.
- 3.23 **Edward Rogers (ER)** – Asked if K-Lime also included pot ash.
- 3.24 **RJ / JB** – Yes.
- 3.25 **PW** – Charles Phillipps was probably just describing the principal components (chalk and calcium hydroxide).
- 3.26 **RJ** – Explained that volumes of K-Lime on site will drop away in approximately 6 weeks and then be very limited until March.
- 3.27 **JC** – Are returns submitted?
- 3.28 **RJ** – Yes, quarterly to the EA.
- 3.29 **Margaret Smith (MS)** – Asked what would happen through the Winter.
- 3.30 **RJ** – K-Lime would be stockpiled until spring for spreading on farms after the winter crops have come off (with processed material to only be stored inside the shed). RJ noted that Bennies are below target inputs and outputs for K-Lime for the year.
- 4. Inert Waste**
- 4.1 **RJ** – Explained that progress is slow with filling currently taking place in an arc around the top gate. The batter behind the shed is to be finished and then the soils ripped ready for planting.
- 4.2 **Judy Shephard (JS)** – Asked if native plants would be planted.
- 4.3 **Lucy Booth (LB)** – Offered to pass around the latest plan if that would be helpful.
- 4.4 **PW** – Suggested that the plans be forwarded to NCC's Environmental Planner.
- 4.5 **JC** – Raised the issue of Bennie lorries loaded with inert have been going through Boughton.
- 4.6 **PW/JS** – Noted that this should be avoided in accordance with the routing agreement.
- 4.7 **John Brooks (JB)** – Bennies can and do check lorry movements. Drivers know that there are fairly serious repercussions with the first step being to stop their bonus for a week - Bennies can't sanction increased earnings through law breaking. A second offence leads to dismissal.
- 4.8 **PW** – Raised the issue of staining on the highway at the entrance to the site.

- 4.9 **JC** – Noted that it doesn't look good, especially at the gateway to the village. Commented that there haven't been the lumps etc on the road.
- 4.10 **PW** – A new wheel wash has been installed and if there are complaints the road condition is monitored.
- 4.11 **RJ** – Including stopping operations if required. This was done when PW came to the site following complaints.
- 4.12 **Gordon Poole (GPoole)** – Explained he had made a request via Street Doctor re potholes near the access. GPoole maintains a record of dates of requests and timeline of responses.

5. GP Planning / JB Update

- 5.1 **JB** – Explained that Bennies are close to submitting an application to extend the operation of the site beyond 2013 and to address other potential uses. Consultation is required with NCC and the LLG. Had been looking to hold a consultation event on 26th of September but that has now been postponed. Someone will attend the event to answer questions about the proposals for a concrete batching plant.
- 5.2 **GPoole** – Asked if the application would be submitted to NCC.
- 5.3 **JB** – Yes, both the extension and change of use. Bennies propose to leave an area in the centre for continued recycling operations, approximately a 4 acre site. No more inert tipping but K-Lime and concrete plant and potentially bagging of recycled aggregates.
- 5.4 **PW** – Asked if there would be continued inert recycling.
- 5.5 **RJ** – Recycling of hardcore only.
- 5.6 **JB** – Large numbers of HGVs bringing in inert waste would no longer be necessary but there still would be movements of K-Lime, inert etc. Planting of trees is still to go ahead to make the site as unobtrusive as possible.
- 5.7 **JS** – Asked if the concrete plant would be like the one at Ketton.
- 5.8 **JB** – No, it would comprise 3 or 4 low level silos with aggregate hoppers. Sand, stone and cement would be mixed to make liquid concrete to be moved off site in mixer trucks. Lafarge in Moulton run a similar operation nearby. The north of Northampton is not particularly well serviced so Boughton would be a good location.
- 5.9 **Various** – Raised the ongoing matter of the Buckton Fields planning applications for up to 1,050 residential properties nearby.
- 5.10 **JS** – Asked if dust would be an issue.
- 5.11 **JB** – Minimal dust should be created. The critical element is getting the delivery from the cement tanker into the silos. To avoid dust it is blown in under pressure so cement can't escape.

- 5.12 **JC** – Noted the Inspector of the Waste Local Plan passed the site as an inert recycling facility.
- 5.13 **PW** – The Inspector wasn't that prescriptive. He commented that it needed to be an appropriate waste use with the detail to be assessed under an application. The judgment would need to take into account the surrounding land use.
- 5.14 **PW** – Commented that concrete batching would not necessarily be a matter for NCC but that NCC would likely deal with it if it prejudiced restoration and aftercare of the site. PW's view was that it would likely be a matter for NCC but it would come back to fact and degree and the other proposed waste uses of the site in conjunction with the concrete batching.
- 5.15 **JC** – Commented that it was to be a waste site.
- 5.16 **PW** – NCC would have to consider if its use as concrete batching plant would prejudice waste opportunities.
- 5.17 **LB** – Gill Pawson sent out a proposal for a meeting on the 26th of September but hasn't had any responses. Alternative dates will be circulated in the near future.
- 5.18 **PW** – Suggested it would be helpful to have pre-application meeting first between NCC and GP Planning/Bennies.
- 5.19 **JS** – Commented that the Buckton Fields applications are to be presented to the DDC Planning Committee on the 20th of October and that this could have a bearing on the site.
- 5.20 **Mark Laursen (ML)** – Undertook to forward LB potential dates for a pre-application meeting. (NB this has not been arranged for Tuesday 18th October).

6. **EA Update**

- 6.1 **PW** – Charles Phillipps obviously unable to attend but the outcome of the recent meeting with Boughton Parish, the EA and NCC has been discussed in the NCC update. Greg Oakes of the EA was going to write to Boughton Parish Council with a note of what was agreed.

7. **County Council Update –**

- 7.1 **PW** - Essentially covered NCC update already. Commented that the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) is now fully adopted. There is interest around the emerging National Policy Framework. In particular the draft document says little regarding waste as this is to be dealt with separately. Moving forward though, waste policy will likely continue to be based around Planning Policy Statement 10 and the MWDF.

8. **Pitsford Update**

- 8.1 **JB** – No change, the site remains closed. The relocation of Boughton Loam is still intended with Winter the best time to move. JB explained that Bennies are nowhere near ready to apply for planning permission. An agreement is in place with Moulton College

for the college to work with the land management company to maintain the grass and woodland.

- 8.2 **RJ** – Confirmed that work with Moulton College has started.
- 8.3 **JS** – Explained that motorbikes continue to be an issue on site with three having been caught to date. Commented that the Police have been very proactive.
- 8.4 **RJ** – Noted the Police now have a key to the gates. Damage has occurred to walls on site.

9. Other Matters

- 9.1 **JC** – Asked about thefts from the Boughton site.
- 9.2 **RJ** – Explained that 14 batteries were stolen in an hour at 4am one night at a total cost to Bennies of about £3,000. Diesel has been stolen too.
- 9.3 **JB** – Commented that theft is a problem facing all sites. CCTV is only so good. You can see thieves but they cover their faces so can't be identified.
- 9.4 **PW** – Raised the issue around the recent practice of parking vehicles at the top of the access road.
- 9.5 **RJ** – Responded that lorry drivers park there out of the way.
- 9.6 **JC** – Commented that Boughton Parish don't want it to be seen as an industrial site and that the quarry floor provides a better location.
- 9.7 **RJ** – Responded that parking at the top of the access road is not essential.
- 9.8 **PW** – Wouldn't want this practice to continue in the long term as the idea was to landscape and screen the site from views from surrounding land.
- 9.9 **MS** – Asked if the 4 acre site proposed would match the existing quarry floor area.
- 9.10 **JB** – Yes, approximately.
- 9.11 **GPoole** – Asked if the site would be fenced.
- 9.12 **JB** – Yes.
- 9.13 **PW** – Commented that the ground at the top would be planted.
- 9.14 **JC** – Boughton Parish accept the principle of recycling but don't want to see an industrial site.
- 9.15 **MS** – Noted that the appearance of the new development would be important to local residents.
- 9.16 **PW** – Required woodland planting would contribute to further screening.

9.17 **Derek Bland (DB)** – Raised the issue of HGVs travelling between Boughton and Rugby speeding through Chapel Brampton.

9.18 **RJ** – Asked DB to note the colour and inform him so Bennies can act.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 A date for an extraordinary meeting re the new proposals for the site is to be set, perhaps late October but certainly post October 20th and the DDC Committee meeting re Buckton Fields.

10.2 The next LLG meeting is set for **Monday 26th March 2012 at 6pm on site.**

10.3 **RJ** – Provided his mobile number for operational matters cropping up in between meetings (07795265314).