Thornhaugh Liaison Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 3 September 2014

The Haycock Hotel, Wansford.

Present

Alan Jones **(AJ)**	Peterborough City Council
Kevin Burton **(KB)**	Environment Agency
Richard Clarke **(RC)**	Wansford Parish Council
Martin Witherington**(MW)**	Thornhaugh Parish Council
Hally Hardie**(HH)**	Leicester Road Thornhaugh
Gene Wilson **(GW)**	Augean
Simon Moyle Augean **(SM)**	Augean
Eleanor Nicholson **(EN)**	Jennings Nicholson for Augean
Sorrel Wilson**(SW)**	Jennings Nicholson for Augean

- **Matters arising**

  It was agreed that any matters arising would be dealt with under the other points on the agenda.

- **Site Update**

  SM reported that:

  - A new gas collection system had been installed. It has telemetric capabilities that mean that data can be remotely monitored.
  - The pipework for the gas collection system would be upgraded in the next month. Piping degrades over a period of time and becomes brittle; the new piping will minimise ingress of any landfill gas.
  - This autumn would see woodland planting which would provide further screening of the site and the connecting footpath from the A47 to Bedford Purlieus installed. **HH** was happy to volunteer to help with the planting.
  - Leachate levels were in compliance at the site. Sometimes the leachate is tankered off and used in the soil treatment plant at ENRMF.
  - Jennie Argent had settled into her new role as Deputy Site Manager and had liaised with **HH** with regard to odour dust and debris problems.

  MW asked if the culverts could be cleaned out. Dust was accumulating and blocking the culvert that runs through Cooks Hole creating a pool of water on the highway. This was sometimes up to 4 inches deep and could have an adverse effect on the road as there was a risk of aquaplaning.

  AJ said that he would check back and see if any reports had been received by the Highways Department at Peterborough City Council.

GW said that he would feed the information back to John Gough at Mick George who has a contractual obligation to ensure that the road is clean.

- **Thornhaugh Planning Update**

  - **GW** reported that under previous ownership of the site, Phases 1 and 2 were largely not engineered and had been filled with non-hazardous waste using old methods of landfill management called 'Disperse and Attenuate'. This practice no longer complies with the Landfill Directive and has been superseded by the principle of engineered landfill containment.

  - The long term arrangements for the site had been the subject of discussion with the Environment Agency for some time. The Environment Agency had conducted a review of closed landfills and there was a need to comply with the Landfill Directive requirement for historic landfills to be brought to full closure by March 2015.

  - **KB** commented that the closure programme was intended to bring all Disperse and Attenuate sites into modern standards of control.

  - Augean had now developed a site closure plan detailing how the company intends to manage Phases 1 and 2 in the aftercare phase. The company had undertaken to provide a restoration scheme for Phases 1 and 2 as part of the 2012 planning permission. The proposed solution at that point in time was to overfill Phases 1 and 2 subject to Augean undertaking site investigations.

  - The site investigations had taken place in late 2013 in consultation with the Environment Agency. These investigations in the form of digging a number of trial pits and boreholes had allowed the company to fully understand the emplaced wastes, which were principally non-hazardous wastes which had been backfilled with mineral waste some of which was clean mineral and some contaminated. There was very little odour and any litter was compacted.

  - It was considered that overfilling creates additional risks of pollution during the operational phase and only results in a partial reduction of risk in the long term. Augean concluded the better solution is to remove the old waste deposited in Phases 1 and 2 and to place it in properly engineered landfill cells elsewhere in Thornhaugh Landfill. Protocols would need to be worked through to ensure that moving the waste was safe. It was anticipated that work would start on the construction of Phase 7 in 2015.

  - The area that is now Phases 1 and 2 would be engineered to modern standards and landfilled in accordance with the currently approved final restoration levels and an amended overall phasing plan. The proposals require planning permission from Peterborough City Council and a variation in the Environmental Permit which is authorised by the Environment Agency.

- Quarry materials will be excavated and taken off-site to provide additional void space to which will generate revenue needed to make the scheme economically viable. Clean quarry materials that were excavated would be used to restore Cooks Hole. A planning permission to vary the restoration plan for Cooks Hole would need to be sought in additional to that for Thornhaugh Landfill.

- The preferred option secures the proper long term containment of wastes, removes the pollution risk and provides the most economically and environmentally viable solution to manage the site in the long term with confidence. While there would be an increase to the lifetime of the site this was off-set by restoring Cooks Hole so that it would not be landfilled. It would be restored to agriculture as is currently proposed.

- Certain aspects of the scheme still had to be finalised. These included increase to the lifetime of the site which was currently calculated at 6 years; alterations to the phasing of the site and moving access roads within the site particularly those to Cooks Hole as well as the restoration plan for the entrance area.

- **MW** and **HH** felt that it was important to maintain the frontage to the A47 so the site is screened off from Home Farm. **HH** suggested that the entrance area could be used as an access car park for Bedford Purlieus. **GW** was happy to give the ideas consideration.

- **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. There was no trace of lead.

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:** There are peaks in the data but probably due to operations at Cooks Hole.

- **Peterborough City Council Update**

  AJ reported that a new application was expected from Bullimores. This would be a stand alone application and not a ROMPP.

  RC MW and **HH** urged a vision of a cohesive restoration plan linking the sites at Thornhaugh. **HH** was keen to see the cycle path continued along from Thornhaugh II to Wansford. **AJ** commented that he felt that such a scheme would be the most desirable outcome and that he would like to establish a restoration plan which provided as much connectivity as possible. **GW** said that he would be pleased to help achieve this objective.

- **Environment Agency Update**

  KB reported that he had

  - Visited the site during the excavation of the trial pits and boreholes. He had observed that the waste present was inert materials; clays, spoil and hardcore with degraded waste. There was no drum waste and no bonded cement. The waste was not excessively odorous and relatively dry.
  - **May 2014** As parts of the site were reaching the point of completion of landfilling he had visited to ensure that it would be possible to achieve the final shaping prior to capping next year.
    August 2014 He had inspected the site roads and the surface water provision. The roads were well made and in good condition. The surface water run off had been checked. There were no issues to report. There was degraded plastic on the gas main which was shortly to be replaced. There were no issues with either input or amenity.

- **Any other business**

  GW invited the group to look around the exhibition and ask the professional team any further questions. He was happy to listen to any concerns or ideas.

- **Date of next meeting**

  It was proposed that a meeting should be arranged to take place once the planning application had been submitted to Peterborough City Council.