

Meeting Notes

Attending

Lewis Johnson - CEO / Director Johnsons Aggregates & Recycling Ltd

Paul Capell - Chairman Johnsons Aggregates & Recycling Ltd

CLlr David Connor - Whittlesey town council / FDC

Lynda Day and Alan Bessant - Saxongate residents group

Apologies – Cllr David Mason (Whittlesey mayor)

Discussion

This was an informal first meeting /introductions.

All parties agreed they wished to work together in a professional, open and positive way.

JARL stated that they wished to be good neighbours and work with the community.

JARL shared that there had been issues in finding staff locally. They advised there were currently 18-20 staff but the plan was for 30. In the short term they had been bringing in experienced management from other sites to help the start-up. Saxongate offered to issue some alternative agency options for their consideration.

HGV traffic travelling through Whittlesey was discussed at length. JARL advised that, aside from exceptional (road closure) circumstances, they were fully committed to a no right turn rule from the pit and agreed that the planning intent was that no HGV traffic should be going to or from their works via Whittlesey town. JARL advised that the site had GEO fencing and CCTV. They also advised that their trucks all had trackers and they had a strong information link with their subcontractors with actions already taken against drivers who ignored rules to travel via the town.

It was agreed that in future, consolidated issue reports could be sent direct to the JARL transport manager and that some form of regular report would be issued to residents showing the status of truck movements from the pit. Saxongate said it would be a positive step as residents are not aware of the number of journeys which do comply with the rules.

JARL confirmed that generators were currently in use during the day but their strong wish was for a mains supply as soon as it was possible from the controlling authority. They also said the company intended to invest in and fit solar panels to reduce energy usage. It was agreed some form of bulletin from JARL highlighting future improvement plans and possible timescales would be beneficial for building relations with the residents group.

JARL confirmed that none of their site activities produces ferrous dust.

JARL confirmed that the site would be ISO14001 compliant/audited. Saxongate asked them to consider sharing any significant findings (good and bad) to build trust and transparency.

JARL advised that automated noise monitoring (suggested by Saxongate) at the dust monitor location would not be a benefit but a new noise survey was underway.

Saxongate gave examples where they felt the current dust plan had not been fully implemented.

JARL advised that the site dust monitors were operational and that they would be sharing the data

Continued

Discussion - Continued

with the Environment Agency (EA). JARL said they were fully committed to achieving the permit/planning dust controls and asked for details of an incident (road sweeper) so it could be investigated as an example. Saxongate accepted there would be a learning curve during start up and noted the group had seen signs of investment/improvement in dust mitigation.

Saxongate said if issues were investigated and the outcomes/improvements and monitoring data shared, then that would build trust in the direction of travel as the site activity and the potential for dust increases.

Cllr Connor advised that there were now plans/a motion had been passed to implement dust monitoring in Whittlesey town.

Saxongate asked for confirmation of a proposed site visit date and noted a preference for a site walk-around rather than a bus tour. JARL advised they would need to check PPE needs but that may be possible.

JARL advised that the site office construction had been delayed due to supply chain issues, but that could be a venue for future liaison meetings once completed.

JARL advised that they were interested to find ways to help local charity organisations and schools supporting initiatives around recycling and protecting the environment.

Cllr Connor advised that the EA (Darren Smith or delegate) would look to attend future meetings.

It was agreed that it would be good to develop a direct feedback method so the residents group could raise issues to Johnsons rather than go via the EA or FDC. Only significant or unresolved issues would then need to be escalated. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Meeting ended around 3pm. All parties agreed it had been a positive first meeting.

Actions

JARL – Issue transport managers contact details and proposal for an HGV movement performance report.

Saxongate – Issue a list of recommended recruitment agencies to JARL.

Saxongate – Issue details of the reported road sweeper dust incident for investigation.

JARL – Consider an update bulletin proposal for the local residents.

JARL – To propose a date/format for a site visit, possibly October time.

All – Consider venue options for future liaison meetings.

JARL – Issue a set of meeting dates for future liaison meetings.