

## Members of the Johnsons Whittlesey Liaison Committee

At our first unofficial Liaison Committee Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July, Johnsons agreed to issue a periodic update to provide residents with some information on the progress we are making with the startup of our new facility and some of the challenges faced.

I am pleased to say that after an initial start up on 21 April 2022 we continue to make slow but positive progress in the commissioning of the plant.

Initial equipment reliability issues are slowly being overcome and we would hope to start performance testing of the equipment during September.

As with all new plants there are several challenges we have had to face:

- To date we still do not have a permanent power supply and indications from UK Power Networks suggest it will be April next year before this is resolved. In the meantime, we are using diesel generators, the main one of which has recently been upgraded to a “whisper quiet” generator to minimise any potential impact on the local community.
- The warm weather has also brought higher demand for water than has been available on site, and pending installation of an upgraded supply by Anglian Water (or rain!) we are making use of the lake at the top of the road with the full support of the EA.
- Office and welfare facilities for our staff have been delayed almost a year from when we originally expected them. We would hope to have these in place by October until which time we are making use of rental portacabins.
- Availability of quality local staff continues to be a challenge. We have a zero tolerance to drugs and alcohol on site and despite all staff being warned that we will carry out regular random testing we see up to 30% failure rate.

I am pleased to report that we currently employ 37 staff on site, the majority of which are locals.

Many of you had severe concerns regarding the impact our plant would have on additional lorry movements through the town. As we undertook at the time of submitting our planning application, Johnsons have implemented a strict policy to ensure all vehicles turn left at the top of the road away from the village, enforced by ANPR cameras and geofencing of all our lorries.

Not surprisingly it took a few weeks to bed this process in with our own drivers and subcontractors alike, but as time has gone on, we are pleased to report that we have good compliance. Any issues that do occur are reported to the Council Planning Enforcement Officer by our transport team. Apart from issues arising from road closures and accidents on Station Road, to the end of July I can advise that since starting the plant:

Subcontractor vehicles turning right – 6  
Johnsons own drivers turning right – 3

In accordance with our procedures, 2 Johnsons drivers have had their employment terminated because of their actions.



In the spirit of openness, we will continue to give periodic updates on this, but I would hope that these indiscretions further reduce over time.

Despite the abnormally warm weather, we believe we have managed site dust issues well. Our dust management plan sets a wind speed limit at which dust mitigation measures need to be implemented but despite this, during the warm weather we have always implemented full mitigation.

Some of you have sent in photographs of “dust” on site but on investigation (supported by video evidence) many of these cases are either not originated by us, steam rising from the IBA or water misting to minimise dust. We have not identified issues of dust escaping our boundary. As you may be aware, we have automatic boundary dust monitoring that we are required to report to the EA.

We have received 4 noise complaints through to the end of July; two relate to noise outside our permitted hours which we can demonstrate do not relate to our activities; one related to traffic routing addressed above and one for a noise source outside our boundary. I can report that unofficial testing of noise levels at the site boundaries and local receptors suggest that noise levels generated by Johnson’s equipment are within those permitted. We have an obligation to carry out a formal noise assessment for the EA once commissioning is complete and we will be able to report more fully by then.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and would welcome any feedback via the liaison committee which will meet twice a year

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Johnsons Aggregates and Recycling Limited