



Former Saxon Brickworks, Off Peterborough Road,
Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1PD

Local Liaison Committee 26th November 2024 – 1300 Hours
(On-site)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Paul Capell – Chairman, Johnsons Aggregates & Recycling Ltd (JARL) - PC
- Lewis Johnson – CEO, Johnsons Aggregates & Recycling Ltd - LJ
- James Watkins – Site Operations Manager, JARL - JW
- Stuart Hutchings – Operations Director, JARL - SH
- Trevor Burton – Head of compliance, JARL - TB
- Christian Smith – GP Planning - CS
- Deborah Jeakins – Cambridgeshire County Council - DJ
- Bill Field - Cambridgeshire County Council - BF
- Helen Wass - Cambridgeshire County Council - HW
- Laura Harwood – EHO, Fenland District Council- LH
- Cllr Dr. Haq Nawaz - Whittlesey East and The Villages, Fenland District Council - HN
- Cllr Jason Mockett - Whittlesey Town Council and District Councillor - JM
- Dougie Douglas – Team Leader Environment Agency- DD
- Oliver Howes – Environment Officer, Environment Agency – OH

Minutes

| Ref | Minute | Action By/Date |
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| 1.0 | <u>Appointment of Chair</u> Paul Capell appointed as Chairperson | |
| 2.0 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u> Cllr Chris Boden - Fenland District Council. Cllr Nawaz deputising | |
| 3.0 | <u>Terms of Reference</u> Circulated by email beforehand and as a hard copy during the meeting. Accepted as Terms of Reference to be used for all meetings. To avoid confusion, previous meetings held between JAR, Councillors and Saxongate representatives to be referred to as "Community Meetings". HN questioned as to whether it would be helpful to have local representatives at this meeting. DJ confirmed the attendees listed in the planning informative and advised that, noting the history of the | |

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| | <p>meetings that had already taken place, they would not be invited at this time. However, as the elected representative of the local community HN and JM would be well placed to feedback from these meetings to the local community.</p> <p>HN asked if a representative from St Andrews Ward should have been invited and TB explained that the email had been sent to the clerk at Whittlesey Town Council who circulated it to relevant councillors and Cllr Mockett (JM) had accepted, and Cllr Boden had sent his apologies.</p> | |
| 4.0 | Operational Update | |
| 4.1 | <p>PC provided an update on current JARL activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site operating well and stable • Workforce now stable after initial recruitment challenges. • JARL distributing feedstocks between its sites to minimise costs and leverage operational efficiencies across its business. • Solar PV installed at Whittlesey, but waiting on connection to mains transformer to allow use. • Still no wastewater connection available to site. • IBAA use achieving good traction across local construction projects. • A table of all complaints received by JARL was tabled. There was a discussion on the data and number of complaints. TB advised that these were external complaints reported to the company by the Environment Agency / Planning Authority (appended). There was a recognition there had been a reduction year on year of complaints and that very few had been upheld against JARL. • TB explained how the company uses 'My Compliance' to record all internal and external incidents and complaints including photographic evidence, which is used as part of the incident investigation process. All complaints received are fully investigated. | |
| 4.2 | <p>PC explained the JARL rationale in seeking an extension to planning and permitting at Whittlesey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JARL seeking additional IBA feedstock from other EfW's including the MVV plant at Wisbech. Current planning allows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport movements into and out of site 06:00-18:00 Monday to Friday, 08:00 – 13:00 Saturdays ○ External movement in the yard, including loading and repositioning of IBA, IBAA and C&D material between 06:00-22:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 18:00 on Saturdays ○ Building 1 permitted operations take place between 06:00 to 22:00 Monday to Friday including bank holidays and 08:00 – 18:00 on Saturdays | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building 2 permitted operations to take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including Sundays and Bank Holidays • JARL is only seeking to change operating hours in Building 1 to 24/7, Transport will continue to enter and leave the site in line with current hours approved. • To support these increased operating hours and the additional tonnage to be processed, JARL also seeking to increase the wall height around the site and the IBA/IBAA pile heights. • HN requested clarification as to the noise and dust impact of these activities on the local community. • PC advised that the noise impact has been extensively modelled and that this information is currently under review by the planning authorities. In short JARL did not consider there would be any negative impact on local amenity and it would comply with limits agreed with Planning. • In terms of dust, TB advised that extensive testing had shown that dust arising from JARL activities on site did not extend beyond the site boundary as evidenced by the EA. The additional tonnages and extended working hours proposed would not change this. • PC noted that a separate planning application would be submitted to cover Building 3 which would be used for material storage and not processing. • HN sort clarification as to other emissions that leave site. PC advised that all water is contained on site as a requirement of the Environment Permit, nothing leaves the site other than domestic waste, though we are investigating options for alternative disposal in case of emergency, subject to regulatory approvals. • HN stated he had found the explanations informative and had changed his understating of JARL operations on site and requested JARL engage with the local community to explain their plans in person. PC advised that the purpose of the "Community Engagement Committee" had been just that but feedback from Saxongate on the most recent meetings had been disappointing. JARL advised that any further community engagement would offer little benefit at this time. • JM emphasised that JARL activities were subject to EA permit and regulation and that the EA and Planning Authorities monitor to ensure activities are carried out as agreed. | |
| 5.0 | Other questions from committee members | |
| 5.1 | BF asked if there could be a method for the site to receive complaints directly. Direct phone numbers were discounted due to the level of abuse that had been received previously. An email address was proposed, and TB will make that available once established. | TB |
| 5.2 | HN raised the issue of different routes for complaints and did people in the community know how to complain. DJ explained that there has to be different reporting routes for each regulator: Cambridgeshire | |

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| | <p>County Council, Environment Agency and Fenland District Council and complaints can also be submitted directly to JARL.</p> <p>PC confirmed that if we received any complaints JARL would circulate these to the relevant body.</p> <p>DJ advised that substance was more important than volume of complaints and similarly the number of representations submitted about a planning application is not a material consideration. HN requested that the authorities and JARL should take steps to make people aware of the process. DJ and DD confirmed that the community are aware of the routes to send complaints.</p> <p>DD made the committee aware of the Citizen Space page on the internet (Welcome to Whittlesey Quarry (Saxon Pit) Site Community Briefing - Environment Agency - Citizen Space)</p> | |
| 5.3 | <p>JM expressed concerns about the future of Wisbech incinerator IBA coming through Whittlesey town. PC gave a commitment that if JARL were successful in winning the contract the material would not come through Whittlesey town centre and that the existing "no right turn" rules would remain in place.</p> | |
| 5.4 | <p>There was a discussion around the left-hand turn at the site access point onto the Peterborough Road and PC made it very clear that every driver is aware that they should turn left at the exit and drivers had been dismissed for failing to adhere to the site rule. PC also noted that although we will continue to commit to the left-hand turn at the Peterborough Road access and drivers will be dismissed if they do so, he was unable to commit on behalf of East Midlands Waste.</p> | |
| 6.0 | <p>Update from the Regulators (Cambs CC, EA & EHO)</p> | |
| 6.1 | <p>DJ confirmed that the planning application to vary the conditions is in progress.</p> | |
| 6.2 | <p>LH asked where the crushing and screening activity would take place on site and CS explained this to the group.</p> | |
| 6.3 | <p>DJ explained how the planning consultees had been asked to provide feedback. The public can also register to speak at the planning committee.</p> | |
| 6.4 | <p>DJ is proposing to do a virtual site meeting for the Councillors (noting that there are three current planning applications under consideration) but if members wanted to do a physical site visit that would be arranged. PC said it would be good for Council Committee members to see the site to understand the site context, but we would be guided by the council officers.</p> | DJ |
| 6.5 | <p>PC raised concern about being compared with other current planning applications and that it has led to confusion and misinformation amongst the community. JARL are an established entity, who just wants to be a good neighbour.</p> | |

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| 6.6 | There was a discussion around the planning committee dates and it was explained that the two other current applications may be heard at the February committee, and then CS discussed that the formal responses to the Reg 25 requests may take time to deliver and this may delay the committee meeting to a date in April. | DJ |
| 7.0 | AOB | |
| | It was agreed that a date for the next meeting should be in 6 months. No specific date was agreed. | PC |