

SAXON PIT METAL RECYCLING LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING 10:00 8th June 2026

Whittlesey Town Council Offices, Whittlesey

1. Apologies:

Roy Gerstner, Whittlesey Town and Fenland District Cllr
Sam Holder-Mark on behalf of the Environment Agency

2. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Boden welcomed attendees and invited those present to introduce themselves:

Cllr Chris Boden (CB) - Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Haq Nawaz (HN) - Fenland District Cllr
Cllr Peter Bibb (PB) - Whittlesey Town Cllr
Cllr Alec Branton (AB) - Whittlesey Town Cllr
Deborah Jeakins (DJ) - Manager Minerals and Waste Planning Cambridgeshire County Council
Laura Harwood (LH) - Senior Environmental Health Officer Fenland District Council
John Harris (JH) - Whittlesey resident
Ron Dalby (RD) - Whittlesey resident
Robert Bonnington (RB) - Saxongate
Steve Hodson (SH) – Saxongate
Alan Bessant (ABes) – Saxongate
Lynette Ellingford (LE) - Whittlesey resident
Tony Ellingford (TE) – Saxongate
Stephen Rice (SR) - East Midlands Waste Management

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

SR proposed CB to chair and HN as Vice Chair. This was accepted by all.

4. Discuss and Agree Terms of Reference including the roles that attendees will be expected to fulfil and codes of conduct.

CB referred to the approved Saxon Pit Metal Recycling Liaison Group Scheme VR2 dated 11 February 2026 (copy appended to minutes), which sets out the proposed terms of reference. PB suggested questions for the operator should be submitted in advance to meetings. CB referred to item 1 of the TOR. SR confirmed that if the operator cannot provide immediate response to questions raised, they will respond in a timely fashion following the meeting via email to the group. This should negate the need for questions

being submitted in advance.

ABes raised the planning need for a similar group for the southern buttress and to what degree both meetings could coincide. SR and DJ confirmed a liaison group for the southern buttress was required under planning condition but this must be kept separate. TE questioned how the group would communicate with the wider public. CB confirmed this was up to the community representatives. JH questioned whether the group would have enforcement powers. CB confirmed the group's purpose is for communication, not for enforcement but pointed out the regulators who are responsible for enforcement are on the group. DJ reiterated that this group is only concerned with the metals recycling and that if there are matters to be raised relating to the wider site there are other forums in existence to allow this. PB requested that substitutes should be allowed for group members. This was agreed.

(8) will be added to the terms of reference that states:

- 8. If the appointed representatives are not able to attend a scheduled liaison group meeting, they will be able to appoint a substitute and will notify the Chair and the operator prior to the meeting.

Having agreed the terms of reference and the roles attendees will be expected to fulfil there was a brief discussion on which of those present from the community would be selected as the three community representatives. The following were selected:

ABes representing Saxongate.
RD who lives on Peterborough Road.
LE who lives on Priors Road.

CB confirmed that all present could remain for the rest of the meeting but that in future only members of the group would attend.

There followed a discussion on the minutes and their circulation. DJ reiterated that when sharing the minutes with the wider community it was important that the members of the group must not misrepresent or alter the facts as recorded in the approved minutes.

CB was keen that minutes should be circulated in draft for comment and approval to ensure the community do not have to wait 3 months for the minutes. SR confirmed that minutes would be prepared swiftly following the meeting and circulated to the group for comment which should be made via email to SR, who would then amend the minutes if the comments were valid and recirculate the amended draft which could be then circulated more widely on the understanding that they were draft minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

PB confirmed group members should be free to state their opinions if they make it clear it is their opinion and not a consensus and must not publish anything that is factually incorrect.

ABes suggested recording meetings which could then be used and transcribed into minutes. SR happy to record the meeting, however using AI transcription not necessary, SR will ensure that draft minutes are circulated swiftly following the meeting. HN also reiterated by reference to comments made by DJ that when circulating the minutes to the wider community, those present on the group must not play politics and must provide a fair representation and evaluation when circulating the minutes.

5. Operator Update

SR confirmed there was no metals recycling taking place as UKPN had still not reinstalled mains electricity supply. ABes requested that the group be informed when the metals recycling was to commence as this would help to prevent unnecessary rumours. DJ confirmed that the operator is obliged to notify the Council under condition within 7 days of starting processing. SR confirmed this would happen and then the group can be notified that this has happened.

ABes questioned the proposed tonnage to be processed questioning whether JAR (source) was generating sufficient material to fulfil the 75,000 tonnes permitted.

SR explained that the 75,000 tonnes figure has been used as this is the maximum tonnage figure allowed under the Environment Agency permit and the application had used the same figure for consistency.

ABes requested that the operator provides the group with details of the tonnage that had been processed. Both SR and DJ agreed that this information will not be published to the group as it would be unhelpful if it was used to suggest a lower level of processing might continue.

ABes requested that the group be allowed to carry out a site visit. SR explained this would not be possible, following further discussion SR agreed to discuss the possibility of taking a video of the recycling machinery in operation with the operator with a view to sharing with the group and will report back.

ABes questioned whether there was a prohibition on vehicles exporting metal from the site, turning right into Whittlesey. DJ confirmed Condition 21 of the planning permission prohibits right hand turns. (Copy of Planning Permission appended to minutes)

LE questioned working hours. DJ confirmed the operational hours of 7 am to 5 pm weekdays, with no working at weekends or bank holidays.

ABes questioned whether mobile plant would be allowed to operate outside these working hours. SR confirmed there will be no mobile plant working outside permitted working hours.

6. Regulators Update

DJ confirmed that all pre-commencement conditions have been discharged. The Council had not yet received a start date notification.

CB questioned how regularly the Council check throughput. DJ confirmed checks would be proportionate to the risk/harm. Also confirmed their enforcement officer had moved onto another post so had limited resources at present.

SR confirmed that the EA monitors volumes processed at the site.

7. Community Representatives Update

ABes raised concerns regarding the metals to be recycled. Will there be any risk of dust generated from the processing, what is the material, how are the operators able to assist with the concerns of the community.

SR confirmed he would discuss with the operator and whether it would be possible to provide a photograph of the material that is being recycled. SR also confirmed that all of the operation takes place within the building which is now re-clad and therefore all dust will be contained within the building, although the material that is being recycled comes in fairly clean from JAR having already been through the first process of their recycling. An approved Dust Management Plan is also in place.

CB confirmed that there should be no problem with community putting out positive feedback following the Liaison Group meeting.

It was confirmed that there is permission for 18 vehicles in and 18 vehicles out per day. As the material is sourced from the adjacent operator and would have been exported anyway the metals recycling does not generate any new vehicle movements.

As previously discussed, Condition 21 requires all vehicles leaving the site to turn left. ABes questioned whether all vehicles associated with metals recycling could be fitted with trackers. SR confirmed that vehicles exporting metals from site were either provided by the purchasers or third party contractors and there was no way to guarantee that they were all fitted with trackers.

CB raised the issue of back loads and whether the operators were ensuring that as many back loads (i.e. vehicles delivering material to the site are also used for export) as possible are achieved. SR explained that materials delivering soils and clays were most likely to be returning for further loads and construction sites work to a tight schedule and therefore it would not be practical to divert lorries to deliver recycled metals.

LH confirmed that if metals were being exported, they may be leaving from the port of Sutton Bridge on the river Nene. SR will check where the exported metals are being transported to for export and report back.

8. Matters Arising and 9. Any Other Business

These items were dealt with as one.

SR questioned whether it would be possible for the same group of people forming the Metals Liaison Group could also form the Phase 2 Buttress Liaison Group. CB was happy with this. DJ confirmed that under the terms of the condition, the operator was obliged to advertise as had been done for this group. SR confirmed this would be done. ABes reiterated that substitutions would make the operation of the groups easier. CB and SR confirmed that if substitutions were to be made both the Chair (CB) and SR should be notified prior to the meeting. This can be done following circulation of the Agenda prior to meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

11 am 14 September 2026 at Peel House, Whittlesey. The inaugural meeting of the Phase 2 Buttress Liaison Group will take place at 10 am on the same date at the same location. SR will advertise the Buttress Liaison Group in accordance with the agreed scheme under the planning condition.