**Allington Quarry Integrated Waste Management Facility**  
**Community Liaison Committee Notes**

**Meeting** 6 September 2012 at Allington Quarry Integrated Waste Management Facility

**Attending**
- Brian White (Chair)  
- Environment Agency  
- Alan Peglar  
- Councillor John Balcombe  
- Alan Tatum  
- Councillor Dan Daley  
- Myra Farrer  
- Councillor Peter Homewood  
- Bob Napthine  
- Dennis Thran (KEL)  
- Jabbar Neseyif  
- Trevor Ellis (KEL)  
- Malcolm Howell  
- Emma Jordan (PPS Group, minutes)  
- John Russell  
- David Severn  
- Paul Hewitt  
- Maidstone Environmental Health  
- Tonbridge & Malling Environmental Health  
- Kent County Council Waste Management

**Apologies**
- Councillor Dave Smith, Alan Cansdale (Environment Agency)

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**Action points are noted in bold**

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

All attending introduced themselves.

BW opened the meeting by expressing his sorrow at the untimely death of committee member Councillor Malcolm Robertson whose knowledge of the waste sector was unparalleled outside of the industry. Councillor Robertson had been a valued member of the committee since it began meeting in 2004, adding a great deal to meetings through his knowledge and ability to interpret statistics and ask searching questions. The committee agreed that the chair would write to Councillor Robertson’s widow on their behalf to express their condolences and a minute’s silence was held in honour of Councillor Robertson to enable members to reflect on their memories of him.

**BW to write to Mrs Robertson on behalf of the Committee.**

2. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

As above.

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The committee agreed the minutes of the previous meeting.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Kent Enviropower provided the Committee with an update on the facility:

- Kent Enviropower’s parent company has rebranded and now goes under the FCC brand.
- The facility is fully operational with the turbine on load without restriction. During the warmer weather the turbine ran more slowly during the day as the ambient temperature was too high to condense the steam when at full capacity.
• The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) continues to operate at full load but in the current economic climate the market for outputs has been dropping, and they are being sold at lower prices.

• MRF outputs from May to August 2012 were 8,274 tonnes and waste inputs for the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility from May to August 2012 were 119,320 tonnes.

• The efficiency of the EfW facility had improved – to date in 2012 each line has processed around 20.8 tonnes of waste per hour, compared with around 20.1 tonnes per hour in 2009. The design load for the facility is 21.37 tonnes per hour but whilst efficiency has improved, the facility will not reach full load. This is in part due to a change in the composition of waste coming into the facility following the introduction of organic waste collections. The waste coming into the facility now has a higher energy content and it therefore produces more energy from the waste for export to the national grid.

• Electricity output from May to August 2012 was 47,248,000 Kilowatts.

• Under the planning permission for the facility, 296 truck movements are permitted per day. In August average truck movements per day were 122. Truck movements peak late morning and early afternoon as dust carts finish their collection rounds. In order to minimise queuing, KEL has shared this information with waste transfer stations to encourage them to send their vehicles to the facility outside of peak times.

• In terms of health and safety, 2,611 near misses in the MRF waste stream have been recorded since the last meeting as a result of people placing hazardous items in their recycling collections. These included 1,690 syringes, 231 saws and 303 knives, as well as 191 dead animals.

• There had been 4 reportable incidents since the previous meeting and 20 injury accidents.

• 13 complaints had been received from May to August. Of the 13 complaints, 9 related to odour, 1 to litter, 2 to a visible plume from the stack and 1 to vehicles queuing outside of the facility. Kent Enviropower had found 6 of the complaints to be justified based on their interpretation (for odour complaints this is based on the wind direction).

• The number of odour complaints received in 2012 is significantly down on previous years. Similarly, no fly complaints have been received in 2012 which is a marked improvement on previous years.

• Kent Enviropower pick litter inside the site boundary up to the entrance. Outside of the site, the borough councils are responsible for clearing litter and because the borough boundary lies near to the facility Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is responsible for the road into the 20/20 estate but Maidstone Borough Council is responsible for most of the roads on the estate itself.

• 18 exceedences of the facility’s half hourly limit and 1 exceedence of the facility’s daily limit for carbon monoxide were reported to the meeting. A brief spike in carbon monoxide over a single half hourly period led to the exceedence of the facility’s daily limit. This was linked to a combustion issue, e.g. a large piece of waste entering the boiler. The daily average emission from the facility is usually 10-20mg/m³ but the fluidised bed technology employed at the facility is prone to short but high spikes of carbon monoxide. The fast acting nature of the technology is such that by the time a spike in carbon monoxide is detected by the emissions monitoring equipment in the stack, the combustion issue in the boiler will have resolved.
Overall, to date 2012 has seen a significant reduction in the number of schedule 1 emissions reports to the Environment Agency but there is still room for improvement.

Three environmental events were reported to the Environment Agency – one instance of no power to the facility, one occasion when all three lines of the energy from waste facility were down (this was a short period caused by the failure of a piece of equipment common to all three lines) and an instance of the emissions monitoring (CEMS) equipment ranging. There has been one set of emissions monitoring equipment per line of the EfW facility but KEL is installing a new, more flexible reporting system.

103 staff are employed at the facility plus agency and contractor staff as required.

Kent Enviropower has recently paid £176,000 to Kent County Council for the nature conservation area.

In response to the presentation committee members’ comments included:

A way to help people understand that what they may sometimes see above the facility’s stack isn’t smoke is to explain that if there is a gap between the stack and the plume then it cannot be smoke. It is instead water vapour and its visibility depends on the ambient temperature.

There has been muck spreading on local fields recently but any odour and flies are always blamed on the facility.

The significant reduction in odour complaints is a move in the right direction.

Subjectively, there have been fewer flies in the area generally this year.

Maidstone Borough Council Environmental Health reported that the council has received very few complaints about litter on or around the 20/20 Estate. It has found no evidence to link any litter to the facility and there may be other factors involved including other activities on the Estate. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Environmental Health concurred.

The planting in the nature conservation area appears to be growing slowly. It would be useful to have information on the survival rate of the trees and any information on wildlife surveys of the area.

In response to questions and comments from committee members, Kent Enviropower explained that:

The separation of organic food waste from the waste coming into the facility has played a role in reducing fly numbers together with an enhanced monitoring and control system.

Kent Enviropower operates a three strike policy for drivers that arrive at the facility with their loads unsheeted – on the first occasion they are warned, on the second occasion they are threatened with being banned from the site and on the third occasion, they may be banned.

The tree planting in the conservation area is regularly maintained.

When syringes or other non-conforming items are found in the MRF waste stream, the belt is stopped, the item is photographed and a picture is sent to Kent County Council who are working with pharmacies and other healthcare professionals on the issue.

In response to a question from a committee member, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Environmental Health explained that it operates a separate collection for food and green waste which is taken to the Blaise Farm facility. The council may investigate a food waste only collection.
BW to send most recent survey of the nature conservation area by Eric Filp and Tony Harwood to Councillor Dan Daley.

KEL to obtain statistics on the number of trees planted that have survived.

KEL to obtain further information on the £176,000 sum paid to Kent County Council. Kent County Council waste management will also look into this.

Kent County Council gave the following update:

- A dedicated team with a significant work programme is focussed on clinical waste as a whole, which is not acceptable in black bag or recycling collections.

- There is a large programme of intervention involving all of the relevant agencies who look at the type of syringes found, what they were used for and if it was their intended use, and attempt to identify the source.

The Environment Agency gave the following update:

- In terms of complaints about the facility made directly to the Agency there had been one in May, none in June, two in July and two in August.

- The Agency had not received any fly complaints related to the facility this year and were pleased with the monitoring and control systems in place. The removal of putrescible waste from the waste stream will have had an impact.

- The Agency reported that there had been fewer amenity breaches at the facility this year.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th January 2012 at 5.30pm.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Community Fund

Two bids were received for the community fund, one from St Nicholas’ Church and one from Cross Roads Care West Kent. The committee resolved to grant £250 in support of each of the bids, using up the fund for the 2012 calendar year.

Kent County Council Contract

In response to a question from a committee member, Kent County Council explained that there were two ways that the Kent County Council contract could start – either Kent Enviropower could nominate a date or there is a threshold for the tonnage of waste processed in a three month period, which if passed, would trigger the start of the contract. The contract term is 25 years and once it begins, Kent County Council would be required to bring in higher levels of waste each day. The current situation allows more flexibility and up until now it’s been in Kent County Council’s interest that the contract hasn’t commenced, and it is therefore happy to continue with this at the present time.
Energy

Kent Enviropower reported that it continues to investigate introducing a live wire connection to enable it to supply electricity directly to the 20/20 estate. This would be mutually beneficial as the recipients would pay a reduced rate for the electricity and Kent Enviropower would receive more than they currently do from selling it to brokers.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.