



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

18th August 2022, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Cllr Garnet Marshall, Middlewich Town Council	GM
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM

Other Attendees:

Megan Bowyer, PA to Kevin Melling (Minutes)	MB
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Apologies Received:

Cllr Mike Hunter, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	MH
Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT
Cllr Graham Orme, Middlewich Town Council	GO

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>2.1 The Minutes from the meeting on 28th April 2022 were approved as an accurate and correct record.</p> <p>2.2 Matters Arising KM reported he had no further update on winter gritting of Warmingham Lane nor had he heard any results from the CEC gritting review.</p> <p>There was nothing further to report on the minor incident in the Waste Transfer Station which was reported at the last meeting.</p> <p>We will arrange a visit to the site for those who wish to view the hydrogen plant in the autumn; this had been delayed due to annual leave absences. Action MB</p> <p>PC reported that no more Ansa vehicles have been seen taking shortcuts through local estates. He also advised that the traffic weight limit signs, referred to as being in a poor state at the last meeting, have now been replaced throughout the town.</p> <p>SM reported that the bin delivery issue reported at the last meeting is now resolved.</p>	MB

	<p>JT's action re publishing of a more detailed explanation about missed bin collections on the Ansa website is still going ahead and should appear in the next couple of months.</p> <p>In this year's financial report covering trading year 21/22 KM intends to include details about R&D and the amount of reserves to address GM's point made at the last meeting.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Operational Update</p> <p>KM reported that Ansa, in line with other companies, is currently experiencing problems with recruitment, especially HGV drivers. A Recruitment Open Day was held on site a few weeks ago which generated interest in the vacancies and led to filling of some posts.</p> <p>We are continuing to work with the community supporting the Middlewich FAB event and sponsoring several other local initiatives including sports teams.</p> <p>Last week during the heatwave residents started to experience unpleasant odours which they attributed to the Ansa site. The reports were investigated, and it was concluded that they were transient odours from vehicles leaving the site. We worked with our supply chain partner who disinfect their vehicles and regularly arrange for them to be washed at Lymm truck stop.</p> <p>On Wednesday this week (17th) odours from the site were experienced and reported and we believe these are due to the very hot temperatures and the humidity experienced within the transfer station buildings, which has degraded the carbon in the filters sooner than usual. We have increased the frequency of the filter replacement previously and they are now replaced every 3 to 4 months instead of annually which was the original plan.</p> <p>The next replacement was in the diary for early September, but we have now asked the supplier if they can bring this forward to next week. KM feels that frequency is right now, although the recent very hot weather has caused a slightly faster degradation. Our goal is to have the filters changed as soon as possible to minimise the odour for residents. The weather has changed and cooled and currently the odour has disappeared, but we still want to replace the carbon as soon as possible. He reiterated that we do monitor it on a monthly basis.</p> <p>SM asked how this compares with other facilities using the system. KM advised that there is insufficient data available to perform a comparison as a lot of facilities similar to ours don't have filtration systems installed. We are aware that it is used in the food industry e.g. by curry manufacturers, but it works differently in those environments.</p> <p>We are currently responding through social media to address people's concerns.</p> <p>PC remarked that when the odours were causing problems a few days ago referral to the Environment Agency was suggested. Are they aware of the work being done to reduce the problem? KM confirmed this was correct and advised that when there have been complaints, we bring this to their attention. Ansa has a set regime where we do regular checks and an employee has had their nose calibrated to pick up odours.</p>	

	<p>GM asked why it takes members of the public to tell Ansa there is a smell? KM responded that this is not the case with site smells although we are not aware of smells emanating from vehicles passing through the town and do act on reports provided by members of the public. He went onto to say that he is hopeful that once the by-pass is open, vehicles leaving our site with waste will no longer need to travel through the town. He explained the process Ansa has gone through in order to get the frequency re change of filters correct and that it is the extreme hot weather that's caused the problems.</p> <p>An open door in the transfer station was mentioned. KM explained that the odour would not be due to an open door as there is negative pressure in the building, and when a door is open, air is sucked in rather than expelled out. A brief discussion followed regarding the way that the negative pressure works. KM confirmed that the air is being sucked through and then expelled through the filters and the ventilation system. Chambers are partitioned off and the air passes through them and a series of channels/silos with carbon pellets.</p> <p>SM was pleased to hear that once the by-pass opens the vehicles will no longer need to travel through the town and that should eliminate the passing odours from vehicles. KM confirmed that our own vehicles should be able to turn right on Cledford Lane and join the by-pass. Our partners' articulated vehicles can't do that because of the bridge so they will need to turn left and go towards Sandbach to join the by-pass at a roundabout along Booths Lane.</p> <p>GO asked about the weakest point in the system. KM responded that in his opinion getting the frequency re change of carbon pellets correct. When it was installed, it wasn't expected that the pellets would need to be changed more than once a year and it's only through experience and learning that we have improved the schedule. We test monthly and have now scheduled changes for every 3 to 4 months which we believe is correct for the seasonal conditions experienced, although extremely hot weather effects will be taken into account within future schedules.</p>	
4	<p>Project Vanguard Update</p> <p>KM advised that this is still not fully functional. It is cutting-edge technology and a fantastic initiative based on sound principles. The equipment is on site to produce the hydrogen and the refuse collection vehicles have been converted. However, there are minor teething problems with the electronics which our multi-agency partners are working to resolve, and this is outside Ansa's control.</p> <p>Should we go live in between meetings we will let group members know. We do feel that hydrogen is the energy efficient answer for HGVs with smaller vehicles being able to run effectively on electricity.</p>	
5	<p>Middlewich Community Matters</p> <p>5.1 Site Odours - already discussed in agenda item 3 above.</p> <p>5.2 Ansa Waste Streams explanation to inform Middlewich TC response to CEC Minerals and Waste Plan – We understand that GO is preparing a response to the draft CEC plan on behalf of Middlewich TC and this will then be going out to consultation when members of the community will be asked to comment on it. As GO was not</p>	

	<p>able to attend this meeting KM will contact him separately to check if he has the information he needs from Ansa. Action KM</p> <p>KM advised that the Ansa site does not expect to be impacted particularly by that plan, but our operations will be affected by the government’s National Waste Strategy. This is likely to impact on two of our waste streams – (i) the brown bin where people are encouraged to add food, but the new national standard is for food to be collected separately and (ii) the silver bin which we believe is a great system. We don’t have separate containers for different types of recycling but understand that the government will be introducing them and that anything fibre-related (paper and cardboard) will be collected separately in a separate bin and separate collection.</p> <p>Landfill is no longer an option and the energy from waste site used by Ansa has sufficient capacity outside the borough to continue to accept our residual waste. GM asked how much goes to landfill. KM reported less than 2%.</p> <p>On site there is a small building which holds co-mingled recyclate which has negligible odour. That goes to Shotton where it is sorted and processed. The larger building takes black bin and HWRC waste which is shredded on site and is then loaded and taken to the energy from waste site. The goal is to keep shrinking that by extracting as much as possible that can be recycled. Food has been taken out and 8,000 tonnes was diverted to the Leighton composting site last year together with green waste.</p> <p>SM commented that more collections will result in more carbon and more hassle for residents. KM agreed. At the moment Ansa representing Cheshire East, is in the Top Five performers nationally regarding recycling but the new rules could cause some disruption in the early stages when it is introduced.</p> <p>5.3 Communication with Middlewich Residents. GM referred to his comments at his first meeting in April requesting better explanations and communications. He thought it would be a good idea to pro-actively contact residents with a news item explaining what Ansa has done to combat the odour problems. KM agreed. He explained that the Communications team is about to publish some detail on social media, but he would also speak with them to investigate putting more information on the Ansa website also. Action KM.</p> <p>5.4 Removal of old planters on Wheelock Street – GM advised that McCarthy Stone has built a brand-new complex of luxury apartments for the over 55s and are looking to replace four large planters on Wheelock Street. Is there any lifting equipment to take the four old ones away before the new ones arrive? KM responded that we are always keen to help where we can and asked if GM could provide photos and critical dates so that KM could attempt to arrange their removal. Action GM</p> <p>5.5 New RCVs without ID numbers - PC advised that he has noticed Ansa has several new 22 plate vehicles, but they do not have the ID numbers on them yet. They’ve been around for a few months now so can they have numbers. Action KM to arrange.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>KM</p>
6	Any Other Business	

<p>Middlewich Junior Cricket Team - MB mentioned that Ansa is proud to sponsor the team. Next week they have been chosen to provide a guard of honour at Old Trafford for the test match between England and South Africa so they may appear on tv.</p> <p>October Meeting - MB reminded members that the group scheduled meetings are quarterly in January, April, July and October on the last Thursday of these months. Unfortunately, the next meeting falls during October half-term week and causes problems with attendance. It was agreed to move the date to 3rd November on this occasion. Action MB to amend invitations</p>	MB
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The meeting closed at 18.33. Next meeting to be held on Thursday, 3rd November at 17.30.