

Hauxton Consultative Committee Meeting,

The Mezzanine, South Cambridge District Council Offices

Thursday 16th December 2010

Attendance: Jennie Daly (**JD**), Harrow Estates plc (**HE**) (**part**)
Mark Nicholls (**MN**), Harrow Estates plc (**HE**) (**Secretary**)
Mark Smith (**MAS**), Atkins (**ATK**)
Steve Edgar (**SE**), Vertase FLI (**VFLI**)
Cllr Janet Lockwood (**JL**), South Cambridgeshire District Council

(SCDC) (Chair)

Tony Allison (**TA**), Hauxton Parish Council (**HPC**)
Susan Walford (**SW**), South Cambridgeshire District Council (**SCDC**)
Eileen Young (**EY**), Environment Agency (**EA**)
Cllr Gail Kenney (**GK**), Cambridgeshire County Council (**CCC**)
Kate King (**KK**), Health Protection Agency (**HPA**)
Steve Hampson (**SH**), South Cambridgeshire District Council (**SCDC**)
Matthew Sharpe (**MS**), Cambridgeshire County Council (**CCC**)
Cllr Tony Orgee (**TO**), Cambridgeshire County Council (**CCC**)

Also in Attendance: Emma Lowther (**EL**), South Cambridgeshire District Council (**SCDC**)

Apologies: Joseph Whelan (**JW**), Cambridgeshire County Council (**CCC**)

1. Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from JW and MS was attending in his place.
- 1.2 MN informed the meeting that JD has been delayed in her journey due to bad weather conditions but would arrive late.
- 1.3 Round the table introductions were made for the benefit of MS

2. Review of Actions since the Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting dated 21st October had been received by all and accepted.
- 2.2 SH had made contact with HauxAir following the previous meeting and JL informed the meeting that she had received an email to be discussed later in the agenda.

- 2.3 An action was noted against SE in relation to item 4.4 of the previous minutes regarding the monitoring of workers and consideration to be given to the reporting of the health of workers on site. This action remains outstanding.

SE

Action

3. Progress on Site

- 3.1 SE undertook a brief PowerPoint presentation to refresh understanding and to demonstrate progress on the site in the period.
- 3.2 Photographs were displayed showing the changes to the site on a month by month basis since the commencement of the project.
- 3.3 SE provided some facts and figures relating to the remediation works to date as follows:
- 3.3.1 Now 38 weeks into the 80 Week programme.
- 3.3.2 The first phase of excavation works is nearing completion and work remains on programme.
- 3.3.3 44,000 Man hours have been worked on site since we started in March 2010.
- 3.3.4 Excavation of the main factory and manufacturing areas has been completed.
- 3.3.5 So far over 82,000m³ of soil has been excavated, processed and are in treatment.

- 3.3.6 Over 30,000m³ of soil has been remediated and is stockpiled on site for re-use in the future.
- 3.3.7 Over 60 Million litres of contaminated water have been collected and treated.
- 3.3.8 Over 1700 Soil samples have been taken and analysed.
- 3.3.9 Environmental conditions have been assessed off-site over 460 times during the works so far.
- 3.3.10 Over 3000 PID measurements have been taken off site.
- 3.3.11 363 24hr air samples have been taken from around the site and at the boundaries.
- 3.3.12 Over 100 long term (28 day) air samples have been taken from locations around the site and in the community.
- 3.4 Activities have reduced on site significantly as the movement and turning of treatment beds has now ceased for the time being due to the cold and wet weather conditions.
- 3.5 Other works undertaken include trial pitting in advance of the excavation in order to plan future works and assess odours in advance. The areas reviewed in particular related to the former car park near Mill House and the area around the former high bay warehouse.
- 3.6 The soil material identified during the trial pitting was noted to be less contaminated, exhibited a lower level of VOC and was less odorous than encountered during the main initial excavation. The material was also noted as impacted to generally shallower depths suggesting it would be quicker to excavate these areas.

- 3.7 The bentonite wall had also been investigated and samples removed for testing. The samples tested have indicated that the wall has performed as designed and has absorbed chemical impact preventing it from entering the Riddy Brook.
- 3.8 JL asked how the investigation had been undertaken. SE explained that cores had been extracted vertically from the middle of the wall to the full extent of its base and these had been sent for chemical analysis. The void formed as a result had been backfilled with fresh bentonite.
- 3.9 TA had thought there was photographic evidence of the construction of the wall. MN confirmed that these were not in Harrow's possession in the archive information if they still existed.
- 3.10 JL queried why the wall was showing impact. She explained that bentonite as a material attracts and absorbs with the ability to lock in contaminants preventing them moving further and that in this respect, the wall had performed as designed.
- 3.11 SE showed a photograph of a wagon removing some untreatable waste from the site which had been sheeted over and was having the wheels and underbody washed to prevent material being deposited on the public highway. JL asked if all the untreatable waste material had now been removed. SE explained that a small amount (approximately 1 cubic metre) remained on site and that this would be added to should any further material be encountered before removing it from site.
- 3.12 TA asked if there had been any further unusual material encountered during the excavations and trial pitting. SE indicated that there had not been any unusual material other than the 1 cubic metre of material which was bright red/pink in colour and was found to be Clofentazine and was untreatable.
- 3.13 JL asked if the material in the High Bay warehouse had been moved. SE explained that in the period that the material had been stored there, the odours had greatly reduced such that treatment was being undertaken in the high bay area itself without the further need to relocate the material.
- 3.14 In terms of future works, SE noted that the proposals for the bentonite wall would be finalised and submitted for review, the public footpath along Mill Lane was to be diverted early in the New Year and the site compound would also be moved to the car park area adjacent to the A10 to allow further

excavation works to take place. The main site entrance is also to be altered as the access strip is to be excavated and the former northern entrance onto Mill Lane will be reopened to cars and light vans. Reinstatement of soil material is likely to commence in late February to early March depending on weather conditions at the time.

3.15 SE also identified that the site would be closed from the 24th December 2010 and re-open on the 4th January 2011. JL asked if there would be a presence on site during this time. SE explained that full time security would be employed and that Vertase operatives would be on call during this period with three operatives local to the site should any attendance be required.

3.16 SE discussed the proposed amendments to the notice boards which included details of the proposed Mill Lane footpath diversion route.

3.17 JL asked what the likely intentions were for the bentonite wall. SE and MLN explained that the southern section is not on the site boundary but comes into the site itself. The preference for this section is for removal in its entirety as it no longer performs a function. The northern section is on the immediate boundary of the site so required further consideration as to whether this was left to remain, was treated in-situ or was removed.

4. Matters Arising from Site Operations

4.1 There were no further issues arising as these had been covered during the questions and answers provided during the presentation under Item 3 above.

5. Odour Monitoring of Complaints and Responses

5.1 JL reported that some complaints had been received over the previous week relating to an odour. TA described the smell as a 'kerosene' type odour. JL had received an email describing the smell on the 9th December as 'phenolic'. SE/ and MLN could not explain what this related to as work on site had been significantly reduced with excavation, bed turning and material moving ceased. MLN reported that following the Multi-Agency Group (MAG) conference call the previous day that three complaints had been recorded by the EA on Monday 13th December.

6. Site Monitoring and Reporting Progress

6.1 MAS reported on behalf of ATK that the works had progressed well in the period and were according to programme. The rate of work on site had now been reduced and ATK were happy this was according to plan. ATK were issuing reports into SCDC relating to any Contaminants Not Previously Identified (CNPI). The additional site investigation into the area surrounding the

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) was now being undertaken and the findings of this would be reported to SCDC in the New Year.

- 6.2 SW reported on behalf of SCDC that they continue to visit the site weekly to ensure works is being carried out in accordance with the Remedial Method Statement (RMS). Reports received are being reviewed and commented upon where appropriate. The MAG continues to have a conference call every two weeks. In terms of media interest, it was reported that there had been very little in the period since the last meeting though an article by a columnist in the Saturday Telegraph was awaited.
- 6.3 JL commented that some of the monitoring data on the SCDC website did not appear to be the latest information. SW/SE explained that due to the overlap with the change out of the monitoring tubes and the time taken to test at the laboratory; this information was normally delayed from being put onto the website.

7. HPA Report

- 7.1 KK reported that nothing had altered the HPA view in the period and their advice remained as before.

8. Questions from Residents

- 8.1 TA indicated that a question had been raised on behalf of Mr. Peter Elliot in relation to some trees on his property which had been assessed by the SCDC Ecologist. Mr. Elliot wanted it noting that he did not consider this to have been a proper assessment and wanted a second opinion. SW indicated that the Forestry Commission had been contacted but it was considered that any further assessment during the Autumn would be inconclusive so would be best left until Spring.
- 8.2 JL had received an email from a representative of HauxAir which was read out in its entirety as follows:

"In order to provide the highest level of confidence in the validity of the measured concentrations of residual chemical contaminants in the soil, it will be necessary to apply rigorous established statistical sampling methods across the whole site to ensure that the measured concentrations are within acceptable levels. Could Vertase confirm that such rigorous established statistical sampling methods will be applied across the whole site and also confirm that the statistical sampling methods to be used will be provided and made public for external scrutiny and verification?"

If Vertase, and its contractors, is confident that its statistical sampling methods are sufficiently rigorous and will provide a true and verifiable reflection of the concentrations of the residual chemical contaminants in the soil across the whole site, then such statistical sampling methods should be able to withstand external scrutiny and verification."

SE confirmed that would be the case.

- 8.3 A further email had been received by JL which asked "Who will be taking the samples to prove that it is safe for a child to play in?" SE explained that Vertase would take the samples at locations agreed with Atkins and that these would be tested at the independent accredited laboratory. KK added that it should never be assumed that soil is safe to play in regardless of remediation works.

JD joined the meeting

- 8.4 JL asked if water was still being pumped from the site? SE confirmed that it was. JL asked how long this would continue for? SE indicated this would in all likelihood continue until the end of the project.
- 8.5 JL asked how frequently was sampling being undertaken. SE and MLN explained that a requirement of planning was that sampling should be a minimum rate of 1 sample per 90 cubic metres of soil. MLN indicated from the statistics provided by Vertase to date where 1,700 samples had been taken in 82,000 cubic metres excavated so far representing a higher rate of sampling to date.

9. Communications

- 9.1 EL indicated that there had been very little press activity in the recent period and that the opportunity was going to be taken over the Christmas period to review the media strategy.

10. Future Plans

- 10.1 Future works on site had been discussed earlier in the agenda as part of the site presentation.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 There being no further business to discuss, GK thanked those in attendance for providing the updates and information and felt this was a benefit to the public representatives present.

12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 It was agreed to meet again at 10.00 am on April 14th 2011 in the Jeavons Room at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.