



Minutes of CLG Meeting.

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – September Meeting
Location	Wyre Council, Civic Centre, Breck Rd, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7PU
Date/ time	Friday 6 September 2024, 10:00-12:30
Originator	Transwaste
Attendees	Andrew Acum – Mercury – AA John Astbury – UKHSA - JA Howard Ballard – Resident – HB Mark Billington – Wyre Council – MB Cllr Roger Berry – Wyre Council – RB Jess Brown – Resident – JB John Bunn – Environment Agency - JBu Pam Diamond – Resident – PD David Graham – Independent Chair - DG Alex Hornshaw – Transwaste – AH Sam Juggins – Transwaste – SJ Barbara Kneale – Resident – BK Corinne Mason – Wyre Council – CM John Ratcliffe – Environment Agency - JR Cllr Richard Rendell – Wyre Council – RR Jill Scriven – Wyre Council - JS Angela Thomas – Resident - AT
Apologies	Cllr Lorraine Beavers – Fleetwood Town Council / Wyre Council / Lancashire County Council – LBe John Neville – Environment Agency (will be late) Cllr Cheryl Raynor – Wyre Council – CR
Purpose of meeting	Discuss future plans and ongoing operations at the Transwaste Jameson Road facility.
Minute of last meeting	<u>Approved</u>



1.	<p>Chair's welcome and introductions</p> <p>AA handed over to DG as the independent chair and DG reminded the group about the Terms of Reference – it had been brought to his attention that there had been some abusive social media posts aimed at Transwaste staff along with issues regarding CLG members trespassing on site.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EA to clarify communications with local GPs – JBu clarified that they are part of a multi-agency group which the NHS is represented on. Any communications/queries are pushed through the group to the NHS. - AA to send slides out – done - AA to arrange site visits – done - JB to send photographs to JBu – done - AH to check annual reports – BK clarified that this was part of the planning consent. SJ said that the EA annual reports had been submitted. Action carried over for CM to invite someone from LCC Planning to the next meeting to discuss the annual report. - CPL to be invited to the next meeting – AH had asked but CPL did not want to attend due to the online abuse of Transwaste staff. - AA to provide details of newsletter circulation area – postcodes had been supplied by the EA but there was a question over GDPR. AA would follow up with the EA and the action is carried over to the next meeting. DG asked that the newsletter also be posted on the website - SJ to circulate organogram for site structure. SJ said that this was completed but hadn't been circulated yet. AA said he would circulate this with the minutes of the meeting. - JBu to obtain information of if and when BSE carcasses were tipped at the site – JBu said he would report back on this as information would have to be pulled out of storage.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EA to check due diligence with Permitting Team – JBu said he would report back to the next meeting. BK said she had written directly to the EA and has already obtained this information. BK to send info to AA to circulate with the minutes. - AA to invite Prof Mark Spencer to the meeting – contact details were to be provided by Robin Stocks, but the general election intervened. AA to liaise with CM to get contact details. - EA to provide feedback from monitoring – JBu said this was still ongoing. - EA to report back on what waste can be imported via the permit and whether this was being monitored – JBu confirmed that waste acceptance into the site was being monitored and would give details as part of his update. - Wyre Council to provide update on the number of diary sheets issued and the EA to clarify the legal position on issuing statutory notices – CM to provide figures as part of her update. <p>AA added that some members had not had a site visit but if they contacted him, he would arrange with Transwaste to fit them in. DG said further visits to the site on an ongoing basis would be useful for members to see how work is progressing. BK thanked Transwaste for the site visits.</p>
	4.	<p>Transwaste Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CLG site visits took place yesterday - Will arrange further site visits next week for those unable to attend - Capping works to Cells 1 and 5 now complete - Internal odour assessments show vast reduction in odour - EA complaints down - Gas infrastructure installed and fully working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in gas capture • Previously 700KW – now over 1400KW • Now sufficient to power two gas engines to produce electricity for the Grid

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further capping along southern flank in excess of EA requirements (although not seeing same gas problems as gas collection infrastructure already exists) - No requirement to drill into older parts of the site in the future - Cap maintenance – regular assessment taking to place to monitor cap performance or damage - Continuous assessment to prevent/minimise potential for odour - Cell 6 now complete (first half) - Will submit CQA validation report to EA - Construction of second half of Cell 6 next week - Sacrificial gas collection infrastructure to be installed to minimize potential for emissions - Three remaining cells to construct – approx. 1.1m m³ - Planning permission to 2033 – but could complete in five years at permitted input rate. - Restoration phase will probably take a couple of years.
5.	<p>Q&A Session - Transwaste</p> <p>PD asked what would happen if there was more gas than the two gas engines could cope with. SJ said that a third gas engine automatically kicks in to balance the gas.</p> <p>AT asked if the infrastructure would have the capacity to extract gas from the future cells as well. SJ confirmed that the required infrastructure already exists in the gas compound and there is space to expand further if required subject to planning consent.</p> <p>JB said there were still odour impacts from the old Cell 5 and wanted to know when this would be fixed. SJ said that capping has reduced the odour and the gas wells will be constantly monitored and fine-tuned. There will also be additional capping in the form of soils to improve the seal. JB asked about the timescales for this. AH said this work was starting next week and would take around four weeks to complete. It will then be constantly monitored both remotely and by people walking over it with detection devices looking for any pinholes.</p>	



	<p>BK said there is a current planning application by United Utilities for a landfill gas site and wondered what this was. AH said that this is actually a re-application by CLP, the existing gas infrastructure operators, to extend the consent period for their site.</p> <p>RB thanked Transwaste for the site visit and this was seconded by RR. RB said he understood that when operations restart at the site, waste would be brought in from regulated waste transfer stations, but wanted to know if there would be an odour. SJ said that they have strict waste acceptance procedures which includes vetting customers. Odour can be created if waste is poorly managed at the transfer station – for example if it isn't processed quickly, and this waste wouldn't be accepted. On site, there are additional processes to minimise odour such as covering waste with a suitable material as quickly as possible to ensure compliance. Previous problems with odour were due to waste which was up to 10 years old which creates a continuous gas emission, whereas odour from fresh waste is short-lived and can be more easily managed.</p> <p>RB asked if the lorries would be covered. SJ said they are netted to prevent any waste blowing off. AH said the since the restriction had been lifted, the site had been receiving waste but this had been closely monitored and not created any odour issues.</p> <p>HB asked about the traffic route. He said it was currently coming through Thornton which caused problems. He wanted an assurance that haulage contractors were being notified of the correct route. SJ said this was the case.</p> <p>HB said that there have been a few drivers with their canopies open. He also said they need to check their wheels before leaving site as a few years ago a brick went through his car windscreen.</p> <p>BK said that although they had been told the site only accepted inert waste, they hadn't been told what this meant. SJ said that the site accepts non-hazardous general waste and inert waste which would included soils, brick, glass, ceramics, etc. and records were kept of what was received. BK asked if summary records could be updated on the website.</p>
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Action: AA to add waste summaries to the website.

AT said trucks previously parked at Home Bargains and although they didn't smell, they had plastic bin liners in them. She wondered what this waste was. AH said that waste goes to a waste transfer station to be sorted and have recyclables etc removed before it goes to landfill. All waste coming onto site is checked as part of the waste acceptance process.

AT said that best practice in the future when acceptance waste would be to cover it each night to prevent odour and carriage by wind or birds. Could this be guaranteed? SJ said there would be progressive covering of waste throughout the day plus an extra covering on each evening. If they received an odorous batch of waste, this would be buried immediately.

AT asked what additional measures were being considered for the future to prevent odour. SJ said they have been looking at air fresheners but were speaking to suppliers about the most effective and sustainable solutions.

HB asked about PFAs. BK said that Wyre Council were testing for PFAs on former ICI land and wanted to know if there was any impact on the landfill site. SJ said that they regularly test the groundwater at the site for the EA which would pick up any problems. BK said she felt that there should be PFAs testing at the landfill site. AA said that they had previously agreed to discuss this with CM. CM said that the latest information on the Thornton investigation on the council's website and there are a number of drop-in sessions arranged for residents. If BK wanted to attend these drop-in sessions, there would be experts available to discuss this with her.

HB said that ICI used to pump Fluon into the River Wyre and there were individual pipes to identify who was polluting. He also believed Fluon waste was dumped at the old Jameson Road site. SJ said that the old Phase 1 is a former co-disposal site which was licensed for hazardous and non-hazardous waste. BN thought it would be good for Transwaste to test groundwater. SJ confirmed that Transwaste already undertakes groundwater testing for hazardous substances.



	<p>DG said that although there was no statutory duty, it would be good if Transwaste could provide a list of what they test for at the next meeting. SJ said that all the tests are listed in the permit.</p> <p>Action: Transwaste to provide list of tests and discuss PSA testing with Wyre Council.</p>
6.	<p>EA Monitoring Update</p> <p>There is still an ongoing investigation into the odour issue. A suspension notice was issued requiring Transwaste to carry out a specific set of action. This work was now complete and the suspension notice had been lifted. Continuous monitoring was still taking place with the aim of reducing odour. Following the works, there had been a reduction in odour but they were still receiving a small number of complaints so they are maintaining monitoring, site checks, odour runs and drone flights. Mobile monitoring is still in place, but it will be some time before they have the final figures from this. Some additional H₂S monitoring had been undertaken with hand-held monitors and the results had been published on the website. A site visit had taken place this week. The expectation going forward is that the site would be managed in a way to minimise the threat of odour. Waste does have an odour, but they don't expect the level of odour that had occurred previously during the site works and they would insist on best practice methods being employed to manage this. Officers had visited the site that morning but had not found any odour.</p>
7.	<p>Q&A Session – EA</p> <p>BK thanked the EA for the work they had done. She asked if there was a correlation between the amount or type of waste being tipped and the odours. JBu said any malodorous waste should be quarantined or dealt with immediately. Odour would depend on type of waste, how it had been processed and how long it had been left, but the main thing was to have processes in place to deal with it.</p>



	<p>HB asked if the EA was also checking other sites in the which could be creating odour. Yesterday between 3-5pm there was odour where he lived, and the same again at 10am this morning. This couldn't have been Transwaste. It could be that Transwaste is undertaking all of this work but it won't resolve the odour issue if it is someone else making it.</p> <p>JBu said that the odour runs check other sites such as United Utilities, Lancashire Waste Recyclables and Global Renewables as well. JBu said that landfill gas had a particular smell. HB said that everyone experiences smell differently, hence some people say it smells like onions, other like sulphur, and that couldn't all be from one source.</p> <p>JB asked if the odour returned and Transwaste were breaching their permit, how long it would take to get another enforcement. JBu said it would depend on the impact. JB asked how many breaches of permit it would take to get an enforcement. JBu said it was dependent on the level of impact and whether the complaints could be substantiated by officers. BK said that whenever she has phoned, the EA officers are on site straight away.</p> <p>BK said that she had been in touch with the Minister for the Environment, Stephen Reid. He had said that if Transwaste did not comply, they would be at risk of having their licence revoked, and she wanted to know what sort of situation would lead to Transwaste having their licence revoked. JBu said that this is an option on the table but it would be a last resort when all other options had been exhausted. BK asked if this would be a Minister's decision or a local decision. JBu said that it would be a local decision and then the recommendation would go up to the Minister. It would depend on severity and impact of site operations.</p>
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	<p>8.</p> <p>UKHSA Review of Monitoring and Health Implications</p> <p>JA explained that landfill gas forms when a site has been covered and there is no oxygen. Anaerobic digestion then creates landfill gas which is a mixture of CO₂, methane and hydrogen sulphide plus some other trace elements, but it is the hydrogen sulphide which creates the smell and can cause health effects.</p> <p>The recent monitoring is showing hydrogen sulphide levels of between 3-8 parts per billion which is very low. Typically the smell threshold is about 10 parts per billion, although this can vary slightly between individuals and can be as low as 5 parts per billion.</p> <p>In terms of health effects, 20 parts per billion is the recommended limit for long term exposure. The maximum occupational daily exposure level (eight hours per day) is 10 parts per <u>million</u> (10,000 parts per billion) which is considerably higher, and dangerous levels (evacuation levels in America) are set at 20 parts per million (20,000 parts per billion).</p> <p>Current monitoring indicates that hydrogen sulphide is well below the level to cause any health effects.</p> <p>At the multi-agency meetings there is representation from the NHS and they have reported no impact on GPs or hospitals.</p> <p>JA said he had previously looked after Clayton Hall and had seen much higher levels at that site, so these levels are not particularly worrying. Whilst they recognise that the smell may cause nausea, the levels would need to be above 330 parts per billion for it to start causing irritation and would need to get to 1 part per million (1,000 parts per billion) for it to be a concern.</p> <p>JA said that he recognised that the smell could be unpleasant and that the psychological and mental health effects of landfill smell can be stressful. Although the levels at Clayton Hall were much higher, there were no physical health effects but research showed that the smell did have an impact on mental health and stress. The smell threshold is much lower than the level at which there are physical health effects.</p>
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	<p>At this point DG stopped the meeting to reprimand a member for swearing and reminded the group again of the Terms of Reference.</p>
9.	<p>Q&A Session – UKHSA</p> <p>JB asked how many members of the local community UKHSA had spoken to about health effects. JA said that they had 3-4 enquiries directly to UKHSA, but the NHS is represented on the multi-agency group and they have no reports. JB said she had evidence of hospital and doctors' records showing health effects from the landfill gas. JA said the NHS would have reported this at the multi-agency group meetings. BK asked if there was an NHS representative on the group. CM confirmed there was. JB asked if there was a multi-agency group specifically for Jameson Road. JBu confirmed there was a multi-agency group specifically for Jameson Road – EA, Wyre Council, UKHSA and the NHS - and that they had weekly meetings. At the last meeting they specifically asked the NHS rep about the comments raised at the last CLG regarding reported health issues. BK felt that there should be an NHS representative at the CLG. DG said an invitation would be extended to the NHS and that if JB had evidence of health impacts, this should be given to the NHS rep.</p> <p>Action: AA to invite NHS rep.</p> <p>BK said that she had written to Lancashire County Council's Director of Public Health but she felt he had responded in an inadequate manner.</p> <p>BK wanted to know what UKHSA classified as a health effect. Fleetwood has three times the national average number of instances of COPD, is in the top 10 most deprived areas in the UK and is classed as a vulnerable population. Whilst the hydrogen sulphide isn't at a level that will kill anyone, it could impact on these people's day to day lives. JA said that the 330 parts per billion figure he quoted was for the most sensitive people. BK said she didn't believe 3500 people would be reporting problems and going to their GP and she would like to talk to the NHS representative. She said she knew JB had been putting petitions around GP surgeries.</p>

	<p>BK wanted to know if JA had seen preliminary results from the work at Walley's Quarry. The full report is due to be published in December. DG said it was probably unreasonable to expect the group to have had sight of a report that had not yet been published.</p> <p>HB said that his wife has to shut every window in the house as the smell makes her sick. He said that some health effects may not be fed back as there was not direct proof that it came from the odour or GPs may not be recording it as such. CM said she wanted to reassure the group that at the multi-agency meetings, views of residents and the information they have provided them with in terms of the health impacts are fed into the NHS representative.</p> <p>JN said that it was clear that odour creates an impact on communities. There is a question as to what scale it affects people and there may be people who experience anxiety and stress and are not able to enjoy their properties, and there is the possibility of existing conditions that are being exacerbated. There is also an in-between bit that we need to take away and question with the NHS and manage expectations. There is acknowledgement of mental impacts and existing conditions and they need to take these away to discuss at the multi-agency meeting and then feedback to the next CLG.</p> <p>BK asked what work was done in cross referencing different sites. JA said that he had worked on four land fill sites in the last ten years and they do talk to each other within the agency about each other's sites including Walley's and Pembrokeshire. JN said that as regulator they discuss other sites and what can be learnt from them.</p>
10.	<p>Wyre Council Update</p> <p>CM said that the council continued to receive complaints about odour, but the number has substantially reduced. In total there had been 589 people who had made complaints, but some of these had made more than one complaint, so just over 1,000 complaints in total. 700 diary sheets had been sent out via email and post since the last meeting, plus a substantial amount prior to that meeting and others that have been hand delivered, e.g. to Harbour Village.</p>



	<p>So far only 15 diary sheets had been returned. In total only 2 people had accepted odour monitoring from their property and none had accepted odour monitoring since the last meeting. AT said she had a visit 2 weeks ago, but CM said that may not have come through yet on the records.</p> <p>The council is continuing to monitor in the area and is currently undertaking monitoring with EA officers on a daily basis. In order to substantiate a statutory nuisance, council officers need to be able to witness and verify it. However, the council is not behind where it should be as even if they had issued an abatement notice, the EA had already issued a regulatory notice as the primary regulator and their actions take precedence.</p>
11.	<p>Q&A Session – Wyre Council</p> <p>AT said that in terms of council officers coming out, it was very awkward, but there are a lot of people on Harbour Village monitoring. She felt that perhaps having someone come into their home to check the odour was putting people off. CM said that it is difficult but they need primary evidence if they are to build a statutory nuisance case to take to court as diary sheets alone are not enough. The council will continue to encourage residents where they have concerns, but they do need resident cooperation. It may be that they have seen the actions of the EA and the reduction in odour and are now not so bothered about coming forward, but the council will continue to encourage it.</p> <p>BK asked if Wyre had spoken to any other councils about how they deal with statutory smell. Newcastle Under Lyme Council did ask for an abatement notice. CM said they have researched how other councils had dealt with similar issues, including Newcastle Under Lyme. It was very much what they knew already in that because they are not the primary regulator, there are restrictions on what they can do. If they were to issue an abatement notice, they couldn't enforce the notice without the permission of the Secretary of State to avoid dual regulation. The Secretary of State would then look at what action was being taken by the primary regulator. i.e. the EA. In this case, it is very unlikely that the Secretary of State would disagree with the EAs actions to date.</p>



	<p>JB asked how much money the council was making from the landfill site. CM said she didn't have this information today. DG asked if this was something that could be fed back at the next meeting. CM said she would look into this.</p> <p>Action: CM to report back on landfill rental income (assuming not commercially sensitive).</p> <p>PD said that there had been a lot of discussion at this meeting about problems that had been experienced, and although there was still work to do, there should be some recognition of the improvement to date as a result of work by the EA and Transwaste.</p> <p>JB said that there was still a smell and a relative of hers with COPD had to close the windows and use a nebuliser when the smell is bad.</p> <p>DG said that as someone who is quickly learning about the waste industry, there was recognition that a lot of work had been done.</p> <p>JN said that in his experience of CLGs, the ones that work best are the ones where there is trust and sometimes it is necessary to go through the history to reach a point of trust. Things are getting better but there is still work to do. JBu said this backed up the EA update he had given earlier – they are aware, they continue to maintain a presence on site, they are monitoring options, they will have the Cell 6 CQA to look at and they will continue the monitoring moving forward.</p> <p>BK said she was representing people who are vulnerable and that within the community there are people with different needs. Some of this would be a learning exercise in terms of what could be done better in the future. She said she didn't expect zero complaints, but no residents should be suffering.</p> <p>DG thanked everyone for the comments and said that this will all be an important part of moving through this phase and then the future phases of community funding and restoration planning.</p>
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	10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>DG said that development of the website with feedback mechanisms and links to EA and Wyre updates would be an important development. AA said this would be up and running ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>DG said he is keen for future site visits to monitor progress and if any of the CLG who haven't had chance to visit the site yet would like a visit, he is happy to liaise with AA to arrange this.</p>
	11.	<p>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</p> <p>DG thanked everyone for attending and their useful input. Next meeting is proposed for Friday 1 November.</p>
Date of next meeting	Friday 1 November.	

Meeting Protocol	
Distribute agenda before meeting	Fix responsibilities for each item
Start on time	Finish on time
Set out your ground rules	Publish minutes / actions
Stick to the agenda	Continuous improvement