

BDR PFI Waste Treatment Facility – Community Liaison Group Meeting on Monday, 1st October, 2018.

Attendance:

Non members:

1. Welcome. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including a new member, who introduced himself as a nearby resident in Bolton on Dearne wanting to represent the views of people with concerns about the impact of the facility.

2. Apologies. Noted. There was a discussion about the non-attendance again of representatives from Doncaster and Rotherham Councils.

Action: BDR Manager to raise this at Steering Committee.

3. Minutes of last meeting on 16th July were approved as a true record.

4. Issues arising. There were no issues arising.

5. 3SE update. Renewi Contract Director reported that work began in July on a major project to reduce the size and quantity of glass entering the AD plant in order to improve the compost like output. The work finished ahead of schedule and early tests showed good progress. Final contract testing would be completed by next March. In response to a question from the chair, it was confirmed that this would improve the quality of the output. Work was beginning on two further projects - detailed design work on fire improvement works, and measures to improve the air quality released from the AD facility by controlling the amount of ammonia in the exiting air. Work on this would start in November, and there would be no impact on the outside atmosphere. A three-week outage at Ferrybridge had not affected the facility, and FM1 had recently accepted its two millionth tonne of material, which had been delivered from the Manvers facility. Only 3.06 per cent of waste dealt with at Manvers had gone to landfill, which is better than the target set. There was a long discussion amongst CLG members about smells in the area generally, which some felt had got worse over the last year. One member complained of a rotting rubbish smell at 10pm, and it was agreed that members of the BDR and Renewi team with noses trained to do olfactory testing would meet him at his home when he notified them the smell was there. There was a general discussion amongst CLG members about the problems of smells on refuse collection rounds, and they asked that refuse vehicles should be cleaned regularly. The Operations Manager reported on an in depth piece of work into fly management. This involved inspecting the cleanliness of refuse vehicles and waste transfer stations in random spot checks, and bins left out by householders. The condition of some bins had been adversely affected by austerity measures which meant they were not replaced as often, and some had lids held together with tape. The work on fly management had been discussed with the Environment Agency and what changes in operating procedures and cleaning regimes could be made to improve the situation. Discussions had also taken place with other facilities elsewhere in the country to share best practice. Complaints had dropped off considerably in the last few months, but consideration was being given to continuing treatment regimes longer than usual, or starting them earlier in the New

Year. The chair acknowledged the work going on to tackle the fly problem, which he felt needed addressing as soon as possible.

Action: Trained members of BDR and Renewi team to meet CLG member at his home when notified that smell is evident and report back to next CLG meeting.

6. BDR update. The BDR Manager reported on a meeting of the Joint Waste Board earlier where the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy had been discussed. A senior officer would take charge of each one of the five themes and appoint a project leader for each. The new chair of the JWB was RMBC's Cabinet Member for Waste who was keen to promote better partnership working between the four local authorities. The new contract for HWRCs had been let to the existing contractor, but there would be operational changes and more emphasis on promoting re-use, and potentially providing facilities for SMEs which would be income generating. CLG members again raised concerns about the need for residents of BDR to be able to use any HWRC in the BDR area and the problems created by BMBC's residents' only permit policy, which the BMBC member said she would raise. This prompted a long discussion about the dangers of encouraging fly tipping, and the BDR Manager suggested a need for a piece of work on the impact of HWRC policies, particularly on consistency of message, and fly tipping. The CELO was being seconded to RMBC to help with engagement for the new waste collection service and a temporary replacement for her post had been recruited.

Action: Barnsley Council CLG member to raise the CLG's concerns about the impact of BMBC's resident permit only policy at HWRCs.

7. CELO update. The CELO confirmed her secondment to RMBC for a period of 11 months for four days a week, with one day a week still working at the Manvers facility. An assistant CELO had been appointed to focus on delivery work, information packs and schools visits, and details would be confirmed shortly. The person appointed would be attending the next CLG meeting. Two 2018 campaigns – Love Food Hate Waste and National Recycle Week had been completed and several hundred people had signed up to make the pledge to waste less food. Spaces were still available on the tour of the facility on November 20th. Demand for tours had decreased this year, but demand for talks on plastics had gone up.

8. Communications update. A great deal of time had been taken up with communication and publicity about National Recycle Week. This was the first time the four South Yorkshire local authorities had launched a joint campaign to mark the week. Publicity included a press release, social media campaign, radio station interview, and information on local authority and the BDR websites. However, the campaign had not been promoted much either locally or nationally, partly due to the charity WRAP which leads on it nationally not putting in as many resources as usual, probably due to budget cuts. Publicity and public reaction to the changes in RMBC's waste collection service, including a charge for green waste collections for the first time, were being monitored. Cuttings were also distributed about a scheme in Wales for monthly household waste collections, and a positive article about a three-year-old

boy with an interest in refuse collection vehicles being presented with his own model vehicle by RMBC waste service.

9. Any other business. The new CLG member said he felt complaints about the impact of the facility on areas like Bolton on Dearne may be going under-reported because residents feared it would affect house prices. The Contract Director felt this was counter-balanced by the use of social media.

10. Date and time of next meeting. This will be on Monday 14th January, 2019, 7pm at the Visitor Centre.