

Minutes of Allstone Liaison Group meeting

Date: Tuesday 18th April 2023

Venue: Allstone House, Myers Road, Gloucester.

Attendees:

Tony Davies (TD): Interim Managing Director, Allstone

David Ambrose (DA): Operations Director, Allstone

Paul Duncliffe (PD): Agent for Allstone (Chair)

Sarah Pearse (SP): Gloucestershire County Council

Linda Townsend (LT): Gloucestershire County Council

Councillor Anne Radley (AR): Local Ward Councillor/Local Community Representative

PD: Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PD: Introduced David Ambrose who is the Operations Manager for Allstone and who will be attending future meetings following Robin Heffter leaving the Company. He asked David to provide a brief summary of his roles and responsibilities and his background experience.

DA: Explained that the Company had, over the last few months, put in place a new Management structure with the previous combined Commercial and Operational roles being split into two separate functions. He now heads up the operational role which covers all aspects of Allstone's day to day operations. David advised that his background experience is primarily in the field of quarrying and mining operations.

PD: Advised that he had received apologies from Julie Turner and Nick Bainton. Scott Claridge was not in attendance.

PD: Explained that he had written to Beth Robertson of the Environment Agency (EA) who has replaced Robin Keidell-Doggrell as the EA representative. Unfortunately, Beth had not yet replied advising of her membership/attendance at the Liaison Group meetings (details of which had been provided by PD).

LT: Suggested that it might be a good idea to ask Beth if she would prefer to attend the meetings on a virtual basis especially if she lived further afield.

PD: Advised that he would try and speak with Beth on the telephone.

Agenda Item 1 (approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2023)

PD: Asked those in attendance for approval of the draft Minutes subject to the amendments which had been requested by LT (showing that she had sent apologies for not being able to

attend the January meeting. All Members approved the Minutes.

Action point: TD/DA to arrange for a copy of the approved January Minutes to be displayed on the Company's community webpage.

Agenda Item 2 (update on all improvements/repairs/new equipment)

PD: Asked DA to provide an update on all improvements/repairs/new equipment purchased since the last meeting.

DA: Confirmed the following:

- Improvements had been made to the internal traffic flow arrangements.
- Main entrance approach had been improved with two businesses relocated.
- Health and safety considerations were key areas for the Company.
- A new water interceptor had been installed.
- A new replacement weighbridge in the front yard area was planned.
- The Doosan machine bucket had been replaced from a mechanical grab to a hydraulic grab which operated on a rotational basis. This was a much quieter grab head.
- On-going pot hole repairs had been undertaken along with new sections of concreting.

AR: Asked what a water interceptor was.

DA: Confirmed that this was a facility to separate dirty surface water and was part of good housekeeping for the main waste transfer station area.

PD: Enquired where the new water interceptor was located.

DA: Advised that it was located in the same location as the previous interceptor which was over 20 years old and needed to be updated.

TD: Advised that the cost of the new grab head on the Doosan machine was over £10,000.

PD: Advised that the improvements that had been made along the approach road were in response to the comments made by Councillor Jeremy Hilton and Councillor Anne Radley during the meeting that had taken place with them on the 24th January 2023 (attended by TD and PD).

TD: Advised that many of the improvements that had been made were in relation to health and safety matters including particularly the need to keep retail customers away from the main operational areas.

PD: Asked about the new replacement weighbridge and referred to an e-mail he had received from DA about work being done outside non core hours.

DA: Explained what a weighbridge was and how it worked in operational terms. He advised that there was a need to run some new ducts across the main access road into the waste transfer

station site and this could not be done during operational hours. The work was being planned over the next 4 weeks or so with the 22nd May being a potential date. David advised that he will circulate an update on when the work has been scheduled. David also advised that the new weighbridge was only being moved a very short distance with the primary objective being health and safety considerations and to replace the existing weighbridge which was over 20 years old.

SP: Advised that planning permission would be needed for the new replacement weighbridge. She also advised that each time Officers' attended the site, various changes had been made. She advised that a new updated plan topographical should be prepared. She advised that the site did not now reflect what had been granted planning permission and Officer's did not have a handle on this.

PD: Advised that the main waste transfer station site comprised the MRF building, external operational areas and the front aggregates yard all of which had been granted planning permission under the terms of a planning permission granted a couple of years ago. He asked if any permitted development rights were available for the replacement new weighbridge.

SP: Advised that she was not sure about permitted development rights but thought not as there were only a very limited range of such rights for waste related uses and operations.

LT: Advised that permitted development rights are not available as they were withdrawn on the various planning permissions that had been issued.

PD: Advised that he would arrange for an updated plan to be prepared.

LT: Enquired when the next edition of the Spotlight Newsletter would be issued.

TD: Advised that this had been one of Robin Heffter's roles but unfortunately due to other pressing matters the Spotlight Newsletter had not been issued. He advised that the Company were looking to appoint a new Marketing/Social Media Manager and that this would be one of their areas of responsibility. He also advised that he would ideally like to see if the Spotlight Newsletter could be published every 6 weeks or so and will report back on progress at the next Liaison Group meeting.

Agenda Item 3 (update on 22/0033/GLMAJW).

PD: Asked LT to provide an update on 22/0033/GLMAJW.

LT: Advised that she was still waiting for a response to her e-mail of the 15th March and any update was in the hands of Allstone.

SP: Advised that the current application should be withdrawn and a new application submitted. This was because a number of changes had been made on the ground since the current application was submitted and it was necessary to make sure that statutory consultees could be re-consulted along with local residents. She advised that the current application was not reflective of what had been undertaken and was materially different.

Agenda Item 4 (update on any complaints received since the last meeting).

PD: Asked for an update on any complaints that had been received since the last meeting.

PD: Other than one complaint advised by JT about the clamshell bucket no complaints had been received by the City Council. No complaints had been received from the EA or GCC Planning since the last meeting.

Agenda Item 5 (quarterly waste returns).

PD: Advised that he had circulated the quarterly waste returns for Q1 of 2023 and also the quarterly figures for 2022. The tonnage for Q1 of 2023 was 4874.66 tonnes and the total annual figure for 2022 was 17,122.96 tonnes.

SP: Enquired how the quarterly tonnage figures arrived at and what is the background data.

PD: Advised that the quarterly waste returns were produced by Tom Ford and PD would establish what data was applied. He mentioned that the figures represented the incoming feedstock to the MRF and that an internal lorry took the material over to the aggregates recycling facility.

LT: Mentioned that once the new weighbridges were operational this should provide a better insight into the waste returns.

Agenda Item 6 (feedback from local community representatives)

PD: Asked for an update on any feedback from the Local Community Representative.

AR: Advised of the following matters:

- Over the last couple of weeks there was a “thudding” type noise coming from the area at the top end of the recycling facility where the new wash plant had been installed.
- There was a general fear about dust levels as we approached the Summer period.
- On-going concern about reverse beepers.
- Noise near Old Boys car park.

TD: Advised that all of the vehicles operating on the site had been fitted with white noise and the reversing beepers were attributable to Breedon Concrete.

DA: Enquired what dates/times had the thudding noise been detected.

AR: Was not able to say exactly but it was in the last couple of weeks. She advised that she had e-mailed Nick Bainton about this matter.

DA: Advised that it was important for any concerns to be raised at the time so the Company could undertake the necessary investigations and report back.

PD: Advised that he thought communication feedback from the Local Community Representative was important but it would help if any matters of concern could be brought to the Company's attention as and when they arise rather than waiting for the next Liaison Group meeting to take place.

TD: Explained that feedback about any complaints/concerns should be raised as and when they are raised so that the Company can follow up.

AR: Advised that she has regular Community feedback meetings at Morrisons.

PD: Enquired whether AR could issue the "flyers" that were circulated as these had still not been received despite assurances from AR that they would be circulated.

AR: Advised that she thought the flyers had been circulated previously.

PD: Advised that he had not seen anything circulated.

TD: Also advised that neither had he seen anything circulated.

PD: Mentioned that it would be very helpful if AR could circulate the positive steps that the Company had undertaken to her Community Group and for this to be circulated in the interest of transparency.

AR: Undertook to circulate her feedback to the Community Group and to also circulate the flyers.

TD: Mentioned that he thought it was important for fairness to be applied and it was not all about reporting the concerns without also reporting the positive work that the Company have undertaken. Considerable resources have been spent on making improvements and he believed that this should be explained to AR's Community Group.

Agenda Item 7 (Any Other Business).

PD: Asked if there was any other business.

LT: Suggested to follow up with Beth Robertson about the potential for her attendance on a virtual basis.

TD: Advised that he felt it was important for all Members of the Liaison Group to attend in person rather than virtually.

Agenda Item 8 (date of next meeting).

PD: Advised that the next Liaison Group meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 18th July 2023.

Meeting ended.

