

Minutes of the Liaison Meeting

Held at Crown Pet Foods

On Thursday 7th May 2009

Present:	Mrs J Cronie Chair	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr C Edwards	Ansford Parish Council
	Mrs D Pinnions	Ansford Parish Council
	Mrs H Merrifield	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr H Hobhouse	County & District Councillor
	Mr B Moorhouse	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr J Pelatan	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
	Mr F Demauge	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
	Mr G Jefferson	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
	Mr A Chadwick	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
Apologies:	Mr G Clothier	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr J Hood	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr N Weeks	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr R Marlow	Environment Agency
	Mr B Payne	Environment Agency
	Mr C Tew	Environment Agency
	Mr A Gardiner	Environment Agency
	John Crossley	District Councillor
In attendance:	Mrs K Shouls	Minutes

1 Introduction

Mrs Cronie welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were several apologies, which are noted above.

Mrs Cronie then asked if everyone had seen the minutes of the last meeting and whether they had any comments to make. Everyone present had seen the minutes and was happy with them.

2 Changes in Crown Pet Foods organisation

Mr Demauge explained that he had taken the opportunity to ask for an additional liaison meeting as the next meeting was not scheduled until the 10th September. He

thanked everyone for coming along to this additional meeting and thought that those present may already be aware of recent changes that are due to take place in Crown Pet Foods.

Mr Demauge explained that he will leave Crown Pet Foods at the end of June officially to work in the Royal Canin head quarters as Marketing Director for Royal Canin worldwide. Mr Demauge wanted to let the liaison committee meeting members know about this directly from him and he wanted to take the opportunity to introduce his successor - Jean-Lin Pelatan, who was also present at the meeting.

Mr Demauge continued to explain that he has been working for Crown Pet Foods in the UK now for 7 years. Within that time, he has seen many things achieved by Crown Pet Foods – the business had 45 employees when he started and there are now close to 200 associates.

Mr Demauge also explained that is he is proud of what has been achieved in terms of the odour issues and that everyone worked so well together to help tackle the problems. He was pleased that Crown Pet Foods had worked hard to be the good neighbour that they had strived to be. He continued to say that they are still creating jobs within the business and felt that he had such a great team to pass onto his successor.

Mr Moorhouse wanted to say on behalf of himself and Mr Weeks, who could not attend this evening, that they were all very thankful to Mr Demauge for all that he has done and wished him the very best in his new role.

Mrs Cronie agreed and also wanted to thank Mr Demauge on behalf of the local community. She felt that they had achieved a lot together.

Mr Demauge then said that the new technologies applied to the UK production facility are being taken on board in Royal Canin facilities world wide. These technologies are more expensive, but they are better and so they are helping to make a stronger future.

Mr Hobhouse also wanted to thank Mr Demauge for all that he has done.

Mr Demauge then just wanted to mention that he will arrange a meeting to introduce Mr Pelatan to the Environment Agency as they have worked so much together.

Mr Pelatan then introduced himself to the committee members and said that he was pleased to meet his new neighbours on his first day in the UK! He explained that he was very excited to step into Mr Demauge's shoes. He explained that Mr Demauge has achieved great things; implementing Crown Pet Foods into the environment and the community. Mr Pelatan explained that he was hoping to do as well as Mr Demauge has done and keep on with the good relationships with community.

Mr Moorhouse welcomed Mr Pelatan.

3 Environment Agency Update

Mr Jefferson explained that the Environment Agency had said that they would not be

present at future liaison meetings unless necessary. Mr Jefferson explained that he had received a written update submission from Mr Tew of the Environment Agency though, which he shared with the meeting members.

Mr Jefferson explained that the installation was audited by the Environment Agency on 27th February by Mr Tew and Mr Marlow. They found that there were no major problems, only 2 minor ones which have now been resolved.

Mr Jefferson also explained that no substantiated odour problems had been identified and the system was working well. Mr Jefferson explained that Mr Tew had also sent an updated spreadsheet, which he then showed on the projector screen to the meeting members. He explained that the spreadsheet showed no substantiated issues, which showed that the issues are getting less and less.

Mrs Cronie said that she thought people were starting to realise that there are other sources of odours in the area, which are not attributed to Crown Pet Foods.

Mr Hobhouse then said that he was told today by someone that this was a noisy factory, but Mr Hobhouse pointed out that the noise was actually due to the tyre renewal factory and not Crown Pet Foods.

Mr Jefferson then continued with the Environment Agency report to explain that the APP Units had been switched off for the period 23rd – 27th March and no odour complaints were received. He explained that a full report will now be submitted to the Environment Agency stating the case for permanent close down of the units. Mr Jefferson explained that he would be happy to show this report to anyone who is interested.

Mr Jefferson continued to say that the Environment Agency provided the Sunday Telegraph with interviews which were presented as an article on odour using their experiences at Crown Pet Foods. He explained that there was a subsequent interview given by the Environment Agency for BBC Breakfast and it was felt within the Environment Agency that it was very positive for all parties involved.

Mrs Cronie (who was also interviewed by BBC Breakfast) said that she had talked a lot more than was shown on the television interview. She explained that she had talked for about 10 minutes, but only a few seconds were shown. She had spoken more about how well she thought Crown Pet Foods had worked with the community, but this was not shown.

Mr Chadwick explained that this was the same for him as he gave a much longer interview than was shown on the short report.

Mrs Cronie said though that she appreciated that the BBC are limited to time and had to get all interviewees in the short report.

Mr Hobhouse then asked Crown Pet Foods if they are using the Carymoor Environmental Trust yet for independent odour assessments.

Mr Jefferson said that they are not currently using the Carymoor Environmental Trust at the moment, although Mr Chadwick and Mrs Shouls went to visit them last week to learn about the facility. Mr Jefferson explained that if the complaints are

substantiated then they would definitely be in touch with the Carymoor Environmental Trust to talk about getting an independent review.

Mr Demauge suggested that it would be good to meet with the Carymoor Environmental Trust to have an emergency procedure in place should they receive substantiated odour complaints in the future. Mr Demauge agreed that it would be very useful to have an independent review.

4 Blackworthy Road Update

Mr Jefferson explained that he had met with the County Council last week for quite a long discussion meeting. He explained that they will meet again soon and present a submission proposal in order to finish the road off. Mr Jefferson explained that he has recruited a company called Mouchel to come up with suggestions of solutions for the road and he then showed one suggestion on the projector screen.

Mr Jefferson explained that the main issue is that the passing bays are not clear enough. He explained that they propose that there should be two stages of work to the road. First of all it would be important to improve signage and lines on the road, which should help drivers understand how to use the road safely.

Mr Jefferson then said that it will then be important to reduce the width of road by making priority lane's, which stops the traffic and should therefore slow down the traffic going towards the bridge.

Mr Jefferson also explained that the passing bay will allow two lorries through. He said that the County Council are happy with this idea and wanted it to be shared with the Town Councils to get any feedback.

Mr Moorhouse explained that he thought this was a good idea, but if it does not work, he wanted to know if Crown Pet Foods had a plan B.

Mr Jefferson explained that he would not progress with this proposal if the agency that he has recruited were not fully confident that the plans would work. He explained that the company will be looking at models of the road and will monitor traffic to be sure that this is the right solution. Mr Jefferson did explain though that if this proposal does not work, they would need to look at widening road, but this would be a very big job.

Mr Demauge also suggested that this proposal may actually have the opposite effect and may make people drive faster as the road would be wider. He felt that the first option would be far better.

Mr Moorhouse then asked if the 'giveaway' signs are legally binding.

Mr Hobhouse explained that they were.

Mr Edwards then asked Mr Jefferson when these improvements would be completed.

Mr Jefferson explained that the County Council need to meet with the safety team to

get approval and then the proposal needs to be past. He explained though that the sign company could get the signs erected within 2 weeks of getting approval.

Mr Moorhouse asked Mr Jefferson if he could email the proposal from Mouchel to him to pass onto his colleague at Centaur who is involved with Blackworthy Road.

5 Traffic Lights

Mr Jefferson explained that the progress with the traffic lights is not as positive at the moment. He explained that the current traffic light system meets the requirements for the original design of the road. But to make any other changes to this system, it is necessary to reapply, which will take some time.

He explained that the best option at the moment is to apply a 10mph limit over the bridge. He also explained that the new road plan will slow down the traffic anyway. He explained that this will obviously not resolve the issues, but should help.

Mr Jefferson also explained that the County Council have said that they will respond in writing to the letter from the Town Council.

Mr Hobhouse explained that he has been involved in this debate from the other side as well and he said that the push button system seems common sense. He explained that he had an address in London, which he was going to write too, but it may not have any affect at all.

Mr Moorhouse said that at least the signage and speed limit will help and will be the first bite.

Mr Hobhouse said how the push button system seemed so simple and thought that it was not acceptable that it could not be done.

Mr Demauge agreed and asked Mr Hobhouse to continue to push for the common sense approach as hopefully this may help. Mr Demauge also agreed that the other proposals should hopefully help in the meantime.

Mr Jefferson then confirmed that they will apply for the 10mph stretch to be as long as possible.

Mr Moorhouse then said that Mr Weeks had suggested that the traffic lights have flashing lights when a pedestrian is passing over the bridge. But Mr Jefferson explained that again, this would need to be reapplied for.

6 Lorry Movement over the Bank Holiday

Mr Jefferson just wanted to explain that there was a lorry delivery that arrived over the Easter Bank Holiday one morning. He explained that this should not have happened. He contacted the haulier company to ensure that they were aware of the rules and asked that it did not happen in the future.

Mr Jefferson wanted to apologise for this incident and said that they will work hard to ensure that this does not happen again.

Mr Jefferson explained that the entrance gate's were open, but he said that they often take the opportunity of weekends or bank holidays to have some engineering work done on site and this is why the gates were open in this instance.

Mrs Merrifield explained that about a fortnight ago 2 very large continental lorries went down her street. She explained that she did not know if these lorries were heading for Crown Pet Foods, but she was concerned as to why they had used that route.

Mr Moorhouse explained that Centaur do use continental lorries so it could have been them.

Mr Jefferson explained that they still do send leaflets to the haulier companies to discourage people coming down through Castle Cary and he said that they will continue to do this. He explained that he has also given out his own mobile number for people to contact if they see a lorry going the wrong way. This way it can be identified and the haulier company can be confronted in a timely manner.

Mr Demauge agreed that this is a good thing as if they know about a lorry going the wrong way, then they can act on it. He felt though that more and more lorry drivers are taking the rules seriously.

Mrs Pinnions also explained that some lorries do not know where Crown Pet Foods is as she often gets asked for directions.

Mr Jefferson explained that they have changed the address on the purchase orders so that it is a lot clearer now.

7 Site Planting

Mr Jefferson just wanted to talk about the site planting as there was an article in the Western Gazette complaining about the lack of landscaping on the site. He wanted the liaison committee members to know that they have planted over 1000 trees and shrubs on the site and some of these may take up to 5 years before they establish themselves. He explained that the best they can do for the moment is to look after the site and wait for the plants to mature.

Mr Jefferson explained that he is planning to do more planting at the front entrance and is waiting for a quote from the landscaping agency.

Various members of the Town Council agreed that the planted trees and shrubs will take time to mature and thought that the area looks fine.

Mr Demauge asked everyone when they leave the property to look at the trees, as the ones that were planted last year already have leaves, but the ones that have needed to be replaced this year do not have leaves. This just shows that there is progress and it takes time for plants to establish themselves.

Mr Demauge explained that they had some lovely daffodils on the site recently. He explained how he had arranged a bulb planting party last September for the staff of Crown Pet Foods and their families. He felt that this was a good way for them to

show that they do care about the landscape. He explained that step by step, the landscaping should improve.

Mr Jefferson also explained that the landscaping agency have said that there is no point planting in between the current plants as this will reduce the area for growth.

8 Any Other Business

Mr Demauge wanted to say that he had today received a letter from Mr Jeffs of the Town Council regarding the replacement of 5 dog bins in the town and he just wanted to say that the cheque will be in the post as soon as possible.

Mr Hobhouse asked Crown Pet Foods if they were planning to hold another open day for the public this year as he thought that it would be a good idea.

Mr Demauge said that this will be discussed and thanked Mr Hobhouse for the suggestion.

Mrs Merrifield just wanted to mention that she had noticed that the grass on site had been beautifully cut and this shows a real change from last year already, so it shows that the landscape is progressing well.

Date of the next meeting (as per the last meeting minutes of 18th February):

Date: Thursday 10th September 2009.

Time: 18:30pm.

Venue: Crown Pet Foods.

The meeting closed at 19.10pm.