

Minutes of the Liaison Meeting

Held at Crown Pet Foods

On Thursday 10th September 2009

Present:	Mr J Crossley Chair	District Councillor
	Mr C Tew	Environment Agency
	Miss L Tilling	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr J Hood	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr H Hobhouse	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr G Clothier	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr C Edwards	Ansford Parish Council
	Mrs H Merrifield	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr J Pelatan	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
	Mr G Jefferson	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
	Mr A Chadwick	Crown Pet Foods (CPF)
Apologies:	Mr R Little	County Councillor
	Mrs J Cronie	Ansford Parish Council
	Mr N Weeks	Castle Cary Town Council
	Mr B Moorhouse	Castle Cary Town Council
In attendance:	Mrs K Shouls	Minutes

1 Introduction

Mr Crossley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself to those who did not know him.

He then read the apologies as mentioned above and there were no more to add from any of the committee attendees.

There were no extra points to be made to the minutes of the last meeting.

2 Environment Agency Update

Mr Tew showed a spreadsheet of the odour reports since the plant was commissioned in August. He explained that the Environment Agency received a spate of complaints around July, which were puzzling. Mr Tew explained that if they receive just one complaint then it is hard for them to substantiate it unless their officer actually goes out and smells it themselves.

As there was a spate of reports, they suggested to Crown Pet Foods that it would be useful to visit some of the complainants and ask them exactly what they have experienced. Mr Tew explained that he carried this out today with Mr Croker from Crown Pet Foods.

Mr Tew referred back to the spreadsheet and explained that they cannot actually say that any of the reports are substantiated. He mentioned that he walked around the site this evening and he did notice an odour within the factory boundary. However, Mr Croker did not notice this odour – this reinforces that fact that different people have different smell perceptions.

Mr Tew also explained that there had been an allegation of noise from the premises from a local resident too. He did not believe that this noise was from Crown Pet Foods as there are no noise sources on site. Mr Tew did explain that the issue has been put in hands of the local authority who will install a noise device at the person's property. They were adamant that they hear a noise at certain times in the day, but Mr Tew explained that until they receive accurate data about the noise, they cannot confirm where this noise is coming from.

Mr Tew then showed the room some odour samples, which were taken today at various points in the carbon filter. The carbon filter has a lifespan, so it is important to take samples at various points to check its performance. From smelling these samples, Mr Tew explained that it was clear that the equipment is working very well.

Mr Jefferson mentioned that if anyone wanted to smell any of the samples, they were more than welcome at the end of the meeting.

Mr Hood then asked how much notice they would need to replenish the carbon filter. Mr Jefferson said that they would probably need 2 weeks notice. They would need to vacuum the container to suck out all of the carbon. Refuelling with carbon would be done in a weekend. Mr Jefferson confirmed that there are many sample points that they use to monitor the carbon effectiveness, this includes, at the inlet, at 200ml, 400ml, 600ml and at the end. Mr Jefferson also explained that they send samples away for analysis too, so the results together will give an even better picture of the effectiveness.

Mr Hood then asked how much carbon is within the filter.
Mr Jefferson explained that there was 10 tons of carbon.

Mr Jefferson then added that the carbon that is removed from the filter is most likely recycled afterwards and in the worst case, it would be sent to landfill.

Mr Hobhouse then made an observation from looking at the complaint report that many of the complaints appeared to be made on a Monday.
Mr Jefferson replied by first reiterating that none of the complaints have been substantiated so far. He then explained that production restarts on a Sunday night, so there is not anything particularly different on a Monday.

Mr Tew added that there has been some allegations that odour might creep through during start up and shut down of the machinery, he explained that this is not the case.

Mr Hobhouse added that he was just making an observation from the spreadsheet.

Mr Tew suggested that it could be due to people's movements or habits on the way to work. He then wanted to just repeat the message that a completely odour free scenario cannot be guaranteed.

Mr Jefferson did say that they would look into the observation as Mr Hobhouse had made a good point.

Mr Clothier then mentioned that there are all sorts of differences on a Monday, such as more diesel fumes.

Miss Tilling then asked whether the sound device will help to know where the sound is actually coming from.

Mr Tew explained that the device will detect sounds and then by looking back through weather results and other data, they hope to find a result.

Mr Tew also explained that the complaint is from quite a reliable source and they also say that they can hear the noise even over traffic noise, in the morning and afternoon. Mr Tew said that the complaint is very puzzling and this is why they have included the local authority as well. Mr Tew also addressed the committee to ask that if anyone had any ideas to help with this investigation to let him know.

Mrs Merrifield asked which area the noise was heard?

Mr Tew explained that it was in this area.

Mr Hobhouse mentioned that the tyre shredding factory actually insulated some of the noise from houses in their vicinity, but this resulted in directing some of the noise to this area now.

Mr Crossley asked whether any of the complaints were specific to the tyre factory?

Mr Tew said that any complaints were only alleged and reiterated that noise problems are local authority issue.

Mr Jefferson concluded to say that if the noise complaints are found to be coming from Crown Pet Foods then he wanted everyone to know that it would be investigated in order to resolve the issue.

3 Blackworthy Road Update

Mr Jefferson just wanted to give everyone an update on how they are getting on with the process of improving Blackworthy Road and said that it has been quite slow. He explained that they went to the County Council in July, with the proposal that was discussed at last meeting. In this proposal, it was suggested that the improvements were made in two stages. The feedback was that the two improvements could not be done at separate times and so it was agreed that it would all be completed at the same stage.

Mr Jefferson also explained that progress has been slow as the company who were going to make the improvements went bankrupt due to the economic downturn and Mouchel (the design company) also had to reduce their staff headcount.

Mr Jefferson added that they will go back to the County Council at the end of this month. He confirmed that the work is progressing as fast as it can for the moment.

Mr Crossley just wanted to also find out the update regarding the traffic lights on the

bridge.

Mr Jefferson explained that the County Council have had the lights “safety surveyed” and that they are fine as they are. They have suggested that extra signage is added for pedestrian and horses. Mr Jefferson also explained that this has been shared with N Weeks and N Creed.

Mr Crossley asked what the issue was with the lights and Mr Hobhouse explained that there is not a push button system at these lights for pedestrians and horse/bike riders.

Mr Jefferson explained that Crown Pet Foods will definitely invest in further signage where they can.

4 Dog Waste Bins

Mr Chadwick just wanted to update the committee on the fact that Crown Pet Foods has sponsored 5 replacement dog waste bins in Castle Cary in May and 2 bins in Ansford, which will be in place shortly.

Various people asked if there were posts for the waste bins, but it was thought that as these were replacement bins, the posts should be there already.

Mr Crossley asked if these bins were branded, but Mr Chadwick confirmed that they were not branded at the moment.

5 Any Other Business

Miss Tilling explained that there will be a Victorian evening in Castle Cary on the 3rd December and wondered whether Crown Pet Foods would like to get involved. Miss Tilling was asked to email details of the event to Mrs Shouls.

Mr Hood then asked if there was a need to continue the Liaison Committee Meetings and suggested that perhaps there could be one a year. He explained that Crown Pet Foods have resolved most issues that promoted the meetings to take place initially and so questioned whether the meetings are achieving anything now.

Miss Tilling said that as long as the committee are happy to react to anything and arrange a meeting if necessary that is what is important.

Mr Tew mentioned that the Environment Agency do not attend these meetings as much as they used to now, although, they are always more than happy to attend when needed.

Mr Hood suggested that general communication could be by email.

Mr Clothier mentioned that he felt that the Community Matters newsletter from Crown Pet Foods is a big help to keep the community updated.

Mr Crossley then confirmed that a Liaison Committee Meeting can be called for at any time by either chair of the two councils or the Managing Director of Crown Pet Foods.

Mr Tew added that personally he thought that the Liaison Committee Meetings have

been a useful way to keep people updated and he felt that the meeting's had been extremely well done.

Mrs Merrifield also added that the Community Matters newsletter are very well done and should continue.

Mr Pelatan confirmed that these newsletters will definitely continue.

Mr Clothier added that these newsletters also prove that Crown Pet Foods are keeping in touch with the local people and are doing what they say they will do.

Mr Tew also said that he felt that people appear to be at ease with contacting Crown Pet Foods if they have any issues.

Mr Jefferson agreed that they appear too.

Mr Crossley then asked if Crown Pet Foods have had any traffic complaints and Mr Jefferson explained that they had not.

Mr Crossley then closed the meeting at 18h59.