

South Kirkby Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Monday 12 September 2016

Chair: Cllr Richard Forster, District Councillor, Castleford Central and Glasshoughton Ward 4

Time: 6.00pm

Minutes: Suzanne Daykin, Administrator, Shanks

Location: South Kirkby Main Site, Brigantian Way, WF9 3TH

Attendees

Tom Allsopp (TA)	Town Councillor, South Kirkby & Moorthorpe Town Council
Wilfred Benson (WB)	District Councillor, South Elmsall and South Kirkby, Ward 14
Craig Capper (CC)	Senior Operations Manager, Shanks
Colin Fletcher	Contract Director, Shanks
Cllr Richard Forster (RF)	District Councillor, Castleford Central and Glasshoughton, Ward 4
Julie Greenwood (JG)	Strategic Waste Policy Manager, Wakefield Council
Glynn Humphries (GH)	Service Director (Cleaner and Greener), Wakefield Council
Sally Hurn (SH)	Project Co-Ordinator, Shanks
Claire Mitchell (CM)	Environment Agency
Cllr Steve Tulley (ST)	District Councillor, South Elmsall and South Kirkby - Ward 14

Apologies

Eric Burkes (EB)	Local Resident
Cllr Michelle Collins (MC)	District Councillor, South Kirkby and South Elmsall
Dan Jacobs (DJ)	Strategic Waste Technical Manager, Wakefield Council

Non Attendance

Kim Macfarlane (KM)	Local resident
Adam Redfearn	Town Councillor
Charles Robinson (CR)	Town Councillor
Nanette Swain (NS)	South Kirkby Residents Against Waste
Tony Ward (TW)	Local Resident

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Richard Forster, Chair Person

RF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies – Chairperson

Apologies were received from those as listed above.

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 1 February 2016

The minutes were reviewed on a page by page basis and were agreed as a true record of the last meeting.

Page 2 – WB asked if the 40% decrease in waste sent to landfill had improved during the previous months. CF noted there had been a slight improvement and the current recycling figure is 54-55% which is 2.3% above the 52% Contractual target.

No further comments were made under this section.

4. Project Overview – Julie Greenwood, Strategic Waste Policy Manager, Wakefield Council

JG commented on the following:

- Discussions had taken place during previous meetings to update the agenda to reflect operational changes to the Project. She advised that CF and CC would comment on Operational issues.
- Shanks have a Contractual target to recycle 52% of all household waste with a diversion away from landfill and financial penalties could be incurred if waste is not diverted where ever possible. The service is being delivered in accordance with the Contract Specification, which is monitored by Wakefield Council and any deviations from this would incur financial deductions. Last year the Council deducted approximately £50,000 over the year which demonstrates a good level of performance, equating to less than 0.01% of the Contract value.
- Earlier in the year it was announced that it was Shanks' intention to sell part of the equity in the business. This sale has now taken place and as Shanks remain the majority shareholder, there would be no impact on the Project.
- Shanks has to date, issued two claims for compensation against Wakefield Council. These are based on increased costs due to changes in legislation. These will be reviewed in line with the Contract and a response made in due course. ST asked for further details of these claims. JG advised the Contract between Shanks and Wakefield Council was signed in 2013, and was based on certain pieces of legislation. Due to changes in legislation, mainly around renewables, this could have a financial impact on Shanks. A review of the Contract Financial model will be carried out to ascertain if there is a valid claim.

CF commented on the following:

- Operations within the Transfer Stations, HWRCs and Bring Sites is going well. Shanks has received a noise complaint from a local resident at the Glasshoughton HWRC and work is being carried out to install an acoustic screen which will be monitored.
- South Kirkby MDR MRF is being staffed by agency workers which have not yet been transferred to Shanks but are employed on pay parity with Shanks staff. There are approximately 26-28 staff daily. Trials to improve performance are currently being run.
- South Kirkby IVC is operational this season and a number of changes have been made since the last meeting. An electric shredder and screen have been recently been installed and performance testing is due to start in the facility. It is expected that PAS100 compost should be produced by the end of this season/early next season.
- South Kirkby RWTF in general is operating well. Refuse derived fuel (RDF) produced from the waste is going into Ferrybridge Multifuel Facility as planned. Over the last few months there have been increased stock levels due to machinery failures, controls are in place and all deliveries have been accepted and there has been no requirement for Shanks to invoke the Business Continuity Plan. There have been a number of operational issues with the plant such as belt failures and these have been repaired over the weekend or on an evening.
- South Kirkby Autoclave is working well, the annual inspection has just been carried out which was passed successfully and the autoclave is now back in use.
- Pre-treatment Plant has seen some of the biggest challenges over the last three to six months due to issues preventing the preparation and treatment of the organic material ready for the AD facility.
- South Kirkby AD Facility is working well to produce gas but not to the expected levels.

ST asked why the agency workers had not yet been transferred to Shanks. CF advised that there were around 12-14 individuals who had worked here consistently since operations began who would be transferred when the time was right, but timescales were yet unknown. There had been a change in the recruitment agency that manages the pickers to gain a better managed service, all staff were moved to the new agency via a TUPE transfer.

ST also asked if the increased stock levels were a contributing factor to the recent odour issues. CF advised that four distinct types of odours had been recognised on site; IVC odour (compost), residual waste odour (general waste), autoclave odour and ETP odour (sewage type odour). These odours are being monitored on site, around the boundary and throughout the community on a daily basis. As part of Shanks' Environment Permit a Schedule 5 report has to be issued to the Environment Agency if any door failures occur.

TA asked if Shanks operate a double door system on site. CF advised that all doors were a single point of entry with an air knife blowing down as the door was brought up. A review is being carried out to look at the timing sequence to access if it can be reduced and new trials are to be carried out to determine how high the door needs to be brought up to permit vehicle entry.

WB asked for an explanation regarding the process of the engines. CF advised that due to unstable gas production, the AD tanks are currently full, but not consistently generating sufficient gas to support the engines. A 10-12 week programme is currently ongoing to enable modifications to be made which is proving successful, to date.

GH added that the ongoing issues with the AD facility is due to the original sub-contractor going out of business, leaving Shanks with no support.

5. Service Delivery and Programme – Julie Greenwood, Strategic Waste Policy Manager, Wakefield Council and Colin Fletcher, Contract Director, Shanks.

It was agreed that this section of the agenda be changed from Service Delivery and Programme to Plant and Operational Performance which would be delivered by CF.

A: SD to amend section 5 of the agenda to read Plant and Operational Performance.

6. Environment Agency – Claire Mitchell

CM advised the following:

- During the month of August 2016 there had been approximately 20 odour complaints received, of which, 75-80% were substantiated based on the type of odour described and the wind direction. The suggestions made by Shanks to reduce the number of odour complaints moving forward are positive. Shanks had recently implemented an Odour Help Line which enables active monitoring to be carried out. She advised that there had not been any odour complaints received during September 2016.
- A number of Schedule 5 reports were completed between June and August which were mainly due to small spillages into the blackwater. Following investigations it was determined there had been no adverse effects and continual monitoring would take place.

TA advised that there was no noise that could be attributed to the site. He also asked if any staff had complained regarding the odour as a few of the RCV vehicle drivers had previously mentioned that they had been ill. GH advised that there had been a few drivers that had mentioned feeling ill during the period when there was a gas odour but there had been no recent reports.

7. Odour Review – Colin Fletcher

CF advised that reviews had taken place and four main sources of odour had been identified. Each area has an odour abatement unit in place.

Odour unit A – Waste Reception hall

Odour unit B – Pre-Sort area

Odour unit C – Autoclave and Pre-Treatment area

Odour unit D – AD Tank farm and digestate hall

Each odour unit has a base line to determine the correct flow as required as part of the Permit and samples have been taken from each of the odour units. The samples were analysed and a report provided which advised that odour unit A and D had failed. Gas samples were taken from the units and the results have been shared with the Environment Agency and the Council. Investigations into why the odour units are not providing the correct level of odour abatement have taken place. CF advised that it was expected that the main issue was due to the carbon sinking around 6" at the top of the filters allowing odorous gasses to bypass the filter. Replacement carbon was on order to enable the units to be topped up and a programme of works was in place to carry out modifications in an effort to ensure that bypass did not reoccur.

GH commented that it was important to ensure communications were in place advising of any odour related issues. CF advised that a weekly email was now being sent to MC to advise of any potential issues

WB asked what spores are and are they harmful. CF advised that spores are contained in bio aerosols were present in the IVC and Reception areas. A six monthly monitoring programme is in place by an independent consultant and a report provided. For this reason, it is Shanks' policy that all staff are provided with, and use the correct level of PPE.

TA asked if staff in the HWRCs were correctly trained to handle asbestos and if any restrictions were in place. CF advised that staff were trained and a policy was in place. If any asbestos is found, it is quarantined and dealt with according to procedures. RF commented that there was an ongoing publicity campaign in place to advise residents which bins should be used for different items of waste.

9. Any Other Business

AOB 1: Let's sort it out campaign

JG advised that the Council was currently running a campaign in residential areas for what can go in what bin and where electrical items can be taken. This includes doorstep engagement and bin wagons fitted with new pictorial side panels. A photo shoot had taken place with RF to highlight the issues of sharp objects being placed in the recycling bin and to advise what to do with sharp items such as saws and knives.

AOB 2: Grass cutting for the elderly

TA advised that there was a scheme in place for cutting lawns for the elderly or infirm for a small fee. He understood that if the waste was brought to the HWRC Shanks would charge for this service. JG advised that if the individuals were paying South Kirkby Town Council then this would be classed as commercial waste and this would not be accepted at the HWRCs. GH suggested that it could be possible for the council to provide a skip within the local area and would discuss further outside of the meeting.

AOB 3: Litter on the bypass

ST commented regarding the litter on the bypass and asked. GH advised that if there was a contract in place to clear it, it would be Shanks for Streetscene to clear on a fortnightly basis.