

South Kirkby Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Monday 6 September 2021
Chair: Elaine Blezard, Deputy Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Green Spaces
Time: 6.00pm
Minutes: Suzanne Daykin, Senior Administrator, Renewi
Location: South Kirkby Main Site, Brigantian Way, WF9 3TH

Attendees

Nicky Allen (NA)	Customer Services Quality Manager, Renewi
Eric Burkes (EB)	Local Resident
Suzanne Daykin (SD)	Senior Administrator, Renewi
Julie Greenwood (JG)	Strategic Waste Policy Manager, Wakefield Council
Elaine Blezard (EB)	Deputy Portfolio Holder, Wakefield Council
David Heseltine (DH)	Contract Director, Renewi
Moirá Mattingley-Nunn (MMN)	Education Manager, Renewi (via Teams)
Claire Mitchell (CM)	Environment Agency (via Teams)
Robert Oakley (RO)	Local Resident

Apologies

Jake Hammond	Interim RWTF Manager, Renewi
Gary Blenkinsop	Service Director for Environment, Street Scene & Climate Change
Sally Hurn	Performance Framework Manager, Renewi
Chris Corn	Local Resident
Jonathon Singleton	Senior Operations Manager, Renewi
Glyn Humphries	Service Director for Environment & Property Regeneration & Economic Growth
Michelle Collins	Deputy Portfolio Holder - Environment, Communities and Poverty

Unconfirmed Attendees

Reg Mills (RM)	Local Resident
Steve Tulley (ST)	District Councillor, South Elmsall and South Kirkby, Ward 14
Lynne Whitehouse (LW)	District Councillor, South Elmsall and South Kirkby, Ward 14

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Jack Hemingway, Chairperson

EB welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were carried out.

2. Apologies – Chairperson

Apologies were received from those as listed above.

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 26 April 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

4. Service Delivery / Performance Update – Julie Greenwood, Strategic Waste Policy Manager, Wakefield Council

JG advised that Renewi had just missed the year end performance target for the 2020/2021 Contract Year by 0.4% which was disappointing. Renewi and the Council worked hard to maximise performance throughout the pandemic taking into account the HWRCs were closed from the end of March to mid May 2020. During this period the Council suspended its garden waste and bulky collections to concentrate on the higher levels of household waste. Household waste increased on average to 523kg per household.

The recycling national standard of 50% was missed by 0.25%. 11% of municipal waste was sent to landfill.

The HWRCs are now operating as outlined in the Contract and all COVID restrictions have been lifted.

The Council's Monitoring team are now back working on site to monitor Renewi's performance.

Since the last meeting in April 2021, Renewi reported 55 accidents and 4,247 safety concerns.

5. Operational Performance Update and Education Service

Operational update – David Heseltine, Contract Director, Renewi.

DH commented that the last twelve months had been very challenging for Renewi due to operations being impacted by COVID. At one point approximately 30% of Renewi staff were off work relating to COVID and services were maintained. Renewi staff levels are now back to normal but there are now issues due to Brexit and the lack of drivers which is impacting supplies.

Household Recycling Rate

Renewi is currently forecasting a year-to-date household recycling rate of 57.83% which will allow the Council to hit their target of 50%.

Fire Incidents

Fire incidents in the facilities have reduced, mainly due to the work by the Education Team and the Council relating to zombie batteries. An explosion occurred in the MDR MRF in July which was caused by a small camping gas cylinder. The facility was unable to operate for three days as a result.

Effluent Treatment Plant

Works continue in the facility to increase performance, with the possibility of replacing the MBR by the end of the year at around £200k.

IVC facility

Renewi have replaced the biofilters in the facility to reduce potential odour issues. The facility has received good volumes of waste and 200 tonnes of soil improver will be available for residents to collect from the HWRCs.

Education Service – Moira Mattingley-Nunn

MMN shared a presentation detailing the Education Service between April 2021 and September 2021:

- 59 Community Events took place, a significant increase due to not being allowed to carry out school events
- 14 School Events took place
- Education Garden – in an effort to improve bio-diversity new raised beds planted with fruit, vegetables and flowers were implemented by Renewi and Council staff as part of a CSR day. Good results have been seen and additional sessions are planned
- Real Nappy collection windows increased to work through the back log of requests
- The Fire and Ice roadshow received a good response and received positive feedback

6. Environment Agency – Claire Mitchell, Environment Agency

CM advised the following:

- A site visit took place in June 2021 which detected an offsite odour issue that was traced back to the RWTF
- A site visit took place in July 2021 relating to Renewi's Odour Management plan which found no breaches had occurred
- The EA undertook an odour assessment during September 2021 and did not detect any odours in South Kirkby town centre, a light odour was detected by the tanks and in Renewi's car park.
- Year to date, 26 odour complaints have been received, a significant increase when compared to 2020
- The new permit has been issued and best available techniques are to be met by August 2022.

CM further reiterated the importance of residents to report all odours to the Environment Agency on the 24/7 helpline at the time the odour is noticed, by doing this it will help with Renewi's investigations. The helpline telephone number is 0800 807060. All reports are recorded by the EA and sent to Renewi for investigating and feedback to the EA.

7. Odour Review – David Heseltine, Contract Director, Renewi

DH advised it had been challenging at times regarding odour issues. Renewi received 45 odour complaints between the period of April 2021 to present. The most recent issue being a complex technical and biological problem. Renewi is looking into replacing the existing suspension buffer tank with two smaller tanks to reduce potential anaerobic conditions. A feasibility study is in progress which could cause interruptions to operations.

There has been a significant improvement seen in odour systems A and E and focus is currently on odour systems D and C. Carbon supplies for the odour system are limited due to current economic issues but a delivery is imminent and is currently lasting four weeks.

DH apologised to residents during this challenging period and advised that Renewi is doing it's best to contain odour as much as possible.

8. Any Other Business

AOB 1: JG

User Satisfaction Survey

JG advised that an external company is undertaking a User Satisfaction Survey during September across the HWRCs and Bring Sites. Members of the public will be approached and asked for their opinions.

AOB 2: JG

Council Green Waste Collections

JG advised that the Council will be extending the green waste collections for two weeks which will give households an additional collection.

AOB 3: RO

Odour Issues

RO asked Renewi how confident they are that the ongoing works to reduce odour issues will be successful as he lived in the area since 2015 and every year there has been a high level of odour. He was advised before the plant was built that it would be an odourless site. DH advised that a guarantee cannot be given, Renewi's Central Engineering team is working to eliminate operational issues that cause odour. JG commented that each year sees a different issue, recent issues have been caused by pressure release, carbon and SBT issues. She further commented that the facility is processing more material than expected which is impacting the plant. Feasibility reports are being carried out to

determine if the plant is suitable and Renewi could reduce throughput of the facilities to reduce the risk of odour.

RO advised he felt it would be beneficial to attend the meetings on a regular basis and commented that more local residents should attend. JG commented it would be beneficial to hold an open day to allow residents to attend site, a local doorstep engagement campaign or leaflet drop could be carried out.

It was also noted there are different types of odour from the facility and not all odour complaints received have been substantiated from Renewi.

DH offered a site visit for RO and suggested he contacted Renewi to arrange if required.

Discussions took place regarding the pond water release as it appeared to be overflowing. DH advised this lagoon is surface water runoff and is clean. The pond is tested daily and if in consent of the permit it can be realised into the swale if required, the design of this not ideal but any changes are made to the aeration system it may affect the permit.

RO commented that he frequently hears vehicle noise and asked what work is carried out during the night. DH advised that processing stops at midnight in the residual facility. The fans are constantly on in the IVC facility but should not be heard outside of the site and operations in the MDR MRF finish at approximately 5pm. He suggested the only noise he could think of was if there were any late skip changes. JG advised that planning allows for Renewi to operate 24 hours and suggested it would be beneficial for RO to keep a log of any noises heard and forward to Renewi to investigate.

RO asked who owned the land surrounding the site as the ponds appear to be overgrown. JG advised it mainly owned by Wakefield Council, but certain areas are under Renewi's control. Some work has been carried out, but no-one knows who by, this work has caused some damage to the bottom by removing some of the reeds which are needed. She further commented that work is planned for October/November to improve the pond and pond dipping platform.

No further comments were made under this section.