

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2014  
 title: GENERAL REPORT  
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: JAMES RUSSELL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of relevant issues which have arisen since the last meeting.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives healthier and safer.

## 2 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LIAISON MEETING

2.1 A liaison meeting was held on 13 January 2014. A copy of the minutes is attached as the Appendix to this report.

## 3 CLARIFICATION OF DOG DAY CARE LICENCE CONDITIONS

3.1 At the meeting of this committee on 31 October 2013, clarification was requested in relation to the inclusion of additional conditions to the proposed model condition requirements for applicants to hold Planning Permission and be considered a 'fit & proper' person.

3.2 The requirement to have planning permission is not a permitted requirement under the Animal Boarding Establishment 1963 (as amended) and is therefore challengeable if a local authority, as the licensing authority, includes a specific condition that the applicant holds planning permission before a licence be granted. Please be assured, environmental health liaises closely with development planning and would seek not to approve and issue a licence to an operator without relevant planning permission. However, legally if challenged we could be required to issue a licence if the premises met the requisite standards.

3.3 As explained at committee, the principal act specifies the offences and disqualifications from holding an animal boarding licence, which are as follow:

Offences and disqualifications:

- Where a person is convicted of any offence under this Act; or,
- any offence under the Protection of Animals Act 1911; or,
- the Pet Animals Act 1951; or
- of any offence under any of sections 4, 5, 6(1) and (2), 7 to 9 and 11 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006,

a court may cancel any licence and may, disqualify an operator from keeping a boarding establishment for animals for such period as the court thinks fit. As such an applicant is required to sign a statement on their application that they or any person who will have control of the operation has not been convicted/prohibited under relevant legislation.

#### 4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF

- 4.1 Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in attracting a full time maternity cover replacement for the Environmental Health Officer (Health & Safety) post.
- 4.2 In order to meet end of year targets in relation to food safety and pollution prevention control it has been necessary to employ two environmental health consultants. In addition, to achieve the end of 2014 deadline for the assessment of our private water supplies, a general district EHO has been employed for a 12 month fixed contract.

#### 5 CLITHEROE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA - UPDATE

- 5.1 A meeting is to take place on 25 March to be attended by this authority's environmental health and planning officers with officers from Lancashire County Highways to consider options to be included in an action plan, as required by DEFRA, to take forward the declared Air Quality Management Plan.
- 5.2 This is the first stage in a significant process which will eventually result in a wider consultation process with stipulated interested parties.

#### 6 RADIOACTIVITY IN FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2012

- 6.1 This is the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment. The report focuses on key information that shows that food is safe and the public's exposure to ionising radiation around the 39 nuclear sites around the UK is within legal limits.
- 6.2 The report generally concludes that levels monitored are either stable or continuing to reduce.
- 6.2 The contamination of sheep and fish with caesium-137 from the accident at Chernobyl in 1986 remained at low but still detectable levels. Concentrations in fish are now less than 10 per cent of those observed in the immediate aftermath of the accident. I am pleased to report that restrictions of sheep movement on farms, due to Chernobyl caesium in sheep meat, have finally after 26 years been withdrawn due to the low consumer risks involved
- 6.3 The UK governments reacted quickly to the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident in 2011 to ensure the safety of UK citizens, including those overseas, and to monitor the effects in the UK. These effects were found to be of no radiological significance in the UK in 2011 and no Fukushima Dai-ichi derived radioactivity was identified in the UK environment in 2012. Monitoring of imported food from Japan continued in 2012. No shipments were withdrawn because of high levels Monitoring at ports of entry to the UK for non-specific contamination detected two food shipments which required further investigation.

#### 7 MOBILE HOMES ACT 2013

- 7.1 The provisions of this Act come into force on 1 April 2014. The Act introduces significant additional powers to local authorities to deal with the licensing and control of certain caravan sites, which provide permanent residency ie are not holiday use only. In particular, the Act allows local authorities to introduce reasonable charges for undertaking their licensing function including transfers of licences, compile and maintain a Public Register of 'Fit & Proper Persons as licence holders' and introduces new enforcement measures of Compliance Notices and Emergency Action measures.

7.2 It is intended to present a further detailed decision report to committee following Matthew Riding attending a training course later this month.

JAMES RUSSELL  
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for James Russell on 01200 414466.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

JAR/HEALTH & HOUSING/20 March 2014

# HANSON CEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

## MEETING DATE – THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT:	G Young	-	Hanson Cement
	J Peate	-	Hanson Cement
	L England	-	Bellman Committee
	S Booth	-	Chatburn PC
	Hazel Best	-	West Bradford PC
	David Sharp	-	West Bradford PC
	J Haine	-	LCC
	Cllr I Brown	-	RVBC
	Cllr P Dowson	-	RVBC
	J Russell	-	RVBC
	O Heap	-	RVBC

### GEOLANCASHIRE PRESENTATION

Before the Liaison meeting started, Peter Del Strother on behalf of GeoLancashire gave a brief presentation on the 5 Geotrails along the Ribble Way that had been produced. Particular emphasis focused on the Clitheroe trail which is to include a viewing platform at Hanson Cement. The trails had been written for walkers in general but had more geographical information on their website.

Gary reported that this was the first step in an educational package that would include a graphical timeline and a geology room alongside the work that the Ribble Catchment Trust are doing.

A visit to the viewing platform then took place.

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Richard Sherras, Bill Honeywell (West Bradford) and Mary Gysbers.

### 2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 were circulated and approved as a correct record.
- 2.2 Lynda asked if the analysis of a deposit on one of the gauges had been received (8.1). Gary reported that it had confirmed as bird strike.
- 2.3 Jonathan corrected the depth of the quarry in point 4.1 to – 31 metres (minus) not 31 metres.

### 3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1.1 Gary gave a brief update on operations at Ribblesdale. Nationally the demand was continuing to recover and the outlook for Ribblesdale works was that production should be back to normal by the end of January 2014. As a result they would be looking to recruit more employees.
- 3.2 Gary reported that noticeable differences would include the increase in trains to 6 per week – 3 to Scotland and 3 to Avondale (Bristol), and the increase in truck movements carrying SRF onto the site.

#### 4 BELLMAN, LANEHEAD AND COPLOW QUARRIES

- 4.1 Gary reported that development at Bellman had continued although there have been some issues with management of clay deposits. Company extracting in the order of 3.5 million tonnes per annum. De-watering has continued from Bellman into Worston Brook and Lanehead into the Ribble in compliance with EA permit conditions. Extraction and recovery of stone from Tarmac Quarry was ongoing as was the development in the Horrocksford area. The application for the deepening of the operation at Lanehead had been submitted. Intention to deepen from 17 to -31 metres in Horrocksford to access additional high grade limestone. Production requires access to 27,000 tonnes per week of appropriate grade/blend to enable continuous plant operation.
- 4.2 Gary presented an overview of blasting data for both Bellman and Lanehead along with the outflow data that confirmed excellent compliance with quarry planning conditions. There had been a couple of notifications of 'feeling' the blast (Feb) but these had been well within permissible limits.
- 4.3 Gary gave details of the outflows at Bellman and Lanehead along with suspended solids/ph graphs. He also showed data for the settlement pond.
- 4.4 He reported that the discharges to the river were still monitored even though this was no longer required by the Environment Agency. Rather than purely chemical checks the Ribble Catchment Trust were now doing 'health checks' on the river with regard to habitat and species present.

#### 5 QUARRY DEEPENING APPLICATION

- 5.1 This had been submitted on 17.9.12 for the right hand side of Lanehead quarry. There are current reserves of 7 years that would be extended by a further 13 years. This application, in conjunction with existing Bellman reserves, allows for sufficient reserves to support ongoing investment at the plant. For compositional reasons, it will be necessary that both quarries will operate together up to the end of reserve life; estimates for when this will be relate to production volumes but could potentially provide to 2050.
- 5.2 Draft conditions relating to a proposed joint hydrological monitoring scheme with Tarmac had been received this week and were being considered.
- 5.3 Monitoring was also taking place at Chatburn Brook to ascertain the potential loss of water attributable to quarry operations, if any.

#### 6 SUBSTITUTE FUELS / MATERIALS UPDATE

- 6.1 Gary showed a bar chart of the comparative use of substitute fuels - situation again improving – in that site had achieved 65% in 2013, compared to highest achieved of 70% in 2009.
- 6.2 SRF had previously been sourced from Scotland. A contract had now been secured with Lancashire Waste, Thornton to provide SRF. Approx 170 tonnes can be used in one day. A significant % of the waste from Lancashire Waste being used by Hanson Cement at Ribblesdale works.
- 6.3 Application had been made to use MBM to the main burner. Trials were ongoing with SRF to the main burner and calciner. An application for capital for SRF to calciner had been made.

## 7 COMMUNITY CONCERNS (COMPLAINTS)

- 7.1 Hanson had received 5 complaints so far in 2013. 3 related to dust and 2 to plume grounding. A question was asked if any complaints were ever received about noise. Gary reported that none had been received so far this year and that these were better dealt with if the complainant rings the site as the noise is happening so that an immediate check can be made. A noise survey using an acoustic camera had been carried out at the Padeswood site where it had shown that the offending noise does not always come from where it was expected.

## 8 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

- 8.1 Gary gave an overview of continuing monitoring of dust, by dust gauges on Google Earth that were placed all around the site and had been in operation since 2007 (single kiln operation). The results showed correlation between all the gauges (North, South, East and West) and the general trend of deposits was continuing to decrease. Any gauge linked with a complaint is sent off for independent analysis. This often transpired as bird strike. Covers had been installed at the 'duckpond' gauge.
- 8.2 Gary reported that the company were to review the number of monitoring stations that would probably result in a rationalisation and reduction in number.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Housing development

Gary had made representations on behalf of Hanson Cement at the Planning Inquiry. The outcome had now been received and the appeal had been dismissed with planning permission being given for houses on this site (Old Road, Chatburn).

### 10.2 Environment Agency

James asked if they were looking for anything new in the future. Gary reported that they have adopted a 'lighter touch' approach to this site although they still visit regularly every couple of months.

### 10.3 Tarmac

James asked about what happens to the planning permission if Tarmac don't take up quarry work again in the future. Jonathan reported that it would lapse, although the consent was live until 2018 when the agreed restoration works would have to take place if there was no quarrying.

Gary reported that Hanson were accelerating their restoration works in certain parts of their quarries where it was known that there would be no further work. This however would only take place above the 'end' water level. There is currently an approved Restoration Plan.

## 11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The next meeting of the Hanson Cement Liaison Committee will be held on Thursday 27 March 2014.

**LIAISON MEETING BETWEEN RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
THE HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014  
AT RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, CLITHEROE**

**PRESENT:**

Phil Goodwin – Regulatory Officer, Environment Agency  
Councillor Richard Sherras – RVBC  
Councillor Ian Sayers - RVBC  
James Russell – RVBC CEHO

**1. APOLOGIES**

- Dr Sohail Ashraf recently left Lancs & Cumbria PHE. Apologies received from Dr Steve Gee who intends to support future meetings.

**2. MINUTES & NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – 1 July 2013**

- The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
- Considerable changes ongoing within the Agency and streamlining of staff – Phil Goodwin to retain Hanson and expecting to take over responsibility for TATA Lime Kilns at Shap, Cumbria. Aim to achieve greater synergy and consistency of regulatory approach.

**3. MATTERS ARISING –**

- Apologies given for any inconvenience resulting from the need to defer meeting originally scheduled for early December.

**4. HANSON CEMENT UPDATE**

- Next scheduled site audit scheduled for later this month. Kiln currently not running as undergoing annual maintenance closure.
- Technical evaluation of burning of SRF and MBM on combination of main burner and Calciner undertaken Mid Oct to Mid November 2013. Trials completed and awaiting final report from Nick Sharpe (Hansons) in near future. Early indications suggesting that will be unable to burn both MBM and SRF on both main burner and Calciner.
- Intention that Env Agency will make permanent burning options identified that meet requirements of trials.
- The Agency outlined an emission exceedence that occurred between 20-21<sup>st</sup> November 2013. Unusual condition that both wet scrubber stopped at same time as raw mill. Resulted in short duration exceedence of HCL. 24 Hr average of 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> and current limit for site is 10mg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- It was agreed that future exceedences should be reported for discussion to this group.
- General discussion as to improving emission standards being applied to Ribblesdale in line with Cement Industry. In Particular;
  - Standard for Particulates to be reduced from 30 to 20 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub> to be reduced from 800 to 450 (Ribblesdale to add ammonia to process to achieve)
  - Original standards set by Waste Incineration Directive, however standards being tightened by BREF (European Cement Industry Standards)

## 5. COMPLAINTS

- Aware of complaint from RVBC Officers of observed dust emission from base of Kiln 7. James advised no investigation feedback received from Hanson. Incidents believed localised

## 6. UPDATE ON OTHER PPC SITES

- Dugdales Nutrition – Nothing to report
- Johnson Matthey – Nothing to report
- Trow – No complaints for 3 years since bio filter media last changed. Growing evidence that bio filter media requires changing every 3-5 years. Found that media breaks down over time degenerates into compost and then blocks.
- BAe – Site inspector is Tony Glynn Jones. EA have electro-plating system, which EA permit. Future RVBC Pollution Officer should direct site enquiries to him.
- General request that PPC site inspectors enquire into and seek effective control of feral pigeons as ongoing problem in Clitheroe Town Centre. Phil to relay back to site inspectors.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- James advised meeting of recent departure of Gill Atkinson EHO (Pollution). Ribble Valley to seek to replace asap
- Discussion regarding implication of increasing number of Anaerobic Slurry Digestors. Trend to install and bring in slurry from neighbouring farms. Agency indicated that in order of 120 large plants and 500-600 small scale currently in UK. Small plants typically handle slurry, crop residues including straw, dairy waste (excl. cleaning wash waters). Lucrative operation as produces methane as viable fuel and reduces fuel costs on site, Also increases nitrogen content and makes product more stable. Significant pathogen kill which makes safer to spread.
- Farmers seeking other suitable wastes eg food wastes however then becomes waste disposal operation
- **Meeting reviewed purpose and frequency of meetings. Concluded that meetings still serve purpose and useful. Should continue at current frequency for foreseeable future.**

## DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Please can you diary next meeting for:

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June\* 2014 at 2.15pm** at Ribble Valley BC Council Offices, Clitheroe

**\*Please note change of date from that indicated at meeting and on meeting agenda**

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