



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

15 June 2023, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cllr John Bird, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	JB
Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM
Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT
Cllr Simon Whittaker, Middlewich Town Council	SW
Cllr Fraser Whytock, Middlewich Town Council	FW

Other Attendees:

Megan Bowyer, PA to Kevin Melling (Minutes)	MB
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Apologies Received:

None

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p> <p>Introductions were made for the benefit of the new group members representing Middlewich Town Council and Cheshire East Ward.</p> <p>KM wished to formally recognise the contributions to the group made by the previous members, Cllrs Graham Orme, Garnet Marshall, and Mike Hunter. He advised that he would write to them separately expressing his thanks.</p> <p>Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Group and protocols for interacting with each other were discussed. ToR to be updated following this meeting to reflect the new members, after which we will circulate Action KM</p> <p>KM invited group members to visit the site for a tour should they wish to gain a better understanding of Ansa's operations. Several have already done so but they are welcome back.</p>	KM

2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>2.1 The Minutes from the meeting on 26 January 2023 were approved as an accurate and correct record.</p> <p>2.2 Matters Arising</p> <p>KM read through the previous minutes and confirmed there were no outstanding matters. He requested that should there be any issues to be discussed under Middlewich Community Matters it would be appreciated if we could receive details in advance so that we can investigate and give a full response at the next meeting. MB usually asks for agenda items one week before each meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Operational and Community Events Update</p> <p>JT updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Collections – there have been large tonnages of green waste recently although due to the hot weather this reduced last week. • Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance – all working as normal • The next Carbon change is due shortly. The frequency is now set to a quarterly change to ensure that odours are not experienced by our neighbours. • The roller-shutter door on the Waste Transfer Station facing Booth Lane is not currently in operation and is awaiting repair. • A construction team will be on site soon undertaking general maintenance. • In a few months’ time we are planning minor lifting of the trees along the side of the workshop on our side. • An electric street cleansing tipper is shortly to be delivered on a trial basis. JT will report back on how the trial is proceeding in future meetings. <p>Community Events in Middlewich since the last meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Hub Project – Ansa has supported on a monthly basis. • Continued sponsorship of Middlewich Junior Cricket Club • Supporting the FAB festival – waste reduction volunteers will be in attendance and Ansa is also delivering litter bins around the area which will be collected on Monday after the event. • Waste Reduction picnic in the park and using Middlewich businesses to supply refreshments • Middlewich Beavers Group – 20 children involved in learning about waste reduction • The Ansa Comms team will be providing a stand in Middlewich Library with tips how to reduce waste and promoting the message re safe disposal of batteries. 	
4	<p>Update on Project Vanguard</p> <p>KM explained the history of the project. City of Manchester Council is using electric waste vehicles but that doesn’t work for a rural area such as ours where there is a greater distance for the vehicles to travel and fewer charging points, so we need to consider alternative solutions for environmentally friendly fuel. PC confirmed that it is now accepted in the haulage industry that long distance heavy goods vehicles are looking to be powered by hydrogen rather than electricity.</p>	

	<p>In 2019 Ansa agreed to participate in a partnership between Cheshire East Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Storengy and Logan Energy to pilot a process to produce hydrogen to fuel the refuse freighters. Ansa procured two refuse vehicles which were adapted to run on a mix of hydrogen and diesel using green hydrogen produced on site. The pilot was expected to commence in March 2021.</p> <p>The project stalled during the pandemic and subsequently due to lack of parts for the generator. We are hopeful that from July onwards we will finally be up and running. We estimate that we will see at least one third reduction in emissions.</p> <p>SM asked about the partnership and timescales for the pilot. KM advised that there is no timescale because it's an evolving project and we are now behind the original project timeline. The pilot is expected to run for a 3-year period.</p> <p>KM also mentioned that Ansa considers electricity to be a solution for smaller vehicles as does CEC. We are aiming for our smaller vehicles to be electrified.</p>	
5	<p>Middlewich Community Issues</p> <p>PC originally wished to raise this matter at the postponed April meeting. It relates to a group on Facebook called 'Fight for Middlewich' where criticisms were made about Ansa not carrying out certain functions for which it was believed we are responsible. The poster charged the representatives (PC and SM) to bring the 'problems' to this group for discussion. PC therefore considered it useful to add to the agenda so it could be discussed, and clarity achieved.</p> <p>Both PC and SM considered that it would be useful if a list of definitive responsibilities could be issued for the public showing what Ansa is responsible for within Middlewich so that there can be no confusion.</p> <p>KM agreed that he will consider a list. He remarked however that anything on the adopted highway is the responsibility of Cheshire East Council Highways department. Ansa does have a responsibility for mechanical street cleaning, but we have helped out with other areas in the past as a gesture of goodwill. Some of the responsibilities are held by Middlewich Town Council and they now employ a ranger who carries them out. We have been happy to support by providing extra resources when available. JT agreed and added that in past meetings we have agreed to offer extra ad hoc support e.g. for litter picking. At one point we were asked to tidy up an area that was adjacent to the canal which was the Canal and Rivers Trust responsibility.</p> <p>JB commented that there are limited resources and a difference between what we want and what is available. Councils are limited to what they can charge residents.</p> <p>PC added that there was mention of removing graffiti on the inside of a bus shelter. This is something that needs reporting to Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>SM suggested that Ansa could focus on identifying services it delivers such as hanging baskets within the community group.</p> <p>All agreed that Ansa should better promote all the good things that it does within the community because only the negative things seem to be discussed. In doing so it should</p>	

	<p>be open about issues and how Ansa resolved but equally make the community aware of other valued contributions made by Ansa. KM will take that on board</p> <p>JT agreed we need to do better publicising what we do. She would welcome any other ideas in addition to Facebook and our Ansa website for areas to post such messages. Are there any other groups routes that committee members are aware of that we could publish onto?</p>	
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>FAB Festival SM wished to record thanks for the help that Ansa is providing for the Middlewich FAB Festival.</p> <p>Ansa Refuse Vehicle Driving Behaviour SW reported that Ansa trucks are driving around the town in an erratic, aggressive manner, and he considers that it is Ansa’s responsibility to police this behaviour. He gave an example and advised that this has occurred recently around the Holmes Chapel Road. On that basis JT and KM considered that it was most likely to be on Thursdays when the vehicles travel to the north of the Borough.</p> <p>JT confirmed that we do police driving behaviours with a whole host of tools to ensure Ansa drivers are abiding by the rules. This includes the use of vehicle tracking systems. However, please report the number on the side of vehicles if you see them behaving inappropriately. We really appreciate this, and such reports will be acted upon immediately.</p> <p>SW said that he has witnessed near misses and erratic driving first thing in the morning when vehicles are leaving the depot. KM responded that he will be happy to look back through our records and that we take this very seriously. As a test we will look specifically at Thursday mornings. We will do checks ourselves and we will report back at the next meeting on findings. Action KM and JT</p> <p>Site Visit FW would like a site visit and has technical questions. Will look for date in diaries and will issue to everyone but it will still take place even if it is only FW that can attend</p> <p>Action MB</p> <p>Next Meeting The next meeting date will need to be changed to early August due to proposed holidays – Action MB to contact attendees with proposals prior to issuing a revised invitation.</p>	<p>KM/JT</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>

The meeting closed at 18.45. Next meeting to be held – date tba