



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

19th August 2021, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Cllr David Latham, Middlewich Town Council	DL
Cllr Graham Orme, Middlewich Town Council	GO
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM
Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM

Other Attendees:

Megan Bowyer PA to KM (Minutes)	MB
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Apologies Received:

Cllr Mike Hunter, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	MH
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Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>2.1 The Minutes from the meeting held on 29th April 2021 were approved as an accurate and correct record.</p> <p>2.2 Matters Arising</p> <p>Air Quality – GO advised that his work at the vaccination centre has now reduced so he will contact MB to arrange a meeting to discuss this subject with KM</p> <p>Waste & Recycling – KM advised that as a result of the Government’s consultation on the Resources and Waste strategy, articles about proposed deposit return schemes and extended producer responsibilities are becoming much more prevalent in the media. This is likely to continue, with further information on the proposed changes coming in the autumn. It is expected that the new legislation will be introduced throughout the country in the next 2- 4 years. He will provide more information to the group when it’s available.</p>	GO

DL asked about new bins/extra bins as he had heard that there will be more needed. KM confirmed this could be part of the new strategy across both private and business waste. It may be that we must separate paper out of the silver bins or change the way we collect food waste. At present this is not clear, but in October the government will publish official papers so watch this space.

Project Vanguard – KM advised that due to technical issues re the electricity supply the project missed the window for implementation and it isn't likely to happen until September when the hybrid vehicles will start to operate. He will keep group members informed.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) – The outcome of the Consultation exercise by Cheshire East Council was that the site at Middlewich has been retained though it was at risk, so a good result. Ansa will be looking to renew its contract to manage the HWRCs for a further 5 years on expiry of the present contract in 2 years' time.

Diffusion tubes – GO confirmed he had a response from CEC saying that the tubes are available for Middlewich Town Council to purchase if they wish.

Vehicle Maintenance outside the workshop – Ansa investigated after this was raised at the last meeting. KM confirmed that under the terms of the licence, small jobs e.g. tyre changes or other reactive maintenance can be done outside the workshop, but planned maintenance jobs should be carried out inside. PC mentioned fuel leaks which would be reactive

DL commented that there is a fine line between scheduled and reactive jobs and a brief discussion followed. DL confirmed he was happy to move forward and to monitor to make sure there is compliance with the licence.

3

Operational Update

3.1 JT reported that Covid is still causing significant problems. The 'pingdemic' in particular has been causing staff shortages and this together with a national driver shortage and continued increases in tonnages has caused very challenging times, worse than last year. With the launch of the relaxed rules for self-isolation with effect from Monday, 16th August, the pingdemic should ease, but driver shortages will take a while to improve. Ansa is always looking to recruit new HGV drivers.

3.2 JT advised that Ansa's joint venture company in Staffordshire Moorlands and High Peak plans to trial hydro-treated vegetable oil fuel (HVO) for several refuse collection vehicles. HVO is a biofuel designed to be a replacement for mineral diesel. It is synthesised from vegetable /animal oils using a hydrotreatment process. The product is cleaner compared to conventional diesel offering 92.5% Green House Gas (GHG) savings according to UK Government Renewable Fuel obligation (RTFO) guidance. This will start in the autumn and last for between 3-6 months. In future it is likely that we will move to electric, or hydrogen powered vehicles, but this fuel could provide a transitional step on the way to the new technology.

	<p>When results from the trial are available JT will share them. We are hoping they will be positive as it's something we could implement quite quickly across Ansa and the joint venture company if it's successful.</p> <p>GO commented that this was brilliant news. He had some experience of similar trials in his past employment. He believed that there was reduced carbon monoxide depending upon how much the engine was revved. Also, there was an effect on the longevity of fuel pipes, which reduced by about 15%. JT appreciated the feedback. GO will try to access and send through results from his previous employers to help inform the trial.</p> <p>PC advised that there was a company in Middlewich doing something similar. However, the fuel did become very corrosive to certain metals. Biffa were using biofuel and experienced degradation of fuel pipes and tanks. The Middlewich company was taken over by a large company who he believes have now perfected the process – Olleco based in Halton/Merseyside.</p> <p>DL advised that there is a company in Middlewich that are doing a similar process and it may be worth contacting them.</p> <p>3.3. JT advised that since the last group meeting Ansa had an unannounced inspection from the Environmental Agency. This was a full inspection, and no actions were required.</p> <p>3.4. Ansa has also had an independent external fleet audit carried out since the group last met. The DVSA have revised their maintenance levels and Ansa was assessed in each area as 'Satisfactory', which is now the highest assessment level.</p>	
4	<p>Warmingham Lane Closure</p> <p>PC advised that Warmingham Lane is going to be closed for 3 months. KM confirmed that the Ansa Team was already working on re-routing and welcomed the chance to discuss the matter with the group.</p> <p>PC's concern is that the RCVs would end up wandering through the housing estates from Cledford Lane to join the Crewe Road at Brimelow Drive. Most of those roads have 7.5 tonnes weight restrictions and are not suitable for large vehicles.</p> <p>JT updated on Ansa's current plans but stressed that she was not able to confirm a specific route would be used on a certain day, it will evolve based on the day and the amount of traffic. The official diversion uses Dragon Lane but there is a weak bridge, and it is not suitable for HGVs. She described three possible routes, all of which would add a considerable amount of extra time for the rounds. She confirmed that Ansa is not intending to use the roads that PC was concerned about.</p> <p>There was a discussion to clarify the possible routes and JT confirmed that alternatives are being considered, none of which involve cutting through the Middlewich housing estates.</p>	

5	<p>Middlewich Community Matters</p> <p>5.1 Middlewich Community Pride - DL advised that this group is getting back together led by Alison Roylance-White, and they are looking for Ansa's support again in following them to the areas they have cleaned to perform tasks e.g., Collect bags of rubbish and send road sweepers</p> <p>KM confirmed Ansa would be happy to support the group. He asked whether there were still two groups in the town and DL confirmed that this was the case; the other group is Middlewich Clean Team, and he is aware that Ansa supports them already. KM asked for Alison's contact details so he can arrange for a discussion re her plans and how we can contribute and provide dovetailed support. Action DL to provide contact details</p> <p>5.2 Fugitive Emission statistics – GO asked whether there had been information or complaints about any fugitive emissions since the last meeting. KM confirmed that there was one complaint on Facebook last week, but we couldn't confirm the information and there was no response when we asked for further details. We continue to monitor the odour system closely and it seems that the modifications that were made at the time of the last renewal of the carbon filters have been successful.</p> <p>5.3 Formation of this Group – GO believed that a Middlewich resident had contacted KM re the group membership and asked if he had responded. KM confirmed he received an email whilst he was on leave and will be responding shortly.</p> <p>5.4 Bereavement of resident living on Cledford Lane, opposite the depot. KM advised that the resident's funeral took place today and that Cledford Lane was closed due to the volume of mourners. The Ansa team implemented contingency plans to divert waste vehicle and these were successful, allowing us to maintain waste collections whilst keeping things respectful for the family and managing the road closure at short notice.</p>	DL
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>DL mentioned that there was a large volume of litter in the long grass around Booth Lane/Cledford Lane and asked if Ansa could supply an operative to tidy it. KM confirmed that we will do so. Action KM</p> <p>SM congratulated Ansa for adapting the business so well today. He advised that he had been asked by a member of the public if Ansa is compliant to the publication scheme. KM confirmed that Ansa is compliant. He is confident this is the case as a review was carried out about a month ago. Ansa works with the Council to answer Freedom of Information requests and to release information, although that doesn't include Company sensitive information in connection with trading.</p>	KM

The meeting closed at 18.45. Next Meeting to be held on 21st October 2021 at 17.30