



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group
23rd April 2024, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
Simon McGrory, Local Representative	SM
Cllr Fraser Whytock, Middlewich Town Council	FW
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM

Other Attendees:

Karen Potts, PA to Kevin Melling(Minutes)	KP
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Apologies Received:

Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT
Cllr John Bird, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	JB
Cllr Simon Whittaker, Middlewich Town Council	SW

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.</p> <p>Apologies received for JB from FW</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting on 21st January 2024 were approved as an accurate and correct record.</p> <p>2.2 Matters Arising</p> <p>FW asked for an update on Garden Waste Subscription and confirmed that he had received very few complaints.</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, over 80,000 subscribers have been registered. Year-end figures show that the subscriptions were slightly less than hoped but they have been increasing steadily this month. • Very few complaints have been received and invariably, any complaints received are usually because of a misunderstanding associated with the subscription requirements. We can't empty the bins unless they have 	

	<p>registered. We have in cab technology that advises who has registered and in addition to this, the bins should show the permits on them as well.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Operational and Community Events Update</p> <p>3.1 Operational</p> <p>The group asked for an update on any odour complaints received. KM advised he was not aware of any odour issues and Ansa have been fine tuning the carbon replacement schedule. Currently they are replaced up to 4 times a year.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the carbon replacement programme and how it has evolved from the original schedule.</p> <p>KM advised that Ansa use an effective industry recognised odour filter system and we take a proactive approach to its maintenance needs. There are two sheds on site, both of which have odour filtration systems.</p> <p>KM updated the group on planned maintenance works that are scheduled to take place during the spring period. It is intended to replace some of the internal concrete push walls within the larger of the 2 buildings. KM went onto explain that during this period, some deliveries and associated works would take place outside of Ansa’s normal operating period. A brief discussion took place around the planned works.</p> <p>KM also updated the group on progress made with the open spaces policy changes made by CEC and the operational difficulties currently being experienced due to saturated ground conditions. He confirmed that CEC are issuing pro-active comms updates via social media to inform residents of the affects the weather has had on the ground and grass cutting activities.</p> <p>3.2 Community Events/Sponsorship in Middlewich</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ansa will be aiming to support the Folk and Boat Festival (FAB) again this year. • Ansa’s Community Events team have supported the local schools in a variety of activities to support and educate them on recycling this has been via talks, presentation and engaging in workshops with the pupils. • Ansa provided a raffle prize to Middlewich Young Farmers which helped them raise almost £1000 from the raffle at the event. • We continue to support the Cricket Club and enjoy the success they have had when they are in our sponsored kits. • We have undertaken recycling talks with the Girl Guides and Rainbows. • Our talks in the community are well received on recycling and the processes we go through. <p>SM asked do we get any enquiries on the operations you do from outside the area.</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do on the educational front and our Community Events team recently completed a talk out of borough which was greatly valued. • The feedback we receive in relation to this work is impressive. 	

	<p>A further discussion took place on other events we have attended and that in due course the new streams of recycling will be included.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Middlewich Community Issues The following questions had been raised prior to the meeting for Ansa to address.</p> <p>PC advised that a resident has observed RCV operatives studying the contents of black bins prior to them being tipped into the vehicle, is this a policy which has been implemented by Ansa.</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do ask the crews to do random visual inspections on the Recycling and Garden rounds. This is usually when they suspect that contamination is present. • Occasionally, if a black bin seems to be heavy, a quick check is undertaken to make sure there is nothing obviously dangerous in the bin. • Crews sometimes are instructed to be more vigilant in certain areas e.g., where we have had fires in vehicles due to dangerous items such as gas cannisters / batteries and we are able to identify the round that has collected from. • if the bin was too heavy to lift, then we would sticker the bins telling the resident why it cannot be emptied. <p>A question was asked about play equipment in Fountain Fields Park</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to any park being commissioned, a full independent review is completed by ROSPA. • In addition to this the site is regularly inspected. Any issues identified are recorded and actioned appropriately based on the risk levels. <p>A discussion took place and FW asked if he could check with Middlewich TC, he believes there may be an outstanding query associated with the play equipment and that the TC is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>FW advised that JB had submitted a list of questions associated with the Open Spaces Policy changes recently introduced by CEC and requested that they be discussed and answered.</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had received the email from Cllr. Bird. • He also confirmed that CEC is overseeing engagement with Town and Parish Councils. • Until informed otherwise by CEC, Ansa will implement the new maintenance practices in accordance with the approved policy. • It is hoped that high profile areas will see little difference, if any in our maintenance activities with less used areas having reduced maintenance activities and being left to become more of a natural habitat. • CEC have engaged with Town and Parish Councils to explore bespoke solutions for their area, but this is something that CEC are overseeing, and we can only act on instructions received by CEC. Any specific queries regarding the changes, will need directing to CEC. 	

5	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>PC advised he had received a question from a resident in relation to the Company Accounts which had resolved itself, but the resident wanted the following to be mentioned. “The accounts reflect a very credible performance. There are some macroeconomic challenges in the coming year from the note but nothing to worry about in the accounts”.</p> <p>KM thanked PC for the information and advised the accounts team would be happy to hear this.</p> <p>SM asked a question around other partnership arrangements and the potential impact on vehicle movements now and the original forecast within the planning permission.</p> <p>KM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands arrangement is a separate entity with the sister company name being AES. They are totally self-contained within both borough council areas. There are no vehicle movements coming to our facility associated with their operations. <p>A discussion took place around how this partnership works to give a better understanding to the group.</p> <p>PC asked on the position of the Hydrogen.</p> <p>KM advised that no further progress has been made.</p>	
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The meeting closed at 18.25 Next meeting to be held on 25 July 2024.