



Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

Thursday, 27th September 2018, 5.30pm,
Environmental Hub, Cledford Lane, Middlewich CW10 0JR

Present:

Cllr Mike Hunter, Middlewich Town Council	MH
Cllr David Latham, Middlewich Town Council	DL
Cllr Simon McGrory, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	SM
Kevin Melling, MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	KM
Jane Thomason, Deputy MD, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd	JT
Jonathan Williams, Town Clerk, Middlewich Town Council	JW

Other Attendees:

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

None

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>KM welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending this first meeting. He introduced himself and advised that he intended to chair the initial meetings although he would be happy to relinquish the position as the group matures.</p> <p>KM suggested a few ground rules for operation of the group;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a commitment to make things as good as they can be on behalf of the community, - opinions to be given with respect and for members to respect each other, - to make the minutes available to the wider community as quickly as possible <p>Attendees introduced themselves (see list above).</p> <p>Minutes – it was agreed that these would be circulated by email to group members within a week of each meeting, with a further week allowed for any comments to be returned. The minutes will then be sent to JW for inclusion at the next Town Council meeting, which occurs on the third Monday of each month. On acceptance they will be</p>	

	published on the Middlewich Town Council Website. MB will work with JW to schedule future meetings so that they fit into this timeframe.	MB/JW
2	<p>Liaison Group Terms of Reference (ToR)</p> <p>KM presented the Group’s ToR and asked for comments.</p> <p>2.1 Frequency and Start Times of Meetings A discussion was held and all agreed that initially the meetings should be held bi-monthly to be reviewed as necessary. Next meetings will therefore be scheduled for late November ‘18 and January ‘19. Action MB to send out invitations in due course.</p> <p>DL and MH both commented that in order to attract the right resident representatives it was important to make the meetings accessible and with that in mind it may be appropriate to move the start time later than 5.30pm. SM agreed that there is a need to be flexible. KM noted the comments and agreed to review when local representatives are on board. There are constraints with site closure times but if there is a need to push back the time so as not to restrict or put off the right people to join the group then that will be considered.</p> <p>2.2 Objectives It was agreed to make an amendment to point 2.1 of the ToR to read ‘to provide a forum for discussion of the operations in relation to potential impacts on <u><i>the local community</i></u>’. Action KM</p> <p>2.3 Group Membership</p> <p>Membership will comprise: Two representatives from Ansa – initially KM and JT Two representatives from Middlewich Town council – MH and DL A representative from Cheshire East Ward members – initially SM.</p> <p>The group would also like two representatives from the local community. It was agreed that the nominations should be sought as soon as possible from near neighbours who are most affected by Ansa’s operations and should these not be forthcoming the scope would be widened to the whole of the town.</p> <p>JT suggested leafleting near neighbours and offered to draft a leaflet of invitation to be issued from the liaison group. After group review Ansa will arrange for this to be dropped through letter boxes. Action JT to draft and share with group members.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that ‘near neighbours’ should consist of households on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cledford Lane – to the villas - Booth Lane – from the Long Lane South junction to end of the cottages - Cross Lane – from Booth Lane to junction with Warmingham Lane. <p>SM asked if there was a plan to invite representatives from local parishes. KM responded that this is an important consideration but for the moment it is important that the group is focussed upon the needs of Middlewich. However, he did acknowledge that he had been approached by Warmingham and that he is making</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>KM</p> <p>JT</p>

	<p>separate arrangements to meet a representative for discussions. He also agreed with the group that common issues could be included within future Liaison Group meetings.</p> <p>2.3 Attendance</p> <p>It was agreed that if someone was not attending regularly then their membership could be reviewed by the group</p> <p>Amended Terms of Reference is attached to the Minutes for review and formal adoption at the next meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Ansa – update on operational activity</p> <p>KM presented a series of slides he had prepared showing photographs of the site before during and after development. The site has now been fully operational for 7 to 8 months. He offered to arrange a tour of the site at a subsequent meeting and attendees confirmed this would be welcomed. Action MB to add to future agenda</p> <p>KM explained that Ansa was keen to keep and preserve the habitat. The trees that border the canal and form a natural boundary with Booth Lane will be retained but inspection has shown that they need treatment and maintenance. Ansa has applied for permission to carry out appropriate maintenance work, which has been agreed. Prior to the work commencing the plan will be to advise local residents. He stressed that there is no intention of removing the trees unless they present a danger. He also confirmed Ansa’s commitment to maintaining the natural habitat along the canal frontage.</p> <p>Ansa is keen to contribute to the local community and KM mentioned several initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remembrance Day on 11th November with representative from RBL; - Defibrillator which is at the site entrance and available to the community. <p>Action MB to provide information to JW to add details to the list he maintains at the town hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for FAB event with provision of parking and removal of litter etc 	<p>MB</p> <p>MB/JW</p>
4	<p>Middlewich Community Issues</p> <p>Prior to the meeting DL had asked for the following two items to be added to the agenda. All three councillors had been approached by constituents about these issues and there was a desire by all parties to look at what could be done to improve matters.</p> <p>4.1 Refuse Collection Lorry Speeds</p> <p>DL said concerns had been reported to him continually over the last 4 months about refuse collection vehicle (RCV) speeds leaving the depot. He has had regular emails particularly re Warmingham Lane, Booth Lane, Croxton Lane and Cross Lane. People are very worried and the subject has been mentioned to all Middlewich Town Councillors. JT asked if it was just morning and DL clarified it was mornings when the vehicles leave the depot and also afternoons around 2-3pm when they return.</p> <p>SM commented that RCV’s are very visible so people notice them particularly and he has been inundated with complaints. There is a perception that the drivers are rushing to finish work as soon as possible. He asked if there was data logging on the vehicles.</p>	

MH added that there are certain hotspots particularly on the way to and in Warmingham around Forgemill Lane and Dragon Lane. Even if the vehicles are not speeding there are instances where they are using their size to push through where there are parked cars and cut corners and force other cars off the road. On Cross Lane there is a major issue with RCVs mounting the pavement on the left hand side to get past queuing traffic and go through the traffic lights. Vehicles movements had not been expected down Cross Lane and were expected to keep away from residential areas. He also mentioned the mini roundabout on Warmingham Lane which the vehicles drive across.

KM said that Ansa takes these matters very seriously. Any reports of speeding are always checked and appropriate sanctions of drivers are taken if this can be proved. We need to change behaviours and this won't happen overnight but there are certain things on which we can focus in regular team briefings and toolbox talks and Ansa is committed to doing so.

JT explained that there is in-cab technology fitted and that when speeding is brought to Ansa's attention the data from the vehicle can be downloaded to check. In the majority of cases she has seen recently it has been residents' perception rather than breaking the speed limit, although in one case the driver had been found to be speeding and Ansa's internal policy was followed. The information required is time, date, location and vehicle registration and this should be provided within a couple of days of the incident so the data can be accessed.

It was acknowledged that sometimes it can be difficult to obtain/note down the vehicle registration number. DL said that he didn't want to make this a witch hunt and realised that it was a question of big lorries and small roads. However it would put the public's minds at rest if something could be done and suggested Ansa start to actively monitor the situation – maybe carry out spot checks on Cross Lane. JT considered this a good idea and agreed to implement.

KM was asked if there was some way to route vehicles away from residential areas. He explained that now the hub is fully operational there is a need to review all routes across the borough and as part of that work Ansa will see if it is possible to avoid any residential hotspots. MH asked if Middleswich could be considered first in any re-routing work. KM explained that isn't feasible and it has to be done across the whole borough. SM said that the priority should be to relieve unnecessary journeys down Cross Lane and Warmingham Lane.

KM and JT undertook to have a closer look at what could be done locally here and now including monitoring, spot checks, and driver engagement. They will come back with an update at the November meeting. **Action KM & JT**

KM & JT

4.2 Atmospheric Outputs and Site Smells

DL said that there seems to be an odour output from the depot on certain days and certain wind directions. This is particularly noticeable about 1 mile away from the depot on the housing estate North of the A54 opposite to Starbucks. This does not tie in with the odour map/report produced during the development phase.

	<p>SM advised that he lives on the estate in question and that there were odours experienced way before Ansa started its operations; it's only fair to say that other sites also contribute.</p> <p>KM said that the waste being managed at the site does generate a smell and that a state of the art system has been installed within the depot to contain the smell within the buildings. In the summer during the hot weather there was a problem for a few days and that's acknowledged. Every day Ansa carries out and logs a 'sniff test' at set points around the site. The system is maintained regularly and the carbon filters are very good at managing odour. We have experienced a minor problem with one of the fast-shutting doors. However, a new door has now been fitted and no further problems have been experienced. MH presented the results of the odour survey that was carried out a few months ago by residents in Booth Lane. He remarked that it could be the vehicles taking the waste away from the site and smells from the RCVs bringing waste back to the site in the hottest part of the year.</p> <p>MH advised that recycle waste had been tipped in the outside corner tipping area. JT commented if that had been the case it would have been an exceptional event and in-keeping with the site permissions. JT then explained the activities undertaken in that area, confirming that we would bring in Street Cleansing waste when working over the weekend to support festivals and community events etc.</p>	
5	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>KM thanked everyone for attending and said that he valued what he had been told and would act upon it.</p> <p>JW advised that he had several ideas re Community Engagement and would share them via MB outside of the meeting.</p>	

The meeting closed at 7.10pm