

Minutes of Waste Hub Liaison Group

29th April 2021, 5.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Cassell, Local Representative	PC
CLlr Mike Hunter, Cheshire East Ward Councillor	MH
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:

Alys Mitford	AM
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Apologies Received:

None

1. Welcome

KM welcomed attendees declared the meeting open and chaired it throughout.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 The Minutes from the meeting on 28th January 2021 were approved as an accurate and correct record.

2.2 Matters Arising

Air Quality – A meeting will be arranged between KM and GO once GO's work with the vaccination centre reduces.

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Recycling Rates – JT explained the recycling rates for 19/20 have been published and Ansa had a 56% recycling rate, the 5th highest in the country and the best in the North West. Ansa's recycling rate is currently 10% above the average North West rate. The improvement in Ansa's rate has been helped by the introduction of the food waste collection and recycling rates have increased from 51.8% in 18/19 to 56.9% in 19/20.

SM questioned if there will be a significant change in the tonnages if workplaces choose to keep the staff working from home. KM clarified that as pubs, restaurants and leisure facilities open the public will be visiting them and creating less waste at home. This should still generate a reduction, even if people continue to work from home.

Graham questioned if used PPE, disposed of at the vaccination centres was classed as clinical or residual. JT confirmed that it is treated as residual waste following guidance from the Government.

JT explained that they should hopefully have the 20/21 figures in November which is expected to be higher than the previous year due to services being maintained throughout the lockdown period.

Group Terms of Reference – KM has read through the group terms of reference and they are still fit-for-purpose and he does not propose to make any changes. Frequency of meetings was raised but this was deferred until the anniversary meeting in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Middlewich Community Concerns (Poor behaviour) – Steve Newton visited the Tesco Express on Warmingham Road following the report of poor behaviour associated with Ansa employees. The manager was not aware of an incident and therefore could not comment and no CCTV footage was available. Toolbox talks have been issued to all employees and they were reminded of the need to be respectful in all cases.

Middlewich Community Concerns (Traffic cones) – Traffic cones were provided to assist with the Middlewich Covid vaccination centre at peak times and it was acknowledged that Ansa's support was very much appreciated.

Driver CPC Training -

PC passed on the contact details, but no contact has been made.

Project Vanguard

Works have begun on site; vehicles have been modified. It is hopeful that the site will be producing hydrogen in early summer.

HWRC

A positive outcome from the consultation. Middlewich HWRC will remain open for the time being. Cheshire East Council have decided that they are waiting until the contract renewal in 2023 before making any decisions on site closures.

3. Operational Update

Waste tonnages are still higher than normal for this time of year but is expected to change as lockdown restrictions ease off over the next few months.

Street cleansing have been providing support to Middlewich Clean Team and they have been put in contact with CEC Communities Team in the hope of securing some additional funding.

Trials for the electric refuse vehicles have begun and the initial feedback is positive but unfortunately the current range is not sufficient for the rural nature of the borough. Ansa will continue to trial alternative fuels.

A discussion took place around the capability of the electric vehicle and reference was made to Manchester who have started to operate with electric vehicles. The discussion also touched on the recycling of batteries from electric vehicles and their future use.

4. Traffic Routing Update

Following a discussion at the last meeting a route analysis has taken place to look at avoiding cross lane either in or out of the depot. Work has taken place looking at all the rounds and seeing what impact changes would have.

Consideration was given to vehicles leaving Cledford and going down, Booth Lane, Chester Road, Clive Green Lane and onto the A530 and then Forge Mill Lane as well as Booth Lane, Chester Road, Clive Green Lane, A530 avoiding Forge Mill Lane. Both options would be appropriate when vehicles are working in the middle, south and west sides of the borough. Analysis confirmed that avoiding Cross Lane and Warmingham Lane completely would be prohibitive due to the extensive increase in vehicle journey times to accommodate.

The loop suggested at the previous meeting has also been explored and it appears that this would work. JT proposed that from Monday 10th May all vehicles will be routed down, Booth Lane, Long Lane South and onto Warmingham Lane, in the mornings and on the way back the route will be via Cross Lane. This would half the number of movements on Cross Lane. It would only apply on days when waste is not being collected in Middlewich.

DL thanked JT for all the effort that has gone into sourcing alternate routes. He thinks the residents on Cross Lane would be happy with the number of vehicles on the road halved however he doesn't understand why Cross Lane can't be avoided all together.

MH clarified the route and proposed an alternative route of going up Booth Lane, Mill Lane, Dragons Lane and onto Forge Mill Lane. It was agreed that JT will investigate this route however it's believed that Dragon Lane has already been explored and isn't suitable for the vehicles to pass.

SM the halfway approach is what was spoken about at the last meeting and is happy to hear that it is being pursued.

Following a conversation around the planning for the site, KM confirmed that it was always anticipated that when the site was up and running, a rerouting exercise would take place. Since planning consent was secured, the compost site at Leighton has been introduced meaning that even when crews are not collecting in Crewe and Nantwich, vehicles still must travel to the composting site. It's hopeful that when the Middlewich Bypass opens it will help ease traffic in the town.

KM wanted to obtain the group's views on the proposed gyratory system and whether they were happy to progress with implementing the gyratory arrangement that would reduce the traffic on Cross Lane.

SM happy for the gyratory trial to commence whilst still exploring other alternatives.

DL clarified the route and asked why the vehicles can't do the same route back instead of going down Cross Lane. KM explained that it would be putting all the traffic on Warmingham Lane.

It was agreed unanimously that the gyratory proposal would be implemented from the 10th May 2021.

5. Site Odours

Door incident

Several weeks ago, an incident occurred on site where one of the transfer station doors got stuck in the open position. A message was issued to the community advising of an issue on site and that it was being dealt with. The incident was resolved within half an hour of the door becoming stuck.

Odours Reported W/C 26th April

An intermittent odour was reported coming from the site, all equipment has been thoroughly checked and is running correctly. The carbon filter is checked every month and is due to be replaced in two weeks. The carbon filter has not yet reached its saturation point. When the filter is changed, a thorough health check of the equipment will be carried out.

DL commented that there is a problem with the site and the residents across the road nearly always smell the odour. MH commented that following a complaint he went on site and was unable to smell the odour on site, but he was able to smell it on Booth Lane and at the resident's house.

GO suggested that diffusion tubes may help determine odours. These monitor air quality and he has mentioned it to Sarah Allwood at CEC as part of his work with the Air Quality group in Middlewich.

GO mentioned that when they visited the site for a tour, they were shown the reinforced work which had been carried out on the filter. He suggested that maybe overtime through vibrations the plates have moved causing leakage past the carbon filter. KM explained that although possible, there is no evidence to suggest this. Further checks will be made when the carbon is replaced in the coming weeks.

KM explained that the systems in place are working and you can't smell the odour on site when the doors open, and they will continue to investigate the odour issues.

6. Middlewich Community Concerns

Middlewich Community Pride – DL reported that following the work undertaken by the Pride Team that Ansa had committed to maintaining the standard achieved. He suggested that this is not the case and requested that checks are made to see what can be done to address his concerns. KM reassured DL that they will take it away to investigate – Action KM

KM commented that they're proud to be a part of Middlewich and that Ansa wants the Town to look good.

7. Any Other Business

Vehicle Maintenance Outside of Workshop - DL commented that on several occasions there has been maintenance and preventative works being carried out on vehicles outside of the garage workshops which goes against the planning permission and licence.

KM explained that they will investigate his concerns. KM also requested any details confirming times and dates of any incidents observed. KM also confirmed that there are certain activities approved by the Traffic Commissioner that can be undertaken outside of the workshops including tyre changes and work by external contractors. DL to provide the dates and times of the incidents – Action DL

It was suggested by SM that any concerns are communicated in advance of the meeting so that they can be investigated before the meeting and the outcome discussed at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19. 25 Next Meeting to be held on 29th July 2021 at 17.30