

## Biffa Brookhurst Wood Local Liaison Group

Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### Attending:

(BS) Ben Spiers - Chairman  
(AK) Abdul Khalad - Biffa West Sussex, Plant Manager  
(IL) Izzy Lofts - Biffa West Sussex, Environmental Compliance Officer  
(LP) Laura Parker - Horsham District Council, Head of Parking and Waste  
(KW) Katie Walton - WSCC, Strategy and Performance Manager  
(KP) Karen Park - Local Resident  
(LC) Lee Coulson - BWS, Brookhurst Wood and Redhill Landfill Manager  
(JSI) James Stewart-Irvine - Biffa Waste Services, Planning Manager – South  
(JN) James Neave - WSCC  
(DS) David Sole - North Horsham Parish Council

### Apologies:

Kevin Slatter - Local Resident  
Andrew Baldwin - Holbrook County Councillor  
Paul Bellringer - Local Resident (Horsham in Bloom)  
Brain Johnson - Local Resident  
Mark Greenslade - Horsham District Council

*Action points are noted in bold*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

All attending introduced themselves.

#### 2. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies as above.

#### 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Actions from previous meeting: -

- KW sent planning update from JN via email on 25.04.2024 after last meeting
- LC asked for butterfly invitation to be extended to CI group, detailed this would not be available until spring 2025
- IL added graphs to MBT slides
- KW answers that an MBT update will be given in the WSCC section
- LC details the landfill generation will be in the landfill slides

#### 4. LANDFILL OPERATIONS UPDATE

LC presented the update.

Landfill:

- Restoration is continuing, 56290 tonnes imported since last meeting.
- Seeding to begin towards the end of the summer, the wildflower mixes to be spread in September 2024.
- BS asks what the mix will be, LC and JSI answer it is a variety of wildflowers, quite an extensive list.

- KP asks about the research into the mix, LC worked with a conservation charity, researching the right flowers for the wildlife and soil.

#### Butterflies

- The butterfly count is to happen next week.

#### Gas System

- 800m<sup>3</sup> per hour throughput which converts to 1400kw, this can power 2500 homes per day.
- Landfill, offices, aggregate plant, leachate plant, as well as the brickworks, all rely on the electricity provided by the landfill gas generation. At full capacity 5000 homes can be powered.
- Gas drilling will begin next week, they will be deeper to produce more gas and more energy. LC detailed this will be carried out under the OMP and with odour control units located strategically.
- BS asks if Biffa is advertising this gas generation and electricity production. LC and JSI answer that Biffa does PR campaigns and that the information is on the Biffa website, sites also do yours etc. However, this specific detail is not advertised directly.
- KP suggests going to the Horsham magazine, BS agrees and commends Biffa. DS says that Biffa are welcome to give him a small article that he can put into North Horsham magazine.
- DS asks if the gas and electricity generation will go on forever. LC replies that it will peter off, but it will continue to be generated, just with smaller engines.
- DS also asks if the height of the landfill has gone down. LC details that it has settled in some areas, specifically the western, eastern and northern sides, but the southern face and the top will take a few more years. It has settled in the range of 25%.

#### ATRF

- Has not been run for 6 weeks, it has had a major overhaul. Operation has restarted this week, averaging 20 ton through the plant an hour.

## 5. MBT UPDATE

Updates given by AK and IL.

#### Vehicle Numbers

- Very similar to last years numbers, dropped off in general

#### Tonnages

- Received tonnage is considerably lower that last year, a lot of the waste that would be coming to the MBT has been diverted.
- BS asked where the waste is going, AK replies it is going to energy form waste sites in the UK. The bales are going to Germany and Holland, the MBT is still producing them.

#### Odour

- Amount of odour checks conducted at the MBT have gone up, the complaints and the detection of odours have gone down, even as the amount of wind alerts has increased this quarter.

- BS asks why this is, AK replies that the odour abatement system has been overhauled and the MBT is generally better at managing the odour. The decrease in waste coming in has reduced the load on the odour system.
- DS says when the meeting in January was conducted there was horrid smells when he arrived at site, however today he could smell nothing.
- AK details that the carbon pack has only been changed once this year, due to the biofilters handling the odour better than previous years.

#### Fire alarm activations

- Only 4 fire activations happened in June, 4 the month before and none in April. Mostly false alarms or vapes and batteries going through the shredder.
- DS asks about fires on waste trailers, mostly due to vapes. He asks what the council is looking to do in terms of vapes. LP replies that they are doing lots of social media campaigns and looking into trialling the use of vape specific bins. Possibly looking at smaller magazines such as that DS mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- DS also asks where to dispose of batteries of all sizes, LP says to take them to your local Recycling Centre, you can look up where accepts what on their cloud 9 app or by following this link [A to Z of recycling - West Sussex County Council](#).

#### 6. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WASTES MANAGEMENT UPDATE

KW gave update.

- Regarding the MBT KW details that by March 2026 there should be a solution in place for the MBT. Currently the paperwork is being put through WSCC's internal governance process, there was hope for this to be done by April, unfortunately this hasn't happened. By October there should be a more comprehensive update.
- BS asks how it will work regarding vehicle movements. KW replies that it is hard to know right now, but the plan is to stick within the current allocation.
- DS asks when it will start in houses, KW answers that it will happen by March 2026, however we have a new government and it didn't quite get through before the election, however it will most likely go through in time for March 2026
- DS asks if it will be weekly and will it cost. LP answers that it will be weekly collections at no extra cost.
- WSCC has a new CEO as Becky Shaw will now only run East Sussex, Leigh Whitehouse will now be the CEO for West Sussex.
- The CHER Energy from Waste plant is expected to be constructed by Summer 2027, but this is not for sure. KW is uncertain of their plans, but the contract has been signed.

#### 7. DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

JSI presents.

- There are no new applications.
- The land restoration application on the landfill has not yet been determined, but it is in and is at a very advanced stage. The land restoration is on track to be finished within the 12-month extension deadline.
- The open windrow composting facility has finished the initial public consultation, there are some points outstanding, including one on water neutrality.
- Site HA planning was issued in July 2023.

JN presents.

- The landfill application should be dealt with reasonably soon.
- The composting facility deadline is 3rd September.

#### 8. HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL LITTER UPDATE

LP gave update:

- Penalties given since the last meeting are as follows, 11 for littering and 10 for fly tipping.
- Litter picking along the usual routes is booked for September after the grass has been cut.
- DS asks how that will fit in with the road closure. LP replies they will be liaising with those who have booked the road closure, rather than putting another on top of the existing one.
- BS asks if the litter picking happens after the grass cutting, LP details that they do the best they can.

#### 9. AOB

- Kevin Slatter's questions (LC answers): -
- How many HGV movements does this volume require? 1 tanker a week, 2 movements
- Is the volume likely to increase? No
- Why can Washington not handle their own Leachate? They do not have their own treatment facility
- Will Leachate be brought in from anywhere else? No
- How is the Leachate added to the existing pool? It goes into a tank, then is pumped into the treatment plant.
- Can this give rise to any odours? No
- Is there a max volume that can be handled locally? As it is only 1 tanker this is not applicable
- If so, how close to max volume are we? Not applicable
- IL speaks.
- There has been some movement on the MBT's eastern slope due to the amount of rain we have experienced in the first half of the year. In the coming months there will be some remedial works undertaken on the slope.

The next meeting will be on the 15th October 2024