

**FFOS-Y-FRAN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING
22 May 2008**

**MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, MERTHYR TYDFIL**

APPROVED NOTES

ATTENDEES:

Cllr Julian Amos	MTCBC (Acting Chair)
Cllr Amy Kitcher	MTCBC (Town Ward)
Cllr Derek Games	MTCBC Plymouth Ward
Cllr Brent Carter	MTCBC (Plymouth)
Cllr David Hardacre	C.C.B.C.
Mr A.N Davies	Head of Planning MTCBC
Cllr Tony Rogers	MTCBC
Mr Lyn Humphries	Dowlais Resident
Mrs Jane Flower	Dowlais Resident
Mrs Alyson Austin	Bradley Gardens Resident
Mr Alan Rees	Merthyr Resident
Mr Ron Yandle	Mountain Hare Resident
Mr Bill White	Dowlais Resident
Mr Phil Murphy	Dowlais Resident
Mr David Griffiths	Environment Agency Wales
Ms Zoe Pieris	MTCBC Environmental Health
Ms Laura Owen	Environment Agency Wales
Mr David Dier	MTCBC Environmental Health
Mr James Poyner	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Mr Stephen Tillman	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Mr Robert Jones	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Ms Kylie Jones	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Ms Sue Allen	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited

Actions

1. Introduction

- 1.1. After some discussion Cllr Julian Amos was elected Acting Chairman. It was suggested that a local resident be appointed but it was pointed out that in the Committee's Constitution had been written that a member of the Council was to be Chair.
- 1.2. The Chairman confirmed that a quorum existed.
- 1.3. It was agreed that Stephen Tillman would re-issue the Constitution Rules to all members for clarification and re-emphasise the purpose and remit of the committee

MA

2. Attendance

- 2.1. Attendees were asked to sign the attendance register.

3. Apologies

- 3.1 Apologies were received from:

Leighton Smart, Bob Griffiths, Mary Bradley and Bob Edwards.

4. Notes of the previous meeting

- 4.1 Previous notes were accepted as a true record and authorised for distribution.

MA

5. Matters arising from the Notes of the previous meeting

- 5.1 Mrs Alyson Austin had received a note from Mr Harris regarding his alleged access rights. It was agreed that this item was not for the Liaison Committee to deal with and Mrs Austin was advised to inform Mr Harris to contact Miller Argent direct.

AA

- 5.2 Phil Murphy asked for confirmation that the notes from the previous meeting had been sent to community venues, this was confirmed.

- 5.3 He also asked for clarification on the e-mail Kylie Jones was to send, Kylie Jones explained that she had liaised by phone and apologised for not sending an email.

- 5.4 He also suggested that the meetings be monthly rather than Bi-monthly until the end of Summer. This motion was seconded by Alison Austin, after a show of hands the motion was carried.

- 5.5 *13.8* The question was asked if local children had been contacted to help with the planting of trees and shrubs, Stephen Tillman said they were going to get school children to create a nursery rather than main plant due to the time scale of the planting season for trees is not until October

- 5.6 *13.10* Amy Kitcher asked when would the visitors centre be open for a visit, it was reported that it was hoped the centre would be open by July in time for the Liaison meeting at which time a site visit would be arranged.

6. Site Progress Report

- 6.1 Mr Robert Jones handed out a site progress report (Appendix A) and read its contents. He highlighted the changes from the previous report.

- 6.2 Robert Jones also informed the committee that on the 10th April 2008 a suspicious device was found and the bomb squad carried out a controlled detonation of the device.
- 6.3 Robert Jones explained that the Komatsu radiator fans were being manufactured to enable them to reverse the air flow which should reduce noise and frequency emitted and the design of additional acoustic canopies for hydraulic motor housing had been completed and forwarded to a manufacturer. It was asked when can they expect this to be done and would like Miller Argent to give the committee a firm date. It was explained that the target was within a month or two but this was dictated by the manufacturers, hence no firm timetable could be given only an estimate.
- 6.4 The question was asked if the workforce labour was local, Robert Jones said that as far as he was aware around 65% of the workforce lived within 15 kilometres of the site.
- 6.5 Alan Rees asked when the payment of the community fund was due, as coal had already been sent to Aberthaw. James Poyner explained how and when the fund payments were to be made to MTCBC. It was also explained that there was an issue of the VAT which needed to be addressed. He also explained that Mark Thomas (MTCBC) was to visit Miller Argent to do an Audit which Miller Argent welcomed. MTCBC
MA
- 6.6 James Poyner also explained that in accordance with the agreement between MTCBC and MA there was a guaranteed payment of 60p for every tonne of coal sold, there is also a further contribution of up to 40p (on a sliding scale) dependant on coal sale prices. after Miller Argent has recovered its costs incurred at Public Inquiry.
- 6.7 When asked if anything had been found in the Landfill Tips e.g. hazardous material. Stephen Tillman assured the committee that any non inert material had gone to Trecatti and the small volume of "hazardous" material had been taken to Swindon.
- 6.8 Amy Kitcher asked if Miller Argent was prepared to give the committee a summary of the tonnage quarterly. (This item was to be put on the next agenda. MA
- 6.9 Robert Jones stated that it was hoped that within 6 weeks of the completion of diversion of the water main the lowering of the haul road should be completed.
- 6.10 It was requested that an A3 plan was sent with the report to enable the committee to identify the areas related to in the report. MA
- 6.11 It was also requested that a simple bar chart be produced detailing the annual programme on which the project could be monitored. MA
- 6.12 Robert Jones stated that Vertase works (waste recycling) should be completed by end of 2008.

7. Environmental Report

- 7.1 Ms Kylie Jones presented the environmental report (Appendix B) and talked through the report and the number of complaints received which totalled 101 complaints from 58 individuals.
- 7.2 Phil Murphy requested a record of the noise readings. It was also suggested that a summary of complaints and how they were dealt with was placed on Miller Argent web site and also made available to the public. It was agreed a draft format was to be issued to the committee first for observations. MA
- 7.3 Phil Murphy asked when the mobile noise monitoring station could be located at his property; Kylie Jones explained that this would be possible in the next few weeks.
- 7.4 It was requested that a summary of complaints be copied to committee.
- 7.5 Stephen Tillman told the committee that although Miller Argent may be operating within its legal limits they acknowledged there was still more to do to help bring the noise levels down.
- 7.6 Stephen Tillman passed around notes on noise, dust and asked for the committee's comments and whether they needed to be amended or improved.
- 7.7 Cllr Julian Amos expressed a view that Miller Argent could be good neighbours by reducing the working day by one hour (Miller Argent would review this). It was also suggested that Miller Argent could stop working in less sensitive areas during the hours of 7.00 p.m and 9.00 p.m. It was suggested by some that the operations time be reduced to 7.00p.m. instead of 11.p.m. MA
- 7.8 Robert Jones said they were carrying out tests and trials by reducing the working hours of some equipment and that a noise monitor had been placed at Bradley Gardens and some residents are being asked for their comments on whether or not the noise improved over the coming weeks. Mrs Alyson Austin said that the noise complaints in Bradley Gardens were very disturbing early in the morning and late in the evening.
- 7.9 It was suggested that Miller Argent finished work 1 hour early in the evenings and extended their working operations on a Saturday (which is within their planning consent)
- 7.10 Mr Ron Yandle said the main problem in Mountain Hare was the dust. It was also reported that cars had been covered in dust. He expressed his concerns over the time scale to get results and felt that MA should get the results back from Dustscan a lot quicker Miller Argent to review. He also felt that the analysis should be able to pin MA

point where the dust came from e.g. road, sand storms etc. It was explained this was unlikely to be the case

- 7.11 It was suggested that Miller Argent could improve the dust issue by using water bowsers on the main haul road before works started, as a lot of dust comes off the haul road first thing in the morning. Mr Robert Jones stated that as far as he was aware this was already being done but would clarify. MA
- 7.12 It was also noted that dust was noted on Sundays and it was suggested that Miller Argent use water bowsers on a Sunday – Miller Argent said they would consider this request but at present working on a Sunday was not permitted in the planning consent and an application to vary the consent would have to be submitted. MA
- 7.13 Amy Kitcher said she welcomed the introduction of noise reduction measurers, but was concerned by the high levels of complaints of noise received between the hours of 10.00p.m. and 11.00 p.m.
- 7.14 Cllr Julian Amos asked that progress reports be issued a week before the meetings to enable members of the committee to read them. MA

8. Environment Agency Update.

- 8.1 No letters of complaint had been received.
- 8.2 One complaint on the call lines which had been referred to Miller Argent.
- 8.3 Three site visits had been carried out during this period. The Environment Agency have issued their water quality report.
- 8.4 This document was handed out for the committee and explained to them. It was requested that in future all reports and documentation be sent to the committee before hand to enable everyone to read them and allow them to bring up any questions at the meeting. EA
- 8.5 It was requested that a plan be produced showing the water courses.

9. Environmental Health Department (MTCBC) Update

- 9.1 Dave Dier would like to see dust suppression early mornings before start up.
- 9.2 There were 39 complaints received: 25 – noise and 14 – dust, all of which have been reported previously in the environmental report.
- 9.3 Dave Dier expressed that in his opinion Miller Argent should consider working more sensitively near the site boundary during the end the shift.

- 9.4 Zoe Pieris reported that some people had problems contacting Miller Argent; Stephen Tillman said he would check this out.
- 9.5 Zoe Pieris asked if the TEOM data be loaded down to Welsh Air quality web site. James T Poyner to revert back as to whether or not this can be done.
- 9.6 Zoe Pieris asked if dates and times be given as to when works had been stopped because of the conditions.
- 9.7 Zoe Pieris stated that she visited numerous properties on the 8th May to witness noise levels. It was reported that the loudest was in Bradley Gardens and a recording was made at 10.30 p.m. of the noise level, which was to be played at the end of the meeting for the committee to listen.

10. Complaints Received and Investigations

- 10.1 This had already been being covered during the meeting.

11. Other Correspondence Received

- 11.1 A copy of a letter written on behalf of Miller Argent was handed to the committee in response to a letter that a resident had written which had been very misleading and full of inaccuracies.

12. Community Presentations/Communications

- 12.1 Dowlais Top and Cae Harris had requested a presentation of the blasting presentation in response to the blasting survey to be carried out on resident's homes. There was also concern over the consented levels and it was asked if a mobile blast monitor could be used to record levels. The committee was informed that houses had already been selected and the owners would be contacted soon. These groups were to be asked to contact Miller Argent direct.
- 12.2 The question was asked how did people/organisations access the community funds. It was reported that they needed to apply to the council as Miller Argent had no say on who would be allocated monies from the fund. The contact is Huw O'Sullivan at MTCBC.
- 12.3 It was also reported that Miller Argent had done some private sponsorship but highlighted the fact that Miller Argent had a high level of request for sponsorship/funding and could not respond to everyone. Also sponsorship had been done on a personnel level.

MTCBC

13. Legal Challenge

- 13.1 There was nothing to report.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 James Poyner reported that the protest on 1st April 2008 went without major incident. There are been two arrests and Miller Argent were concerned for the safety of the protesters. There had also been an incident with the Flocculant tanks when 2 tanks had been sabotaged and emptied into the water course, there had been concern as it could have caused problems with contamination. Alyson Austin said that she had spoken to the protesters and she had been assured that they had nothing to do with the sabotage.
- 14.2 It was asked if Miller Argent intended to help local unemployed people back into work. Stephen Tillman said that Miller Argent had not only brought employment to the area directly but also jobs to the valley indirectly by using local firms to supply goods. A trainee Lewis Jenkins had been taken on directly and Finnings have also taken an apprentice on.

15. Date of next meetings

Thursday 26 June 2008 at 7.00 pm at the Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre.

It was requested that the previous months notes be sent out two weeks before the meeting and that in future the progress reports be sent out a week before the next meeting.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Appendices

1. Site Progress Report – Robert Jones
2. Environmental Report – Kylie Jones

CONTACT NUMBERS

Miller Argent – Contact Details

Emergency Contact Number	0800 988 8444
Telephone during office hours	0870 111 5600
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