



Meeting **PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Date **Tuesday 17 January 2017 (commencing at 10.30 am)**

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

John Wilkinson (Chair)  
Sue Saddington (Vice-Chairman)

Roy Allan  
Andrew Brown  
Steve Calvert  
Jim Creamer  
Stan Heptinstall MBE

A Rachel Madden  
Andy Sissons  
Keith Walker  
Yvonne Woodhead

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Roger Jackson

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

David Forster – Resources Department  
Rachel Clack – Resources Department  
Sally Gill – Place Department  
Mike Hankin - Place Department  
Ruth Kinsey – Place Department

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None

**DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING OF MEMBERS**

None

**OXTON COMPOSTING FACILITY OLLERTON ROAD OXTON**

Mr Hankin introduced the report and gave a slide presentation and highlighted the following:-

- The application is for an increase from 55,000 to 75,000 tonnes of waste with an aerating composting pad.
- There had been 3 objections received, 2 from residents and 1 from Oxton Parish Council regarding the odours from the application site.
- There were no objections received from Newark and Sherwood District Council or the Highway Agency.

The Council's Waste Core Strategy provides support for green waste / composting facilities within Green Belt Locations where very special circumstances can be demonstrated. There will be an increase in traffic, condition 17 set out in the appendix to the report does not allow the use of the surrounding A roads during peak times. A new access road will be constructed to the site.

- Following the introductory remarks of Mr Hankin there were a number of speakers who were given an opportunity to speak and **summaries** of those speeches are set out below.

Mr Oliver Collingham, local resident, spoke against the application and highlighted the following:-

- The odours that emanate from the site are unpleasant.
- There have been regular complaints from residents of Farnsfield with regard to the odours
- His concerns are not about the operation of the site but the effect the odours have on family life in the surrounding area
- There are concerns about the weigh bridge being relocated 230 metres closer to properties in the vicinity.
- Residents were not informed about the future development of this site.
- The composting operation could be fully enclosed to allow a better management of the odours.

Mr Collingham responded to questions as follows:-

- The odour was first thought to be the product of farming in the area, however the odours are more acrid than those that occur when manure is spread.
- The complaints made were mainly addressed to Veolia and he has had a reasonably good relationship with them.
- The change in technique will allow an increase in production, however it is not known if it will reduce odour effect.
- If the facility was not there then the smell from manure spreading would only be 1-3 days a year not all year around as is the odour from the composting facility.

Mr David King, local resident, spoke against the application and highlighted the following:-

- When there is a prevailing wind there is a constant smell which is very unpleasant and nauseating.
- His Caravan company has up to 200 members of the public visiting the site each week, people often ask what the unpleasant odour is. At first it was thought it was from the farms in the vicinity.
- Complaints were made to the landlord about the odours, presuming it was the farms.
- There is also an issue with flies in the area with hundreds a day swarming around and being found in the caravans which is not a good advert to potential customers.
- The flies do seem to come from the direction of the composting facility so concerns about expanding the facility are a real concern to both residents and businesses alike.

Mr David King responded to questions as follows:-

- Not aware that the composting facility was in the area so complained to local farmers.
- As soon as it was obvious it was not the farms in the area that were the cause of the odours it was difficult to know who to complain to.
- There have been a number of times that the flies have caused problems over the summer months.

Mr Hankin in response questions following the objectors responded as follows:-

- There have only been two complaints recorded in the 10 years of operation of the site.
- The Environment Agency license the operational side of the site and as they have not had any concerns there has never been a need for any action to be taken on the site with regard to an environmental issues.
- The odour issue arises when the composting is turned and the odours are released, the proposed aeration system will reduce the need to turn the compost thus reducing the odour omissions.
- Condition 18 requires the use of an aerating pad on site as part of the planning approval and it could also stipulate that the equipment must be kept in working order at all times.
- Press notices and consultation letters were sent out to local residents, Mr Hankin has had several conversations with local residents with regard the proposed changes on the site

Mr James Cook, representing Veolia, spoke in favour of the application and highlighted the following:-

- The application shows Veolia's continued commitment to investments in developing treatments for waste.
- The proposed aerating treatment is to allow less movement of waste when decomposing and therefore reducing the cause of any nauseous odours.

- Suggestions of covering the waste is not an approach that Veolia considers the best option as it creates aerobic conditions and would need the appropriate buildings and industrial plants.
- The increase in tonnage is in keeping with the increase in waste collected in Nottinghamshire and the need to manage its green waste.
- 

Mr Cook responded to questions as follows:-

- The fewer times the waste is agitated the lower the chance of odour being reduced. If the waste is not moved as often, then less machinery is needed on site.
- The variation in the operation would need a permit change and this is issued by the Environment Agency.
- This is a completely new process for this site and it means the waste is aerated and less need to disturb the waste.
- There are other sites in the UK that use this system and there is greater control of the airflow needed to help the bacteria to decompose the waste.
- Cannot be precise in how much less odour will be released but it will certainly be reduced.
- Veolia would be happy for a Liaison Committee to be set up with the local residents and surrounding area.
- The Environment Agency have been informed of any complaints received as they are the permitting Authority.
- With regard to the issue of swarms of flies there have not been any issues on site and if there were then any necessary controls would be taken at the earliest opportunity.
- A temporary planning consent is not worth the investment for the company.

Councillor Roger Jackson, local member, spoke against the application and highlighted the following:-

- The issue around muck spreading is a few days a year this happens, with this operation there are odours all year around.
- The issue is with the increase in tonnage of waste at the site and the issues that goes with this. Could it not be housed under cover?.

- There is a danger that this proposed system will not reduce the odours produced.
- Is there not an issue with bio aerosol and the health of the local residents ? This is an important factor that should be taken into account and until professional advice can be sought this item should be deferred by the Committee.

Mr Hankin commented that with regard to bio aerosols the Environment Agency consider there is only a risk to health within a 250m radius and anything outside this area is considered safe. He also commented on the issue of covering or building, it is within the green belt and therefore there are more stringent regulations on building within the greenbelt

Following all the speakers members debated the item and the following comments and issues arose.

- Concerns regarding prevailing winds and the odours
- The health and quality of life for local residents
- There should be a site visit.
- These sites are needed and if there is a possibility of them working in different and more environmentally friendly ways.
- A liaison Group/Committee should be established for this application
- The aerating pad should be introduced as soon as possible so there is less disturbance of the waste.
- Until the new system is in place it will not be known if it will have a significant odour reduction.
- The wind direction could be an issue.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Saddington and put before the Committee

“That the report be deferred to allow the Committee to undertake a site visit and that the Environment Agency be asked to have a representative at the site visit”

Following a show of hands it was deemed to be lost therefore on a motion by the Chair, duly seconded it was:-

### **RESOLVED 2017/001**

That planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in Appendix 1 and with the additional amendments to the conditions

- That a Liaison Committee be established and
- That the aeration process is established as soon as possible and records be kept of its hours / days of operation

**GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE DESIGNATION REGIME FOR UNDER PERFORMING LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**RESOLVED 2017/02**

That Members note the Government's proposal to extend the existing regime for managing underperforming local planning authorities and the potential implications for this Authority.

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**RESOLVED 2017/003**

That the report be noted

**WORK PROGRAMME**

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was:-

**RESOLVED 2017/004**

That the Work Programme be noted

The meeting closed at 12.20pm

**CHAIR**