

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2015  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of relevant issues which have arisen since the last meeting.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives healthier and safer.

## 2 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRESS

2.1 I am pleased to report that progress is ongoing to meeting the EU/Drinking Water Inspectorate completion of the initial Risk Assessment and compliance sampling of our private water supplies, albeit we did not meet the 31 December 2014 deadline.

2.2 Since the last report, progress has continued with 68 supplies now being completed in relation to risk assessment, which is now over half way, there remain 53 to complete. Due to the complexity and detail of the process, including the need to serve multiple notices on all users of each supply failing to meet the standards, it is only proving possible for in the order of 8 supplies to be assessed each month. The project lead officer, Matthew Riding, is making every effort to complete the assessments as quickly as possible, the more realistic completion date remains July 2015. Altogether, this is proving to be a much bigger piece of work than originally envisaged.

2.3 The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) have been advised of the above, have asked for and been issued with a revised work plan. I shall keep Committee informed of developments.

2.4 As explained in my previous report, due to the considerably greater than average number of private water supplies in Ribble Valley, the DWI have suggested that Ribble Valley, in partnership with other East Lancashire authorities in a similar position, explore the possibility of obtaining additional resource from Public Health funding for this very important work. Unfortunately, I still await a response from my initial and repeated approaches.

## 3 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LIAISON MEETING

3.1 A liaison meeting was held on 8 December 2014, a copy of the minutes are attached for your information as Appendix A to this report.

## 4 HANSON CEMENT APPLICATION FOR VARIATION

4.1 The Council received a consultation letter from the Environment Agency dated 20 October requiring a response by 17<sup>th</sup> November, in relation to an application being made for variation to the site permit 'to adopt the Mineral Products Association Code of Practice for the use of waste materials in cement manufacture'. The variation reflects industry agreed practice considered and approved by the Environment Agency Regulatory Scrutiny Panel in June 2013.

4.2 The increased use of Alternative Raw Materials and Waste Derived Fuels is important in enabling Hanson Cement and more importantly, the Ribblesdale Works, to remain competitive in the global market. The document was considered in detail and a response made on behalf of the Council, which is attached as Appendix B to this report

## 5 FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF APPROVED PREMISES

5.1 Committee is advised of the Food Standards Agency intention to carry out a 'focussed audit' of the Council's food control regulatory function of 'Approved Premises' within the Ribble Valley. The audit is to be a detailed two and half day audit commencing on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

5.2 Ribble Valley has been selected as part of a programme of focused audits to ensure that risk based and proportionate controls are in place at approved dairy establishments. This follows the audit by the Food and Veterinary Office in April 2013 of the official controls for milk and dairy products in the UK.

5.3 As part of this process, we were required to complete and submit a Pre-Visit Questionnaire with extensive supporting documents to the Agency by 7<sup>th</sup> January deadline. By necessity, this has involved considerable time being dedicated to the preparation of these documents and for this visit. I will inform Committee of the outcome of this audit.

## 6 LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS ESTIMATES 2012

6.1 Following the presentation to the last meeting of this Committee, as requested, a letter has been sent to the principal author of the document at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) expressing our considerable concerns with the document, giving examples of recent selective interpretation and potential misinformation arising from its publication and questioning the overall purpose and value of the document. To date, I have had neither acknowledgement nor response.

6.2 In addition, the consideration of air quality assessment and particularly the relevance of Carbon Dioxide contribution in relation to significant planning applications was reviewed in a meeting of the Chair of this Committee, Chair of Planning & Development Committee with the Head of Planning Services. The meeting concluded that the current process and reporting in relation to larger scale development was in line with current guidance and was appropriate and proportionate. It was agreed that the reporting of applications to committee would continue to be reassessed in order to ensure improvement and for appropriate information be included in any reports.

## 7 MID YEAR REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD CONTROL

7.1 The Environmental Health Inspection Team has sustained a particularly challenging year in the past 12 months, having had to deal with a significant higher than average number of serious incidents. These have included;

- Listeria monocytogenes fatality linked to sales of cooked meats;
- Major accident resulting from overturned golf buggy;
- Legionnaires disease case investigation ( intensive care – recovered)
- Legionnaires disease case fatality;
- Fatality investigation linked to slip on ice;
- Fatality investigation linked to burst water bottle and presentation to Coroners Court;
- Investigation of broken neck by a rider at a Riding School;

- Investigation of 3 separate 'serious' incidents at a local hotel resulting in a broken hip, lacerated head and a damaged back;
- Investigation of 3 notified E.coli 0157 incidents including one linked to a significant outbreak in a neighbouring authority;
- Legionella interventions in relation to a number of spa pools (4), all of which were found to be not effectively being controlled in relation to risk of Legionnaires Disease.

7.2 As a direct result, it has not been possible to achieve the planned number of programmed inspections in relation to food control and health & safety. As stated by the Food Safety Intervention Plan approved by Committee, I am required to inform Committee of any likely year end shortfall. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January, the team are 45 inspections behind and have an additional 67 scheduled to complete by the end of this financial year on 31 March.

7.3 As such, every effort will continue to be made to undertake as many of these as is feasible, with priority being given to highest risk ie Category A to D. It is envisaged that it may be necessary for in the order of 20 'low risk' Category E premises to be taken forward to the next year.

## 8. SHIREBURNE CARAVAN PARK, EDISFORD ROAD, WADDINGTON

8.1 On 3 December 2014 two new licences were issued in relation to the Shireburne Caravan Park operation. The residential site element was licensed for 105 units under the Mobile Homes Act 2013, for which the appropriate fee was levied. The holiday site element was also licensed for 72 units.

8.2 As part of this process the site was inspected by the Council's EHO, Matthew Riding, in order to ensure compliance with the model standards.

8.3 As part of this process, the owners of Shireburne Caravan Park have undertaken a consultation with their residents and provided a copy of revised site rules.

JAMES RUSSELL  
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for James Russell on 01200 414466.

**LIAISON MEETING BETWEEN RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
THE HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014  
AT RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, CLITHEROE**

**PRESENT:**

Phil Goodwin – Regulatory Officer, Environment Agency  
Councillor Richard Sherras – RVBC  
Councillor Ian Sayers - RVBC  
James Russell – RVBC CEHO

**1. APOLOGIES**

- Apologies received from Dr Steve Gee who has recently retired – intention for HPU to support future meetings.

**2. MINUTES & NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – 13 January 2014**

- The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
- The Agency reported that the SRF trials had been successfully completed with satisfactory final report and as a result the plant now approved to burn both. Burning restricted in that cannot physically burn MBM and SRF together on the main burner to the kiln.

**3. UPDATE ON CEMENT SECTOR REGULATION**

- Nothing to report as the Cement and Minerals Env Agency Group not met since 2013. Meeting expected in near future. Env Agency review of plasterboard manufacturing sites and consistency of regulation. Nearest plant at Kirkby Thorpe near Penrith. These sites closely linked to this sector. Overview of manufacturing requirements and process given by the Agency.

**4. HANSON CEMENT UPDATE**

- Last site audit undertaken on 20 November 2014. Copy of last report and findings circulated for general information and discussion. No significant breaches recorded.
- Ribblesdale Works been experiencing several short lived outages resulting from carbon monoxide spikes. Process being evaluated and research into cause. Not resulted in exceedance.
- Scrubber down time explained. Only 2 plants in the UK fitted with a wet scrubber provided to address odour. Early in October, there was a 72 hour period where unavoidable outage whilst awaiting parts from Germany. Above caused; minor exceedance of HCL in October reached 11, when limit is 10. Process reviewed and now requirement to ensure raw mill process in operation in event of a scrubber outage. Also issue with Particulates in September, when error with thermocouple when protective sheathing failed which resulted in lack of additional water.
- The Agency has recently carried out a review of complaints. No justified and validated complaints received in relation to the cement works. The meeting discussed the recent public interest following the references in local papers regarding high than average levels of Carbon Dioxide linked to the borough.
- Waste Oil Trial not to proceed.

- The works introducing 'Selective Non Catalytic Reduction' (SNCR) system to further reduce NOx emissions. Involves injection of ammonia into the exhaust gases which reverts NOx to nitrogen. This may result in reconsideration of ammonia limit in the permit
- The Agency explained that Lanehead Landfill facility never been used and kiln waste continuing to go for land spreading as a soil improver. Mobile Plant Deployment Certificate required to use and spread kiln waste on farm land. Information available on the Environment Agency website. Discussion as to likely composition of white dust spread on fields near Rimington during the dry period in September. Cllr. Sherras to provide grid ref. likely that not absorbed into the ground as a result of lack of rainfall.

## **5. DECC LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSION ESTIMATES**

- General discussion as to purpose and outcomes of above report. James outlined recent references and interpretation of content of this report in connection with local planning applications for new housing. Outlined that presentation given to elected members on this subject. Phil aware of concerns and had received a copy of the letter & supporting examples sent to DECC. He had passed upwards within the Agency for consideration and hopefully support of RVBC to DECC.

## **7. UPDATE ON OTHER PPC SITES**

- Dugdales Nutrition, Johnson Matthey, Trouw, BAe – Nothing to report
- James requested that PPC site inspectors 'enquire into and seek effective control of feral pigeons' as ongoing problem in Clitheroe Town Centre. Phil to relay back to site inspectors.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None**

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Please can you diary next meeting for:

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June\* 2015 at 2.15pm** at Ribble Valley BC Council Offices, Clitheroe

***\*Please note change of date from that indicated at meeting and on meeting agenda***

NONMIN/08/12/2014



## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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please ask for: JAMES RUSSELL  
direct line: 01200 414466  
e-mail: james.russell@ribblevalley.gov.uk  
my ref: JAR/CMS/HANSON CEMENT  
your ref: EPR/BL72721B/V009 - Rib 2014/01  
date: 14 November 2015

Council Offices  
Church Walk

CLITHEROE

Lancashire BB7 2RA

Dear Mr Robson

RE:APPLICATION FOR VARIATION Ref: EPR/BL72721B/V009, Rib-2014/01  
CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION  
CASTLE CEMENT LIMITED, RIBBLESDALE WORKS,  
WEST BRADFORD ROAD, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE, BB7 4QF

With reference to your letter dated 20 October 2014, I write to make the following comments on behalf of the Ribble Valley Borough Council;

### General Comments

- The Council recognises the considerable problems in relation to disposal of waste and welcomes and supports, in principle, initiatives which reuse, recycle and/or recover energy from waste **providing that emissions to the local environment are not compromised and are sought to be progressively improved for all determinants**, and;
- The Council welcomes the indicated significant reduction in global warming potential as a result of the introduction of additional substitute fuels.

### Particular Comments:

The Council asks that the Environment Agency robustly evaluates the proposed changes and concur the conclusions of Hanson Cement and in particular confirm and clarify where necessary the following:

- That the Environment Agency ensures the plant fully meets legal requirements as the NPA Code of Practice contains a caveat that the document itself does not guarantee minimal legal requirements (Page 11 – foot note).
- That the plant incorporate and be required to meet United Nations environment programme guidelines on environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous waste in cement kilns (Top of Page 12).

Continued .....

Continuation Sheet  
14 November 2014

- That every effort is made to source materials locally.

Yours sincerely

JAMES RUSSELL  
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

cc:Mr Phil Goodwin, PIR Inspector, Environment Agency, Lutra House,  
PO Box 519, South Preston, PR5 8GD  
Marshal Scott – Chief Executive, RVBC  
Councillor S Hirst – Leader, RVBC  
Councillor Bridget Hilton, Chair Health & Housing Committee, RVBC

Mr Joel Robson - Permitting Support Advisor  
The Environment Agency  
Permitting & Support Centre  
Quadrant 2  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Parkway Business Park SHEFFIELD S9 4WF