



South Darley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ecobat Liaison Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 2:30pm in the Ecobat Board Room.

In attendance:

SDPC: Cllr Brian Haymes (Chair), Cllr Jeremy Higham and Colin Swindell (Clerk) **SiPPC:** Susan Fogg and Andy Mellor

EA: Steve Proffitt, Mark Revill and Cathal O’Leary **Ecobat:** John Manning and Stuart Thompson

DDDC: Karen Carpenter (Environmental Health), Amanda Goodwill (Environmental Health) and Cllr Roger Shelley

Item		Action by
ELG0923/1 Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr Laura Mellstrom (DCC), Cllr Matt Buckler (DDDC) and Cllr Susan Hobson (DCC).	
ELG0923/2 Introductions	With there being several new faces at the meeting, everybody introduced themselves and said who they were representing.	
ELG0923/3 Approval of minutes	Agreed: The minutes of the previous Ecobat Liaison Committee meeting held on Monday 19 th June 2023 were accepted as a true record.	
ELG0923/4 Reports from Ecobat, EA and DDDC	<p>Stuart Thompson gave a slideshow presentation to the meeting. This showed the results of Ecobat’s onsite and offsite monitoring. The following details were given:</p> <p>Stack emissions The measurements taken over a 6 month period show that levels of particulates, dioxin and lead are comfortably below the Emission Limit Value.</p> <p>Effluent discharge The average monthly discharge of both Cadmium and lead remain well below the permit level.</p> <p>Lead in Air levels The lead in air levels at the 3 monitoring sites show have been below the Air Quality Standard Regulations throughout 2023 and since the last Ecobat Liaison Meeting. They have also kept below the DEFRA Annual Objective of 0.25 ug/m³ - except for June where it crept just over at 0.251 ug/m³.</p> <p>Cllr Haymes commented that there appeared to be an increase in the number of people complaining to him about odours – which they assumed were coming from the factory. Cathal O’Leary said that recent monitoring of the site gave no reason for concern, but said that resident should be encouraged to report odours to the factory as and when they occur. This will help to identify the cause.</p> <p>Complaints and noise The number of complaints is relatively low and by September 2024 it stands at a monthly average of 4. Noise appeared to be the biggest cause of complaints. There are currently 4 locations where noise is monitored on Ecobat land and in Warren Carr.</p> <p>Measurements were shown for a one-off sound event at midday on 7th September 2023 where noise reached up to 48.8 decibels. Questions were asked about what was being done to identify the cause of noise and deal with it. John Manning explained that there had recently been complaints about a high pitch sound coming from the effluent plant which has been dealt with. John Manning stressed that the company was keen to tackle any noise complaints and encouraged people to ring in as and when the noise is occurring.</p> <p>A recording of a ‘new noise’ was played at the meeting by Andy Mellor.</p>	

	<p>Action: Andy Mellor to forward the above recording to John Manning for investigation and feedback.</p> <p>SiPPC requested that additional noise monitoring should take place within Warren Carr - in addition to the other set noise monitoring locations. This follows the monitoring carried out on 7 September 2023. Ecobat advised that the monitoring equipment was currently undergoing calibration, but once returned, Stuart would arrange additional monitoring in this location due to the number of complaints from residents. The noise report references to possible sound attenuation improvements. A discussion took place which outlined budget constraints, but that budget setting would take place in October.</p> <p>Action: John Manning and Stuart Thompson to inform the ELG if investment in additional sound proofing could be included in the budget.</p> <p>General matters</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the current format of the reports presented by Ecobat. It was felt that the presentations and graphs could be made a lot clearer and easier to understand for people who do not have specialized knowledge.</p> <p>Action: John Manning agreed and proposed to review the above.</p>	<p>JM & AM</p> <p>JM & ST</p> <p>JM</p>
<p>ELG0923/5 Review of questions and answers</p>	<p>Prior to the meeting, members were provided with a sheet containing questions from SAFER about operations at the Ecobat factory and site. The Clerk had spent the months running up to the meeting collecting answers and information to those questions for members' consideration.</p> <p>Susan Fogg suggested that the members of the Liaison Group take away and review the document ahead of the next meeting.</p>	
<p>ELG0923/6 Lighting survey</p>	<p>A copy of the Lighting Report (January 2023) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Members from SiPPC expressed their disappointment with the report. This was mainly due to the report making no reference to any lighting impact outside of the factory. Furthermore, there was concern that the document highlighted plans to increase lighting on the site, when it was already clear that nearby residents were suffering from the current setup.</p> <p>Stuart Thompson explained that any additional lighting would be low-level, for the purposes of security and safety only. Stuart also told the meeting that a lot of the lamps have been reangled to mitigate the impact on the surrounding areas.</p> <p>SiPPC members raised disappointment with the Lighting Survey as the original remit set in November 2022 indicated the report would look at and report on the impact of lighting on 'the neighbourhood', The report failed to address this important aspect. Stuart advised that some 60 light poles had been addressed. The possibility of changing some permanent lights to motion sensor activation was discussed and the 24 hour lights on The Gables building was highlighted and agreed as totally unnecessary. SiPPC presented a slideshow of particular roadside lights which have been complained about on numerous occasions as being dangerous to road users.</p> <p>Action: JM and ST to update the lighting maps to show which lighting poles had been reviewed to investigate the 24 hour lights at the Gables and to look urgently at the lights from the site affecting road users.</p>	<p>JM & ST</p>
<p>ELG0923/7 Noise</p>	<p>The matter of noise was covered earlier in the meeting under item ELG0923/4 Reports from Ecobat, EA and DDDC.</p>	
<p>ELG0923/8 HGV figures</p>	<p>At the previous meeting, Susan Fogg raised questions about the number of HGVs entering and exiting the site on a daily basis and whether this had increased. John Manning offered to bring some data to the September meeting.</p> <p>John Manning reported that Ecobat's logistics team were unable to give exact numbers of vehicles coming onto site. This was because vehicles are not measured by quantity but by tonnage. The team did say that they had not noticed</p>	

	<p>any increase or changes to the pattern of HGVs coming to site, but there was a greater use of Ecobat's own lorries.</p> <p>Susan Fogg said that Ecobat should be monitoring vehicle movements to and from the site as the numbers have an impact on the nearby communities.</p>	
<p>ELG0923/9 Next meeting</p>	<p>Agreed: The next meeting of the Ecobat Liaison Group to be held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 2:30pm. Venue to be arranged.</p> <p>The Clerk is to confirm the date, time and venue early in the new year.</p>	

SDPC – South Darley Parish Council
DDDC – Derbyshire Dales District Council
EA – Environment Agency

SiPPC – Stanton in Peak Parish Council
DCC – Derbyshire County Council
VAS – Vehicle Activated Sign