

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
J L THOMAS LIAISON GROUP

Wednesday 20 April 2011

Present:-

Councillor Percy Prowse (Chair)

Mr T Green, J L Thomas
Steve Cockram, J L Thomas
Mr N Parsons, J L Thomas

Alex Bulleid, Environmental Health Technician
Richard Shears, Environmental Health Technician
Helen Stewart, Observer (Exeter City Council work experience)
Jo Quinnell, Assistant Member Services Officer

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APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Leech and John Staddon and Councillor Newcombe.

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NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2010

The notes of the meeting held on 10 November 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

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PROCESS UPDATE

Terry Green reported that there had been a price war for raw materials over the last three years. This came to an end in January, but since then a renderer based in Halifax has been targeting the South West for raw materials. This has resulted in a reduction of approximately 400 tonnes per week to the factory which was equivalent to 16-20 lorry loads per week.

Material was still being received on a daily basis, but in reduced volume. The factory processing hours had reduced and there were now 2-3 shutdown periods per week. As a result of this, the factory is now in the process of restructuring its working arrangements.

Councillor Prowse asked if there was any legislation on minimising transportation of materials. Terry Green advised that the competitors were legally obliged to conform with DEFRA legislation and that of their enforcing authorities.

Terry Green circulated the environmental control expenditure for September 2010 to February 2011.

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COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Alex Bulleid circulated details of five additional complaints since the agenda was circulated.

She highlighted a plant breakdown over the Christmas period and also one power failure.

The complaints from Marsh Barton were from two separate businesses. Alex advised that an officer will attend as soon as possible after any complaint has been made. Terry Green added that the factory also carries out regular odour assessments.

Terry Green referred to the last meeting where he suggested that on occasions the source of odours may have been in part attributable to the City Council's green waste recycling depot which was adjacent to the factory. He had recently seen an article in the Express & Echo which stated that this depot would be closing due to a change in legislation. Councillor Prowse stated that he was unaware of this and would write a letter seeking further information. He would pass on the reply to Terry Green.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 2PM

The date of the next meeting was noted.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 2.24 pm)

Chair

J L Thomas & Co Ltd

Environmental Control Expenditure – Sep 2010 – February 2011 inclusive (6 months)

Odour Control	£
Odour Treatment Chemicals	26,778
Odour Control Repairs	7,250
Gas Oil Incinerator	29,363
Vehicle Scenting	1,446
Total - Odour Control	64,837
Average monthly spend	10,806
Effluent Treatment	
Effluent Treatment Chemicals	57,774
Effluent Treatment Repairs	17,368
Effluent Disposal to SWWA	50,595
Total - Effluent Treatment	125,737
Average monthly spend	20,956
Total Odour & Effluent	190,574
Total average monthly spend	31,762

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Five additional complaints since agenda was circulated:

05/04/2011 Bagshot Avenue Factory complaint
 Strong tower smell
 LF tower slightly low free chlorine – this was rectified

08/04/2011 Marsh Green Road Factory complaint
 No odour detectable
 Factory recently shut down

15/04/2011 Marsh Green Road Factory complaint
 AB/RS unable to attend
 Boiler failure – low water condition at approx. time of call. This will be investigated at weekend shut-down.

18/04/2011 Rivermead Road Factory complaint
 Factory started processing about 1 hour 45 minutes before call. All running normally and towers on set points.
 Out of hours complaint.

19/04/2011 Marsh Green Road Factory complaint
 Factory processing normally and towers all on set points. Sniffer points smelt good.
 AB/RS/JL investigated – occasional, slight, clean tower smell.

Summary:

Twelve complaints since last meeting.

No incidents of more than one complaint on a single day.

Two complaints attributable to plant breakdowns, one to power failure.

Two occasions when plant had recently shut down.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
2011	6	5			11
2010	4	30	44	15	93
2009	4	21	69	19	113
2008	4	30	108	39	181

(odour complaints only – vehicle and factory)

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