

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SECANIM (J L THOMAS) LIAISON GROUP

Wednesday 20 March 2019

Present:-

Councillor Luke Sills (Chair)
Councillor Natalie Vizard
Councillor Philip Bialyk

Mr J A Staddon, Residents Representative
Rod Ruffle, Residents Representative
Nigel Fitzhugh, Residents Representative
Nick Parsons, SecAnim (J L Thomas)

Alex Bulleid, Senior Environmental Technical Officer
Jonathan Knight, Environmental Technical Officer
Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

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APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Kate Hannan had resigned from her role as City Councillor on 13 March 2019, and therefore Councillor Sills was appointed as Chair for this meeting.

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APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

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NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2018

The notes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

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PROCESS UPDATE

Nick Parsons reported that production volumes remained stable and in line with 2019 forecasts. There had been a slight increase in tonnage over the winter months, but this was as expected.

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COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The report attached to the agenda detailed complaints made since the last meeting and the results of any investigations.

A complaints summary was circulated (attached) which details comparisons for each quarter back to 2002.

It was typical to receive a low number of complaints over the winter period. Although the raw material throughput was higher over winter due to the increase in the number of fallen stock, the weather conditions were favourable.

Reference was made to the complaint on Alphington Road. The odour was noticed on 21 December but the complaint was not made until Christmas Eve, by which time the offices were closed for the Christmas period. Therefore the complaint was

not picked up until the beginning of January and it was not possible to investigate fully.

The complaint from Roberts Road was made direct to the factory giving the address of the caller, but not the area that the odour was smelt. The wind direction was different to the address so was unlikely to be from the factory, unless the complainant smelt the odour somewhere other than at home.

An enquiry was made on whether a set pattern of questions were asked to complainants to ensure that the location of the odour can be recorded. It was noted that a set number of questions were asked if any complaints were received through Exeter City Council, but Nick Parsons confirmed that he would review factory procedures.

The vehicle complaints usually received can be as a result of odour or noise. The condition of Water Lane was raised as this was the route vehicles took to the factory and there were a large number of pot holes which exacerbated the noise.

It was suggested whether an approach could be made to Devon County Council to prioritise works being undertaken in Water Lane in respect of lessening the risk of noise from vehicles.

Devon County Council have a priority order of roads to be repaired. The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport would speak to the Leader of the Council to gain an understanding of this, with a view to possibly challenging the position of Water Lane on the list. Although it is not a main thoroughfare there are consequences if potholes here are not repaired because of the number and timing of HGV movements.

It was also noted that the double yellow lines along a part of Water Lane had been painted over with grey paint and some travellers and vehicles were now parked along this stretch of road. It was requested that if any registration numbers are available to pass on to Environmental Health to investigate further.

It was agreed that a joint letter be sent to the Cabinet Member for Highways Management at Devon County Council from Councillor Sills and the Devon County Councillor for that area, Carol Whitton, on behalf of this Group to raise concerns about the road surface and obstruction by parked vehicles, highlighting the frequency and number of lorries that use Water Lane. Nick Parsons would seek advice from head office that this could be provided, but agreed in principle to provide this.

6

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Factory Maintenance

Nick Parsons reported that some major maintenance had taken place at the factory at the start of the year to ensure continuity and reliability to key equipment.

New ward councillors

Following elections, new ward councillors would be offered a tour of the site as Members felt it was important to understand and experience how the factory operates and recognise different odours.

Councillor Natalie Vizard

Members of the Group thanked Councillor Natalie Vizard for her contribution, as she would not be standing for election again in May.

7 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2019 AT 5.30PM**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 5.45 pm)

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Minute Item 5

Complaints summary:

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
2019	1				1
2018	0	20 + 1 vehicle	30 + 3 vehicle	1 vehicle	50 (+ 5 vehicle)
2017	1 vehicle	7	17	3	28
2016	1	6	20 (+3 vehicle)	1	28 (+3 vehicle)
2015	4	5 (+1 noise)	25	3	37 (+ 1 noise)
2014	4	33 (+1 vehicle)	73	17 (+ 1 vehicle)	126 (+2 vehicle)
2013	3 (+1 noise)	23 (+4 noise)	53 (+2 vehicle)	14	93 (+5 noise and 2 vehicle)
2012	7	39	90	20	156
2011	6	22	42	24	94
2010	4	31 (+ 1 noise)	44 (+ 1 noise)	15 (+1 noise)	94 (+3 noise)
2009	4	21	70	19 (+ 1 noise)	114 (+1 noise)
2008	4	30	108	39	181
2007	17	31	24	10	82
2006	2	35	36	37	110
2005	8	40	54	8	110
2004	13	16	51	2	82
2003	6	21	198	26	251
2002	2	19	8	5	34

Number of complaints received by complainant and road (since last meeting):

	C1
Alphington Road	1
Roberts Road	1

Days on which there were more than one complaint:

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