

**Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting
4.00pm Wednesday 20th September 2023**

Location: Cheddleton Community Centre

The following members were present:

Chair Karen Bradley - Member of Parliament – Staffordshire Moorlands

Environment Agency Jon Philpin– EPR Installations Regulatory Officer

Councillors / MP: Cllr Mike Bowen- SMDC District Council
Cllr Malcolm Cunningham – Cheddleton

Advanced Proteins: Barney Williams - Technical Director
Andrew Brown - General Manager

Animal Health: See apologies

Representing Residents: Patricia Duffy
John Tunna
Ian Dakin

Apologies: Gerry McLoughlin – Advanced Protein’s Managing Director
Steve Thomason – Environment Agency
Stephanie Young (Trading Standards)
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Joe Smith

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Karen Bradley (KB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and the members of the group reciprocated. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2. Updates from: Environment Agency

John Philpin (JP) introduced himself and gave the following update to the group.

The Environment Agency received 25 public notifications of odour nuisance since the last liaison meeting on 21 April 2023. These reports impacted on 14 separate properties. All but three reports were concentrated over six days in late June, and six days in early September, both coincidental to spells of extended hot weather. The following report is a brief timeline of events.

- 30 May - Schedule 5 Notification – small pocket of smouldering MBM identified in Milling Plant, Line 6. Addressed by site staff. One complaint received from Millstone Edge. This is reasonable to associate with the MBM issue.
- During June operations to remove the Line 2 Cooker were ongoing and weekly updates provided to the Environment Agency on likely environmental impact.
- 12 June – Oxidiser Safety Valves were tested – risk of noise, none reported.
- 13 June – Odour impacted a property on Folly Lane at 08:00 and one in Folly Fields at 13:30. These properties are west and close to the site, and the impact was recorded over a single day.
- 14 June – Schedule 5 Notification - Cookhouse door of the Plant 3 Cookhouse observed to be damaged at 10:15 hours. Site team repaired promptly. There was the potential for the door problem to have impacted on the notifications.

- 17 June – Schedule 5 Notification - small fire notified in one of the category three cookers, quickly extinguished by site staff, no consequent environmental impact.
- 22 to 27 June – Odour reported on Hillside Road on four occasions, three times on Ostlers Lane (23 at 20:28, 25 at 03:00 and 11:40), twice on Basford Green (25 at 22:50, 27 at 22:47), and once on Grange Road (22 at 13:44), The Oaks (24 at 21:00) and Kingsley View (25 at 12:00).
- A cumulative total of 11 complaints were received over 22 to 27 of June, impacting on properties to the north or northeast, with 10 of the 11 coming over 22 to 25 June.
It is noted that June 2023 was the hottest on record in the UK. With temperatures building towards the end of the month and remaining sustained for a significant period.
This had consequent impacts on the potential for raw materials to deteriorate and increase the risk of malodour.
- 09 July – Schedule 5 Notification – power outage for five minutes at 16:50 hours, biofilters required restart. Local grid issue. No complaints received
- 02 August – Schedule 5 Notification – Category 3 Plant, meal plant door jammed open. No complaints received.
- 16 August – Odour impacted a property on Consall Lane at 22:12.
- 25 August - Schedule 5 Notification – Category 3 Plant, materials reception, trailer damaged roof. No complaints received.
- 01 September - Schedule 5 Notification – Thermal oxidiser lockout for 10 minutes at 16:40 due to a sensor failure, diversion of exhaust to biobeds.
- 05 September – Two Schedule 5 Notifications, one relating to the Category 3 Plant door at 18:30 swiftly replaced by the site engineering team. The second issue related to a power loss at 19:40 - No complaints received.
- 02 September to 08 September – Odour impacted four locations predominantly south of the site: Cheadle Road (on 02 at 21:15, 06 at 00:00, 07 at 06:50), Folly Lane (on 04 at 17:00 and 19:20, 07 at 02:00 and 17:43), Woodland Avenue (on 07 at 07:00), Ostlers Lane (on 08 at 10:15).
- Ten complaints were received over the period 02 September to 08 September. Again, another record spell of extended warm weather was recorded for the month.

JP stated that there were no failures of the permit or the site-specific odour management plan (OMP).

JP added that the Company continues to proactively progress the action tracker for positive improvement projects on site.

3. Advanced Proteins Update

- The Category 3 cooking process building was due for a full roof replacement in Autumn 2022 but the project was delayed as the installer was no longer trading. A new installer was appointed, and the first phase commenced 30th April 2023.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken by the Company for approval by the Environment Agency, to ensure all risks are assessed which could result in potential odour releases and that all control measures are in place to prevent any impact on the local community.

The Company intend to leaflet/postcard an information bulletin to the applicable areas of the village ahead of the works. The councillors at the meeting stated that they would ensure the Parish Clerks at the applicable Parish Councils were made aware of the work so that the other councillors are in the loop.

- BW explained to the group that the Company have invested in a brand new cooking process for the Category 3 plant, which was installed in June 2023.
- The Company continues to work with a specialist energy consultancy with the key objective to identify technologies which could replace natural gas as the major fuel source at the factory. The long term commitment is to decarbonize the process and become net zero. At this point the research and development work is likely to take several months. There will be an update at the next meeting.

4. Food Ingredients Project Update

At this point of the meeting, BW updated the group in relation to the planning application for Food Ingredient (FI) England project that Advanced Proteins are hoping to progress at the Cheddleton site.

The full planning application was approved by Staffs Moorlands District Council Planning committee on 26th January 2023 (12 votes to zero). The full planning approval was received in August 2024. The company are now working through the planning conditions.

There will be a further update at the next Liaison Meeting.

5. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

BW explained that Avian Influenza (AI) remained active throughout the summer, in isolated cases. There had also been an increase in the number of cases in September 2023. Winter 2022/23 was the most prolific period on record for avian influenza.

The regular site APHA audits conducted since the last meeting were all positive, with zero non conformances reported.

6. Trading Standards

BW confirmed that there had been a minor spillage reported since the last meeting in the vicinity of Wetley Rocks. The source of the material was confirmed to be from a contractor delivering poultry, not Advanced Proteins driver.

There was a small volume of material on the road, which was addressed by the Company emergency response team within minutes when reported. BW attended himself. The contractor was contacted and reprimanded. There were no other engagement or activities with Trading Standards since the last meeting.

7. Any other business

- There was a Cheddleton Parish Council meeting on 19th September 2023. During the public questions, the issues of poor road condition and noise from the road were raised. There were approximately 12 residents in attendance, and BW from Advanced Proteins. The consensus from the comments were as follows:
 - The road condition is extremely poor. Particularly near to the petrol station and Mill Lane junction.
 - The road is too narrow and dangerous.
 - The road should have a 30 or 40 mph speed limit rather than 50mph
 - There should be average speed cameras on the straight sections in to and out of the village.
 - Lorries are particularly noisy, primarily due to the potholes.
 - The County Council need to address the issues ASAP

The outcome of the meeting was that residents needed to contact the Parish, District and County Council to put pressure on to adopt the road repairs and traffic measures.

- Ian Dakin raised the following issues on behalf of local residents:

A resident reported movement of vehicles along Bones Lane late at night. 3rd September 3 deliveries between 2 and 4am. Sat 4th September 2am delivery. 6th September 3 deliveries between 2-4am. 7th September lorry at 3.27am. BW confirmed that there were no restrictions on use of Bones Lane. The previous restriction applied to Felthouse Lane, before Bones Lane was constructed in 2013. BW confirmed that the Company strives to limit the use of the Lane between 10pm and 5am but it was not always possible.

There were odours reported on Folly Lane, and surrounding area in August and September. Potentially emanating from trailers left standing in the yard and seemingly from the factory. BW thanked ID for the information. Although specific times were not available, BW agreed to monitor the potential issue and would report back to the group at the next meeting.

During the last two weeks of August, intense smells in Wetley Rocks at night, especially a problem with people trying to sleep in the hot weather as they had to close windows. Several reports on 8th September of a smell so bad it penetrated the houses even with doors and windows closed.

Question received on how long the trucks are allowed to be outside before they are unloaded. BW confirmed that whenever possible, trailers are tipped as soon as they arrive on site to limit the potential odours.

Two residents have asked about flyers or other methods of letting residents know when there might be an issue, so they can be pre-warned. BW has previously agreed to distribute information bulletins in the event of projects such as the roof

replacement. BW confirmed that an environmental impact assessment is also completed and submitted to the Environment Agency in such cases.

- BW had received an email from resident, Victoria Berringer (VB), in relation to potential odours (air pollution) from the factory. VB described the odour as rotting, decomposing flesh and 'cooking' processes. Not everyone experienced the issue, all the time. However, when it was present, it was very difficult to be outdoors and windows and doors need to be closed to keep it out. The topic was discussed and also the odour abatement techniques utilized at the factory to control odour, e.g. thermal oxidizers and bio-filters. Also, the continuous testing that is undertaken and odour sampling. BW would be in contact with VB to offer further information.
- BW agreed to contact a District Councillor to attend future meetings.