

Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting
5.00pm Friday 21st April 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 John Tunna – Cheddleton Parish Council

Advanced Proteins: Barney Williams - Technical Director

Animal Health: See apologies

Representing Residents: Ian Dakin – Also Cllr for Cheddleton Parish Council
Joe Smith
Patricia Duffy

Apologies: Gerry McLoughlin – Advanced Protein’s Managing Director
Steve Thomason – Environment Agency
Stephanie Young (Trading Standards)
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Cllr Harold Jennings – Cheddleton Parish Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Karen Bradley (KB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and the members of the group reciprocated.

2. Updates from: Environment Agency

Jon Philpin (JP) introduced himself to the group and explained that he had been seconded to the Advanced Proteins site for a period of 6 months whilst his colleague, Richard Lockett, had been appointed to a waste site in the Midlands. JP gave an overview of his service within the Environment Agency and his knowledge of other rendering sites.

JP explained that since the last liaison meeting on 11th November 2022, 9 reports had been made to the Environment Agency, 7 of which related to odour and two relating to noise.

JP explained there had been 5 Schedule 5's reported to the Environment Agency by Advanced Proteins. Such notifications are a requirement of the site permit if there is a factor that may have the potential to cause an odour or noise.

- 12/12 Biobed B fan
- 13/02 Cat 1 Minor Fire
- 27/03 Brief black smoke emission – thermal oxidizer
- 10/03 Cat 1 raw material door

One of the notifications related to a site and local power outage of the National Grid. The oxidizers and biobed abatement systems were reset immediately and there were no odour reports when the power blip occurred. Therefore, the situation was managed appropriately.

In addition, several reports had been received, and evidence noted, in relation to agricultural spreading, which may have contributed to some of the complaints received.

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 will commence on the weekend 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 would hopefully be installed in June 2023. Again, the Company would ensure that a detailed EIA will be undertaken, and the community would be made aware of the installation before and during activities.
- 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 application has now been referred to the Secretary of State for the final approval due to national planning regulations.

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

5. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

BW explained that I Avian Influenza (AI) was still active but nowhere near at the same rate. There have been 3 cases nationwide in the past month. Advanced Proteins were not involved in the secure disposal due to the locations.

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 Ash Bank, Werrington. The source of the material was confirmed to be from an abattoir in Bucknall, and it was their own haulier.

There was a small amount of offal on the road, which was addressed by the Company emergency response team within minutes when reported.

There were no other engagement or activities with Trading Standards since the last meeting.

7. Any other business

- Mr Joe Smith stated that he believed the previous meeting minutes should be adopted formally as agenda item 2 going forwards. All agreed.
- A noise complaint had been received from a resident on Cheadle Road. The resident was under the impression that AP did not have permission to use Bones Lane at night. This is not the case, as the historic Section 52 agreement was only in place when vehicles entered the factory via Felthouse Lane. The S52 was lifted in 2013 when AP built the alternative road (Bones Lane).

BW agreed to review the logistics of the fleet if the resident could provide further information regarding specific times that they were experiencing issues.

- Cllr Tunna announced that he was stepping down from the Parish Council at the forthcoming election in May after 50 years' service.

All members of the Group congratulated John and asked if he would be willing to continue attending the Liaison Group meetings in the capacity as a resident. John stated that he would be happy to do so. Cllr Bowen proposed the motion and Cllr Dakin seconded.

8. Date of next meeting

14th July 2023

Location: Cheddleton Community Centre