

Kings Cliffe Liaison – Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Rob Meadows (RM)	Kings Cliffe	Gary Bower (GB)	Augean
Bob Taylor (BT)	Apethorpe	Peter Oldfield (PO)	Augean
Tom Murie (TM)	Tixover	Lottie Ball (LB)	Augean
Alistair McClellan (AM)	EA	Eleanor Nicholson (EN)	JNA for Augean
Greg Wilkinson (GW)	EA		

Introductions/ Apologies

Some brief introductions were made as new members were attending the meeting for the first time.

Augean corporate update

GB explained that Augean had been brought in 2021 by a joint venture partnership who specialise in investing in infrastructure projects and have waste sector experience. The growth potential of the business was attractive for investors. In respect of the partners Ancala is UK based and Fiera is based in Canada but has a portfolio of investments in the UK. The partners commitment to supporting growth of the company has resulted in the acquisition of Future Industrial Services (FIS) in March 2023. FIS has a complementary portfolio of sites and specialisms in treatment and industrial services. The two companies are working hard together to assimilate FIS within Augean. This process has been helped by the similar ethos in terms of company cultures that focus on health and safety. The investors are keen to explore other opportunities either through organic growth or acquisition. They are looking for more recycling potential to complement the existing business.

ENRMF Site Operations update

LB reported that the engineering for cell 12 was being undertaken at including the construction of a haul road. **PO** would cover this is more detail.

The annual Open Day will be held on Saturday 14 October. This would be publicised shortly by circulating leaflets, posters and emails in the usual way.

A verbal complaint had been received at the site at the beginning of August. A group of hauliers arriving at the site had become bunched at the entrance, causing problems on the Stamford Road. There is a condition in place that hauliers should not arrive at the site early or in groups, but sometimes due to other local road conditions beyond Augean's control it could be difficult to manage at times. Plans were being developed

to create another weighbridge further into the site which would allow space for 15 vehicles to be accommodated. This should resolve this type of situation in the future.

Some problems were being experienced by ENRMF and PC Howards due to the new vehicle depot to the north of the site – Purple Rock. The site was being used to store and refurbish old lease and hire cars. Unfortunately, some lorries arriving at the Purple Rock site were missing the signs and coming further down Stamford Road and turning in to ENRMF or PC Howards by mistake or even going down into Kings Cliffe village. It was hoped that better signage to Purple Rock would help.

At the soil treatment and recovery facility, a new above ground mixer had been installed and commissioned. Some repairs to the concrete pad to maintain its surface properly were due to take place in Q4.

There had been two minor groundwater exceedances. Two boreholes have had fluctuations in their results and so the monitoring frequencies had been increased. These results had been submitted to the EA but they were in line with historic trends.

ENRMF Site Extension

PO explained that the decision to grant the Development Consent order had been received in January 2023, unusually ahead of the decision deadline. Enabling works – fencing, electrical cable diversion, hedgerow strengthening and borehole installation had been completed in May.

Some further investigations into the doline/swallow hole geological feature would be taking place. There will be no landfill activity in that area, but it is important to completely understand the surface water movement.

As **LB** had mentioned the first cell of the western extension - Phase 12 - had been engineered, an excavation of 175,000m³. As undertaken after the DCO public consultation, work had started in northern part of the site in accordance with the agreed amended phasing sequence which meant that the northern part of the site would be restored within the next five to seven years, to create connectivity between the two areas of woodland as soon as possible. The excavated soils from the new cell had been set aside for future restoration. The excavated clay was used for engineering at ENRMF and Thornhaugh. The drainage blanket and monitoring structures had all been installed and the CQA report submitted to the EA for approval before any disposal could take place.

Additionally, all of the three Environmental Permits for ENRMF have been varied to take account of the western extension. The permits for Hazardous Waste and for the Treatment Facility had been issued in the last week. The Radioactive Materials Permit was with the specialist team for final approval and issue was anticipated shortly.

It was hoped that disposal in the new cell would commence in December 2023. The engineering programme had gone well with no arising issues with traffic and dust. The northern haul road had been installed to keep the site cleaner and better manage amenity aspects.

There was ongoing engagement with regard to the restoration scheme with the Forestry Commission, Natural England and Rockingham Forest Vision amongst other groups.

The Augean Community Fund which is administered by Grantscape had funds of £402,000 to distribute to qualifying applications in 2023. The NNC Fund had £22,000 available. Lucy Hawes from NNC had moved into a different role but would be replaced. **PO** or **EN** are happy to pass on details of Grantscape or the NNC fund to anyone interested in making an application.

Environment Agency Report

GW reported that the monitoring reports received were not of any significant concern. The EA was pleased that improvements to the treatment facility concrete, and silos were being undertaken.

AM reported that the LLW permit was close to determination and that the EA and Augean were working together on a few points of clarification. This was fine detail but essentially the permit was close to being issued. There was no concern about the proposed materials being imported.

A question had been raised previously by the group about monitoring local water bodies like the Willow Brook. Unfortunately, the EA did not have a budget to carry out any monitoring unless it was a significant community concern. **PO** and **GB** said that although Augean has no objection to providing monitoring it was important to determine what was being monitored and the scope of the monitoring. Augean already conduct a thorough monitoring regime at the site boundary which would quickly establish if there was an issue with the site. Results further downstream could be affected by other factors like agriculture which might raise other issues beyond Augean's control or responsibility. This would need further thought and discussion between **PO** and **GW** (subsequent to the meeting **GW** confirmed that the EA would undertake this monitoring as it had done previously).

North Northamptonshire Council Report

No one from NNC was in attendance.

Any other business

PO explained that Cooks Hole Quarry next to the Thornhaugh Landfill Site had been leased by Augean for the excavation of mineral and recently had been taken back into Augean's control. The company had been considering options for the site and was in the process of preparing a planning application to restore the site with clean material principally excavated from ENRMF. The current restoration scheme is low level restoration and restoration back to agriculture. A revised ecological benefit restoration scheme would be proposed which would fit in with the objectives of the Rockingham Forest Vision group. A formal public consultation would take place shortly.

Date of next meeting To be arranged.