



Member Site Visit Meeting

20th January 2022

Weather conditions: Initially dry, cold and overcast, turning sunny later.

Started at 10.25

Planning Committee Member Attendance:

Councillors:			
AWFORD, Cllr Philip	P	MACKENZIE-CHARRINGTON, Cllr Mark*	P
BAKER, Cllr Paul	P	MCFARLING, Cllr Chris	P
BROWN, Cllr David	P	MORGAN, Cllr Graham	Ap
CHAMBERS, Cllr Alistair	Ap	MOSELEY, Cllr Gill	P
COHEN, Cllr Linda	P	TRACEY, Cllr Pamela	Ap
FISHER, Cllr Bernard	P	VINES, Cllr Robert	P
HALE, Cllr Terry**	P	Williams, Cllr Sue	P
HOUSDEN, Cllr Nick	Ab		

Chairperson* Vice Chairperson **

Key: P=present, Ab=absent, Ap= Apologies

Officers in attendance:

Sarah Pearse (SP) Principal Planning Officer, Kevin Phillips, (KP) Team Manager, and Marcus Sparrow, (MS)Senior Planning Officer (Case Officer).

Members were joined on site by Cllr Nigel Adcock (Woodmancote Parish Council, Barbara Farmer (local resident) and Monika Gogol and Owen George representing Grundon Waste Management Limited.

Planning application 19/0066/TWMAJW by Grundon Waste Management Limited for the variation of condition 7 (Buildings, plant and machinery) and 19 (Hours of operation) relating to planning consent 17/0066/TWMAJW dated 19/10/2017, on land at Wingmoor Farm East, Stoke Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 7DG.

Owen George (OG) representing Grundon Waste Management Limited made a brief health and safety introduction.

Members initially met outside of the MRF building in the forecourt because it was too noisy in the building to hear the presentation. The case officer described the site and the surroundings (see attached Members Site Visit – briefing notes).

Member Questions:

Cllr Fisher asked about the size of vehicle that would take the bulked-up material away. With the permission of the chair, OG pointed to a parked articulated lorry and explained that it carried approximately 22 tonnes of 'black bag' waste, the equivalent of 3 to 4 RCV's.

Cllr Baker asked if the need to change the working hours resulted from a demand from the LA's. MS and SP explained that the staff operating the RCV's expressed a preference to work on bank holidays keeping their weekends free. The need to work on a Saturday following a bank holiday was to ensure the operator was able to accommodate a possible backlog of waste and to ensure that waste is removed within 24 hours of it arriving at the site.

Cllr Brown asked if this was only to serve LA collections. This was confirmed by MS.

Cllr Vines asked how long the waste was stored on site. MS explained that the residual municipal solid waste is stored for a maximum of 24 hours.

Parish Cllr Adcock pointed out that many of the black bags were split open once tipped in the storage bay. He works in the care industry in a small scale facility, which is not big enough to have a commercial bin so their soiled personal care items are disposed of with the black bag waste and can be in the bins for up to two weeks.

MS responded that a very low percentage of the overall waste was nappies/soiled items.

Cllr Fisher asked how waste was accepted. Concern was expressed about liquids in the waste received at the site.

OG explained that the black bag/residual waste goes into the articulated vehicles loose, however those vehicles are sealed. The floor of the MRF building is also sealed and any liquids caught by drains and interceptors.

MS added that the waste was scooped up by the loading shovel and put into the lorry and transported to the EfW plant at Javelin Park.

Cllr Baker asked how many additional days there would be?

MS explained that it would only be on Good Friday and the 7 Saturdays following a bank holiday. In addition, the permission sought is retrospective, concurrent and prospective only until the 5th July 2022. There is already a lot of actual data. MS had made calculations and offered to provide a further explanation of vehicle movements before the Committee meeting.

Cllr Moseley asked why it has taken so long from receiving the application to taking it to committee. MS explained that activities started in July 2019 and an application was submitted in December 2019. The reasons behind the delays are explained in the committee report but have followed due process and are procedural.

Parish Representative: Parish Cllr Adcock asked where care home commercial waste goes. Although not relevant to this application MS explained that it would probably go to either landfill or to the EfW at Javelin Park. This application was to accommodate circa. 36,000 tpa of LA residual waste.

District Councillor: Not present.

Local resident: Barbara Farmer asked how often the roller shutter doors were closed during the day? OG explained that the first large door was only opened to allow vehicles to reverse in. The remaining two doors were always open during operating hours to facilitate ventilation and light.

Local County Councillor: Not present

At 10.50, after Hearing Members Questions, the group moved inside the building, to view the site while operations were briefly suspended, and machinery switched off.

OG described the operations. The RCV reverses in and unloads into the designated bay. There is an adjacent bay to quarantine loads which may contain things like gas bottles which have to be removed. Opposite there are bays to store recycled wood waste, metal cans and plastic. It was clarified that these relate to the commercial/industrial waste operation and do not form part of this current variation application. Very little waste from the MRF goes to landfill. There is no further material recovered from the residual waste before it is transported to the EfW. OG pointed out the bulky waste such as mattresses that are also collected by the LA's.

Barbara Farmer asked what systems were in place for odour and dust suppression.

OG explained that the vehicle cabs are air conditioned. The staff within the building wear lapel badges/ filters which are analysed.

MS confirmed that inside the building there is no mechanical air handling equipment.

Cllr Baker asked about commercial waste. MS explained that this application was only about the GCC contract for residual waste.

Meeting closed at 11.08