

**John Pointon and Sons Ltd Liaison Group Meeting  
3.00 pm Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The following members were present:

<b>Chair</b>	Karen Bradley (Member of Parliament)
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Steve Thomason – EPR Installations Team Leader
<b>Councillors:</b>	CLlr Harold Jennings - Cheddleton Parish Council CLlr John Tunna - Cheddleton Parish Council CLlr Mike Bowen- SMDC District Council
<b>Pointons:</b>	Barney Williams - Technical Director
<b>Animal Health</b>	See apologies
<b>Representing Residents:</b>	Joe Smith
<b>Staffordshire County Council</b>	See apologies
<b>Apologies</b>	Stephanie Young (Trading Standards – Animal Health) Patricia Duffy Jack Brereton (Member of Parliament) Kevin Benfield

## **Welcome**

Karen Bradley our Member of Parliament welcomed everyone to the meeting. Karen also apologised for moving the date of the meeting this time due to commitments in Northern Ireland.

## **2. Update from Environment Agency**

Steve Thomason (ST) stated that since the last meeting in April 2018 that there had been 46 complaints received. Exacerbated by the hot weather over the entire summer. The E.A. has conducted a number of announced and unannounced visits over the period and the Company were compliant on all occasions.

ST confirmed that there had been a large increase in complaints nationally over the summer months which would suggest that the Pointon increase is not based on working practices, more so the national trend and the effect on raw materials in transit. It was suggested by Harold Jennings (HJ) that a reason could also be air pressure pushing down odours and Joe Smith (JS) suggested thermal inversion could be an additional factor.

ST confirmed that on a number of occasions during the summer months there were reports of strong agricultural odours around the fields in the community.

ST reported that there were a number of Schedule 5 notifications from the company since the last meeting which included issues such as power outages and short term door failures. The Company were compliant with their responsibilities under their permit conditions.

ST stated that the Company were currently working through their agreed proactive action tracker to ensure that potential odour complaints are mitigated wherever possible.

- **Update from John Pointon and Sons**

#### **Roof Replacement – Category 1**

Category 1 raw material building roof was replaced June 2018. Furthermore, BW confirmed that the company used their drone with a thermal image camera to inspect and record surveys to pinpoint any heat loss and/or any decay in the fabric of the buildings. A programme has been developed from the survey to undertake the next phase of roof and vertical cladding replacements.

#### **Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Project**

The company have recently placed an order with Centrica to purchase a combined heat and power (CHP) system which will be a gas fired electricity generator that will also raise steam to provide the heat for a drying process within the water treatment plant (WTP). The Company are now submitting an Environmental Permit application to the E.A. which will include full information on the project and will ultimately determine the permit conditions for the new process. The application will be submitted w/c 24/9/2018.

#### **Odour and Olfactometry Monitoring**

The Company commissioned a report from a specialist odour consultant during the summer called ADAS, carry out odour sampling from the company's primary odour abatement equipment i.e. their thermal oxidizers and boilers. The report concluded that there was no noticeable odours from the abatement systems, which confirms their efficiency in negating the high intensity odours from the rendering process.

Further odour sampling and olfactometry monitoring will take place before the next meeting and BW will report back.

#### **4. Update from Staffordshire County Council - Animal Health Team**

There had been four minor spillages reported since the last Liaison Group meeting which occurred at Uttoxeter, Market Drayton and Meir. On each occasion, Pointon's onsite emergency spillage team were utilised and the residues were cleaned up within 30 minutes and the road disinfected. Two of the spillages were not relating to Pointon transport and were owned and operated by other rendering companies.

Members of the public can contact the council or report spillages by the following websites or telephone 0300 111 8000 :-

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/animalhealth/byproducts/>

<http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/content/business/trading-standards/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-waste-spills.en>

## **5. Update from Animal Health**

There was no update from APHA for this meeting, although Tomas Zaleski has now resigned his position due to a change in role and area of responsibility. Tomasz will forward the name of his replacement.

BW reported that there have been no related disease outbreaks since the last meeting and the Company continues to comply with the animal by product regulations in accordance with their premises APHA approval.

BW also stated that the Company were hosting a major visit for Staffs County Council Trading Standards in September 2018 and also a visit from the Thailand Government with regard to approval for exports.

## **6. Any other business**

- Joe Smith asked the E.A. if their organisation is in the position to react swiftly to a national outbreak. ST and BW confirmed that contingency plans are in place which are re-enforced on a regular basis.
- Kevin Benfield gave his apologies and has now resigned his position. He commented that due to the improvement from the site over the past few years he felt that meetings should be on a 6 monthly basis rather than quarterly.
- Steve Thomason confirmed that he has received 2 enquiries to join the group over the past few months but has not received follow ups at this point. The group discussed the potential to leaflet drop for a representative to replace Kevin but it was decided that it would be more appropriate to recruit a replacement through committed enquiries.
- BW stated that in recent weeks he had witnessed raw material trailers parking overnight in the layby on Cheadle Road, adjacent to Ostlers Lane. He confirmed that the trailers were not owned by John Pointon and Sons. He had spoken to the renderers in question to request that they do not use the layby, but the practice had not stopped as yet. BW would again speak to the renderers and Karen Bradley (KB) offered her support if needed in the form of a letter to her constituency counterpart in the respective area. BW would also forward the details and photographs to Steve Thomason.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

Next meeting to be held at the John Pointon and Sons Recreation Centre on

**Friday 22 March 2019 at 5.00 pm.**