

**Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting
4.00pm Friday 10th May 2024**

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 Sue Rogers Cheddleton

Advanced Proteins: Barney Williams - Technical Director
Andrew Brown - Managing Director

Animal Health: See apologies

Representing Residents: Patricia Duffy
John Tunna
Joe Smith

Apologies: Steve Thomason – Environment Agency
Stephanie Young (Trading Standards)
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Ian Dakin

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 6 public notifications of odour nuisance since the last liaison meeting on 20th September 2023.

Each of the notifications appeared to be a discrete event, with no concentration of complaints for a single day or correlation to any one specific weather event. However, there does appear to be a predominance in the Folly Lane/Fields area adjacent to the plant. The following is a brief timeline of events.

16 Nov – Odour report impacting Woodlands Avenue, Advanced Proteins listed as source.

30 Nov – Odour report for Folly Lane, Advanced Proteins listed as source.

16 Oct – Precautionary advice to EA. Oxidiser No2 safety inspection. No noise reported during testing.

01 Dec – Rendering odour reported to impact Folly Lane.

08 Dec - Schedule 5 Notification. Power supply interruption for 10 to 15 minutes. Odour abatement equipment required reset (thermal oxidiser, boilers and biobed).

27 Dec – Schedule 5 Notification. Door wedged open in high winds to category 3 delivery area. No raw materials were on site at the time. Low risk of nuisance.

12 Jan – Burning plastic odour reported affecting Folly Lane.

17 Feb – Odour report for Folly Fields.

14 Mar – Schedule 5 Notification. Potential noise issue due to a steam venting problem impacting the category 3 by-products processing plant for five minutes.

16 Mar – Rotten meat odour described impacting Ostlers Lane.

03 May – Schedule 5 Notification. Power supply issues from the National Grid. Odour abatement equipment required resetting on four separate occasions (thermal oxidiser, boilers and biobed).

Late 2023 inspection and audit work focussed on a review of the site's Noise Management Plan (NMP).

Early 2024 there was a review of the Annual Performance Report for the site.

Later in 2024 we will be assessing the annual stack emissions monitoring data.

At a national level the UK BAT working group, under DEFRA stewardship, commences work in July.

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 roof is now 85% complete and should be completed in August 2024, subject to weather conditions.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been 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.

- BW explained to the group that the Company invested in a brand new cooking process for the Category 3 plant in 2023, which has been a great success and has made a dramatic reduction in the number of hours processing per week. Therefore, reducing the potential for cooking related odours.
- 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. The company will conclude their R & D project in 2024.
- The Company have a very active Sustainability Team who are working through various project to reduce energy and water. There are also exciting projects taking place which further contribute to the companies green credentials.
- The Company completed their annual biofiltration abatement system remedial programme in March and April to ensure the efficiency of the equipment was at optimum level ahead of spring and summer months.

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. The full planning approval was received in August 2024. The company are now working through the planning conditions but at this point, there are no plans to instruct contractors to commence the building phase due to economic conditions in relation to the availability of raw materials.

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

5. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

BW explained that Avian Influenza (AI) had been almost non-existent through the winter.

There were 30 cases of cattle/sheep blue tongue disease in the past 6 months, primarily in the South East of England. Advanced Proteins were involved in the disease contingency operation but the volume was very low. APHA are monitoring the situation nationally.

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 one minor spillage reported since the last meeting in the vicinity of Cellarhead.

The source of the material was confirmed to be from a contractor delivering to Advanced Proteins. The small volume of by-products were collected within 10 minutes and the spillage team cleaned and disinfected the road area. There were no complaints received.

7. Any other business

- Barney Williams was at Cheddleton Parish Council meeting on 27th February 2024 to discuss public questions, in relation to the condition of Cheadle Road between Mill Lane and the petrol station, plus the level of noise from the road when LGV's pass through.
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.

Cllr Rogers was also present at the above meeting.

- The Council also wished to request a financial contribution from Advanced Proteins to pay for highways controls on Plough Bank to prevent parents double parking and blocking the road during drop off and collection times

Date of next meeting

8th November 2024 at 4pm

Location: Cheddleton Community Centre