

**FFOS-Y-FRAN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 014
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil
APPROVED NOTES**

ATTENDEES:

Appointed Councillor Members	Office	Ward	Present
Cllr Julian Amos	Chair	Dowlais	YES
Cllr Tony Rogers		Dowlais	YES
Cllr Amy Kitcher	Deputy Chair	Town	YES
Cllr Robert Griffin		Town	YES
Cllr Derek Games		Plymouth	YES
Cllr Brent Carter		Plymouth	-
Cllr Leighton Smart		Bedlinog	-
Substitute Councillor Members			
Cllr Ray Thomas		Dowlais	-
Cllr Phil Williams		Dowlais	-
Cllr Gareth Lewis		Town	-
Cllr Kurt Morgan		Town	-
Cllr Kevin O'Connor		Plymouth	-
Cllr Gareth Jones		Bedlinog	-
Caerphilly CBC			
Cllr David Hardacre		Caerphilly	YES
MTCBC Officers			
Mr Norman Davies	Head of Planning		YES
Mr Dave Dier	Head of Public Health		-
Ms Zoe Pieris	Principle Environmental Health Officer		YES
Environment Agency			
Mr Dave Griffiths			YES
Ms Laura Owen			YES
Mr John Harrison			-

Resident Members			
Mrs Alyson Austin		Bradley Gardens	YES
Mrs Mary Bradley		Fochriw	-
Mrs Jane Flower		Japonica	-
Mr Lyn Humphries		Dowlais	-
Mr Phillip Murphy		Caerharris	-
Mr Alan Rees		Caedraw	YES
Mr Bill White		Dowlais	YES
Mr Ron Yandle		Mount View	YES
Miller Argent			
James T. Poyner	Director		YES
Stephen Tillman	Director		-
Robert Jones	Operations Manager		YES
Bob Edwards	DP Manager		-
Kylie Jones	Environmental Liaison Officer		YES
Susan Allen	Secretary		YES
Elizabeth Verrinder	Archaeologist		YES
Invited Guests			
Kenny Kemp	Miller Argent		YES
Gwilym Llewellyn	Deputy DP Manager		YES

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
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Before the meeting commenced James Poyner introduced Kenny Kemp a consultant to Miller who was assisting with the writing of the Miller Group's Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) Document – and was only attending the meeting as an observer.

Gwilym Llewellyn (Deputy D.P. Manager) was introduced who was standing in on behalf of Bob Edwards who was not able to be present this evening.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.00	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from: Brent Carter, Phil Murphy, Dave Dier, Lyn Humphries, Stephen Tillman, Mary Bradley, Bob Edwards, Leighton Smart, and Jane Flower.	
2.00	<u>Declaration of Interest</u> James Poyner advised that he was aware that Mrs Alyson Austin was taking part in a Panorama programme featuring Ffos-y-fran which is to be screened in early December. He also advised that she had taken part in the invasion of the Coal Authority Conference in Cardiff where someone purporting to be her was escorted off the premises. Mrs Austin confirmed that she was a protester at the conference but was unable to gain entry inside of the building but protested outside. A debate ensued as to whether Mrs Austin should declare her activities as a declaration of interest. Cllr Griffin asked about what should be classed as a declaration of interest. The question was asked if Miller Argent was given the opportunity to respond to the programme James Poyner said that initially they had only been allocated a 15 second written statement, which was later extended to 27 seconds. Mrs Alyson Austin said that the programme and her interview was to do with the coal industry and planning permission and had not criticised Miller Argent or its staff. The committee felt it was up to the individual to declare any interest and it could not force or demand that any one person declare any interest.	
3.00	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> 3.01 Passed as a true record of what took place.	
4.00	<u>Matters Arising</u> 4.1 Bill White said his apologies were not passed on at the last meeting even though he had requested that they be passed on. James Poyner confirmed that he had forgotten to give them on his behalf.	SA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
6.14	As specified – 4 monitoring areas.	
5.12	Should read John Reeves	SA
9.01	Should state that Miller Argent is an interested party in this case. And Caerphilly County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have lodged separate submissions to the high court. Planning Authority renewal of planning consent and refurbishment 80% is Caerphilly and the rest 20% is Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.	
7.03	The word on page 8 last paragraph should read lost	SA

5.00 Reports

Miller Argent – Site Report

- 5.01 Mr Robert Jones discussed his report which had been circulated to all committee members ahead of the meeting.
- 5.02 It was reported that there were 229 employed on site. With 23 Staff inclusive of DP, there were 171 site operatives and 35 civil engineering contractors working on site.
- 5.03 It was reported that the site was still working on restricted hours.
- 5.04 The Bargoed Taff diversion started in August was now 75% completed.
- 5.04 Gabion baskets had been positioned to protect ponds at Bedlinog angling club.
- 5.05 The Community mini bus scheme continues to be very busy and obviously greatly appreciated by the local organisations that use them. So far there are 35 registered organisations and the buses have been used on over 90 occasions.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
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Miller Argent – Environment Report

- 5.06 Kylie Jones reported that there are had been 7 complaints received by 3 individuals since the last meeting.
- 5.07 All 777F exhausts had been fitted with diverters through the skip which had proved to be successful in helping to reduce noise levels.
- Barriers were being manufactured for the PC300 unfortunately there had been a delay in development due to availability of noise absorbing material.
- 5.08 Water sampling was within agreed parameters with discharge consent
- 5.09 There had been no exceedances of dust.
- 5.10 RSPB had been meeting with Miller Argent to discuss how to improve new lapwing habitat in readiness for the breeding season in 2009.
- 5.11 Kylie Jones had, as requested, brought a wind rose diagram showing easterly winds and passed the diagram around the members.

Environment Agency

- 5.12 No complaints had been received.
- David Griffiths said he would be signing off Vertase's work on recycling and treatment of the waste tips as being completed satisfactorily. It was agreed that the waste tip removal had been a great success.
- 5.13 Alan Rees said he would like to ask some questions prior to next meeting and would submit them in writing and in advance.

MTCBC Environmental Health Department

- 5.13 Zoe Pieris said there had been 6 complaints 1 noise and 5 dust, she visited Bradley Gardens to witness the noise which was audible.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
5.14	<p>Cllr Griffin asked about the monitoring positions. Norman Davies explained that there are 4 areas in the planning condition. 2 portable stations were to be moved around to 4 areas during the life of the project.</p> <p>Cllr Griffin asked if the noise data was available to the public. James Poyner said that it was not but all information was shared with the Environmental Health and Planning Department.</p> <p>The question was asked how do you monitor compliance in respect of noise? Norman Davies to do research and come back to next meeting with answer, James Poyner said he would like to be involved. It was also asked if the noise data could be made available to the public. James Poyner explained that the raw data was not of use to anyone other than those qualified to interpret it.</p> <p>It was asked if the location of the monitoring station at Mount View was in the wrong place, it was pointed out that the location had been agreed with Authority. A planning application would have to be made for variation of the noise monitor locations.</p>	
5.15	<p>It was asked if any noise levels had been taken before Miller Argent had commenced work, Kylie Jones said yes there had been some base line readings taken.</p>	
5.16	<p>Zoe Pieris explained that the methodology followed to establish a Statutory Nuisance was different to that used to check compliance with the planning conditions. She also explained that the noise meter at Mount View measured all ambient noise. It could not distinguish between the traffic on the A465 and the dumper trucks or excavators operating on the site. That she had visited Mount view and taken noise measurements herself and could distinguish between the traffic noise and excavator noise by using the human ear as the sound level meter was unable to distinguish the difference..</p>	
6.00	<u>Residents Reports/Concerns</u>	
6.01	<p>Alyson Austin said that recently over the last 3 weeks there had been hardly any noise but Monday and Tuesday of this week the noise seemed to escalate but after a telephone call the complaint was dealt with quickly.</p>	

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
7.00	<u>Elected Members Report</u>	
	<u>Dowlais Ward</u>	
7.01	The Chair reported he had received no complaints and thought that the employment the project had brought to the area was a good thing.	
	<u>Town Ward</u>	
7.02	No complaints only some comments mentioned whilst knocking doors asking about the proposed wind farms	
	<u>Plymouth Ward</u>	
7.03	No complaints.	
8.00	<u>Correspondence Received</u>	
8.01	No relevant correspondence has been received in the period, other than correspondence concerning Mrs Condron's current application for a further Judicial Review.	
9.00	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
9.01	<p>James Poyner asked Alyson Austin what she hoped to achieve by her participation in protests and by appearing on Panorama – the committee felt that it was not appropriate for this to be discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>The committee were informed that the Panorama programme was scheduled to be shown at 8.30pm on Monday 1st December.</p> <p>The committee felt that it was up to the individual if they wished to appear on TV or give interviews to the press, it also felt that since information discussed at the meeting was in the public domain it was appropriate that should anything confidential be raised it was also up to any party whether or not they chose to participate in the discussion.</p>	
9.02	Cllr. Amy Kitcher stated that in her view if any one individual complains on numerous occasions they should not be criticised. It was asked whether an extra column	

<u>Item</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Action</u>
	added to the complaints report should be added to state whether the complaint was resolved or not	
	Kylie Jones said that she would make the amendment to the form.	
	Alyson Austin said that she felt she had to keep complaining when in her view nothing had been resolved and she felt she was being made to look stupid.	
9.03	Cllr. Amy Kitcher said she felt that the emergency number was there to communicate any problems, and Mrs Austin should not be criticised for using it.	

10.00 Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 The date of the next meeting is Thursday 29th January 2009. The meeting is to be held at the Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil and due to the dark evenings will start at 6.00 p.m.
- 10.2 There being no further business the Cllr. Amos thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Appendices

1. Site Progress Report – Robert Jones
2. Environmental Report – Kylie Jones
3. Environment Agency's Report
4. Public Health

CONTACT NUMBERS

Miller Argent – Contact Details

Emergency Contact Number	0800 988 8444
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