

**FFOS-Y-FRAN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 012
25th September 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	-
Cllr Robert Griffin		Town	YES
Cllr Derek Games		Plymouth	YES
Cllr Brent Carter		Plymouth	YES
Cllr Leighton Smart		Bedlinog	-
Substitute Councillor Members			
Cllr Ray Thomas		Dowlais	YES
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	-
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			-
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	YES
Mr Alan Rees		Caedraw	YES
Mr Bill White		Dowlais	YES
Mr Ron Yandle		Mount View	YES
Miller Argent			
James T. Poyner	Director		-
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
David Mason	Planning Manager		YES
Invited Guests			

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Before the meeting Cllr Julian Amos said he would like to declare and interest in the extra item added to the agenda. Item 5

The meeting was conducted to the Chair's Agenda issued at the time of the meeting

1.00 Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Brent Carter, Cllr. Dave Hardacre, Mrs Mary Bradley, Mr Stephen Tillman,. Mr James Poyner, Mrs Jane Flower, Mr Bob Edwards. Mr Lyn Humphries, Cllr Amy Kitchner, Dave Griffiths, Dave Dier.

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2.	<u>Declaration of Interest</u>	
2.01	Due to the fact that "Road Haulage" was being added to the agenda, Cllr Julian Amos, Cllr Bob Griffin, Cllr Brent Carter and Cllr Derek Games wished to have it noted that they would not take part in this discussion as they had a declared interest.	
3.00	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>	
3.01	6.02 The committee wanted it noted that not all members were in agreement with this comment.	S.A
3.02	7.02 It was noted there was a spelling mistake it should read Cllr Griffin not Cllr Griffiths.	S.A
3.03	8.03 paragraph 3 needs to be changed to read Norman Davies had agreed to send a letter to Miller Argent confirming that the water bowser could operate on Sundays and Public Holidays for a trial period which would expire the end of October 2008. Authority under Delegated powers.	S.A
3.04	With those corrections above the notes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of what took place. The Notes once amended can be published.	S. A
4.00	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
4.01	6.01 It was asked if a new admin worker had been appointed. Robert Jones said yes but unfortunately that person had handed in their notice.	
4.2	The proposal to carry out a trial and run the water bowser on Sundays had not been done due to the bad weather experienced.	
5.	<u>Road Haulage (extra item)</u>	
5.1	The question was asked why was this item on the agenda as the committee only found out about the Road Haulage through the press. It was felt that the committee should have been informed about the application. Norman Davies said it should not be confused with the Planning Committee and there was not a statutory duty to inform the Liaison committee as it was not a further application	

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but a minor variation of the original application. The committee felt that it would have been common courtesy for them to have been informed and Robert Jones said he thought that was a reasonable request.

5.2 Norman Davies said he would take on board the request and advise the committee at the next meeting

5.3 The question was asked if there had been an increase in the demand for the coal from different markets. David Mason confirmed that this was not in addition to what was already being produced and formed part of the tonnage.

5.4 There was a long debate about the haulage of coal and the route it would take. Ron Yandle asked if it was Miller Argents intention to use the Bogey Road, Dave Mason said it was not MA intention to do this and showed a map of the route the lorries would take which avoided the Bogey Road.

5.5 The question was asked what would happen in the planning consent failed, David Mason said that Miller Argent had the option of using A.J. Williams yard and remove it by road via the Bogey Road travelling east to the Fochriw road and then on to the A465, although this was not a preferred option but a fall back situation. Phil Murphy read out Section 8 Clause 8.4 which stated an existing condition allowing MA to use A.J. Williams site.

5.6 Cllr Griffin asked where would the short fall come from if coal was diverted from Aberthaw to these alternative markets. David Mason said from other local suppliers e.g. Celtic Energy. It was also asked if this helped increase the value of coal per tonne and would this in turn increase the money paid into the community fund. David Mason and Robert Jones said as far as they were aware there was maximum cap but they were not able to comment on this as they did not deal with the commercial side of the business, far £66,603.16 had already been paid into the fund

Alan Rees asked the question of how long did the planning consent at A.J. Williams have left to run, it was confirmed that the planning consent was valid for some years to come.

6.00 Reports

Miller Argent

6.01 Mr Robert Jones discussed his report which had been

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	circulated to all committee members ahead of the meeting.	
6.02	It was explained there was not a lot to report due to the bad weather conditions. The Southern site boundary fencing had been completed and the lorry workshop was now open.	
6.03	There was a question about increase in noise and dust, Robert Jones explained that this was due to the new haul road construction being at times close to the surface and the predominant easterly winds over the last week.	
6.04	Robert Jones reported that the new training centre was completed and now called the "Education and Training Centre" as to avoid confusion.	
6.05	The question was asked about tipping at Dowlais top Robert Jones said that the area had recently been hydro seeded which would make it look better in due course. Ray Thomas said that Robert Jones had visited his home to view the area prior to the seeding and he would like to extend his thanks to Robert Jones for his time.	

Environment Agency

- 6.06 It was reported that there had been no complaints by telephone or letter.
- 6 Visits had taken place since the previous meeting, one sample was slightly higher at PH 9.19 from the Disposal Point which is outside Ffos-y-fran and the Liaison Committee.
- 6.07 The heavy rain on 5 September 2008 had caused flooding. Alyson Austin said that people had to drive through the water on the Bogey Road she asked was it contaminated water. Robert Jones said that 78mm of rain had fallen at Ffos-y-fran on the 5th of September, the majority of which fell over a period of approximately 3 hours, over 1 months rainfall fell at Ffos-y-fran during the two proceeding days and the 5th of September. Temporarily the culvert which was diverting water into the box cut area became blocked, a digger was immediately sent to unblock the ditch diverting water back into the box cut. In the mean time a JCB dug a trench along the Bogey Road to divert the run off back into the culvert. The area was controlled within approximately 40 minutes.

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	Photographs were passed round showing how the box cut had taken up most of the extra water and therefore had helped alleviate some of the flood water. Miller Argent had carried out some remedial work for one resident and was currently in discussion with one other resident.	
6.08	Kylie Jones explained that Bedlinog Angling club had concerns regarding uprooted trees in the river following the storm and their concerns regarding the possibility of the angling pond being flooded. She explained that Miller Argent was in discussions with the anglers, MTCBC, and the Environment Agency, and work to remove trees from the river was being discussed.	
6.09	Phil Murphy asked the question what was the PH consent for Ffos-y-fran. It was reported that the consent for the site is between PH5 and PH9, the level recorded on one occasion was PH 9.19, this was taken from the Disposal Point and not Ffos-y-fran, Laura Owen explained that the limits set for Ffos-y-fran were much stricter than that of similar operations on different sites and that the reading had no detrimental effects on the Environment.	
	<u>Environmental Report</u>	
6.10	Kylie Jones read out her report and stated that since writing the report on the 18 th of September there had been a further 15 complaints, bringing the total complaints received during the 8 week period up to 28 with 11 individuals complaining, It was also noted that out of the 28 complaints just under 2/3 were made by one individual from Bradley Gardens.	
6.11	Kylie Jones explained and updated the committee on the various modifications that Miller Argent had been trialling with Caterpillar, Finning and Komatsu on site.	
6.12	It was also reported that due to the wind directions Miller Argent had been working sensitively. Alyson Austin asked about the noise level, Robert Jones said he had implemented an early finish due to her noise complaint and that Miller Argent had made the decision to cease operation and forfeit production.	
6.13	Alyson Austin said that she recalled a conversation with Kylie Jones in which it was agreed to act more sensitively after 1900 hrs and during the morning period of 0700-	

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0800 Kylie Jones recalled the conversation but stated that she had not agreed with Mrs Austin but confirmed that on numerous occasions Miller Argent had acted sensitively by ceasing some or all operation after 1900 hrs

A long exchange of opinion took place between the two parties and therefore the Chair made the decision to cease this conversation and have it noted that the two parties had agreed to disagree.

MTCBC Environmental Health Department

6.14 Zoe Pieris reported that they had received 8 noise complaints, 5 of which had been received over the past week

Cllr Griffin asked what was statutory noise nuisance. Zoe Pieris explained what was involved in statutory nuisance, and confirmed that she was planning to conduct noise readings between now and the next liaison meeting. She also confirmed that she had visited site and seen all the noise modifications which were being tested and had discussed with Miller Argent working more sensitively after 1900 hrs, these discussions were ongoing.

Alyson Austin asked why were the noise monitors situated where they are. Norman Davies explained that this was due to original planning.

A discussion took place amongst the committee members regarding moving one of the fixed monitors from Mount View to Bradley Gardens, Ron Yandle did not agree with this and it was noted that the majority of complaints from Bradley Gardens were from Mrs Austin.

7.00 Residents Reports/Concerns

7.01 Alyson Austin confirmed that she had been knocking on residents doors and giving them a questionnaire regarding Ffos-y-fran, she stated that most of the concerns she received were about noise. Alyson Austin said that residents didn't know how to complain and had no faith in the Council or Miller Argent.

Robert Jones said most people know how to contact their Council and if necessary get Miller Argent's number from them. Miller Argent has distributed newsletters and has a website clearly highlighting their contact information.

Please see www.ffos-y-fran.co.uk.

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7.02	Ron Yandle asked why minutes were not in public domain or on Miller Argent website, Sue Allen said that they were and that she had posted them out herself and were displayed in local places e.g. Caerharris Post Office and Merthyr Library and that they were available on the Miller Argent website. Ron Yandle said that he stood corrected.	
7.03	<p>The question was asked about the structural surveys to certain residential properties, David Mason confirmed that Blast Log had just completed the surveys and the full report would be completed over the next few months.</p> <p>The question was asked was Miller Argent still looking to a house to noise monitor. David Mason said there was nothing to report and MA were only considering it.</p>	
8.00	<u>Elected Members Report</u>	
	<u>Dowlais Ward</u>	
8.01	The Chair reported he had received no complaints but reported that this project had brought much needed jobs to the area.	
	<u>Town Ward</u>	
8.02	Cllr Griffin mentioned that there was a bi election due and noise and dust were a concern to some residents in the Town Ward.	
	<u>Plymouth Ward</u>	
8.03	No reports only concerns about potential road haulage and heavy vehicles.	
9.00	<u>Correspondence Received</u>	
9.01	No correspondence.	
10.00	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
10.01	<p>It was mentioned that 3 meetings ago the topic of unemployment in the area and getting the long term unemployed back into employment was raised.</p> <p>It was asked if Miller Argent would offer schemes, funding and training rather than just taking on ready skilled people. Phil Murphy felt that Miller Argent should be committed to help the unemployed back to work. It was requested that this item be added to the agenda for</p>	

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	the next meeting.	
10.02	It was suggested that action logs should be done rather than reading through reams of notes. It was suggested that Sue Allen and Phil Murphy liaise to update summary log.	PM & SA
11.00	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	
11.01	Robert Jones said James Poyner may still want to do the presentation before the next meeting started hence it was suggested that the meeting started at 6.00 to allow for the presentation he would need to check with James Poyner and get it confirmed and ensure the committee were informed about the starting time of the next meeting.	
11.02	The date of the next meeting is Thursday 30 October 2008. The meeting is to be held at the Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil to start at 6.00 p.m. (this time subject to confirmation)	

Appendices

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

CONTACT NUMBERS

Miller Argent – Contact Details

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