

Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting
5.00pm Friday 11th November 2022
Location: Ashcombe Park Cricket Club

The following members were present:

Chair Karen Bradley - Member of Parliament – Staffordshire Moorlands

Environment Agency Richard Lockley – EPR Installations Regulatory Officer

Councillors / MP: Cllr Mike Bowen- SMDC District Council
Cllr Harold Jennings – Cheddleton Parish Council
Cllr John Tunna – Cheddleton Parish Council

Advanced Proteins: Barney Williams - Technical Director

Animal Health: See apologies

Representing Residents: Ian Dakin – Also Cllr for Cheddleton Parish Council
Joe Smith
Patricia Duffy
John Daniel / Mandy Daniel

Apologies: Gerry McLoughlin – Advanced Protein’s Managing Director
Steve Thomason – Environment Agency
Stephanie Young (Trading Standards)
Animal and Plant Health Agency

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Karen Bradley (KB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and the members of the group reciprocated.

KB also welcomed new residents John and Mandy Daniel.

2. Updates from: Environment Agency

Richard Lockley (RL) explained that since the last liaison meeting on 13th May 2022, 50 reports had been made to the Environment Agency, all of which related to odour and none relating to noise. There was a spike in reports from 8th August and 8th September, where 70% of the reports were made during this period.

RL explained there had been 2 Schedule 5's reported to the Environment Agency by Advanced Proteins. Such notifications are a requirement of the site permit if there is a factor that may have the potential to cause an odour/noise.

One of the notifications related to a site and local power outage of the National Grid including. The oxidizers and biobeds abatement systems were reset immediately and there were no odour reports when the power blip occurred. Therefore, the situation was managed appropriately.

In addition, several reports had been received, and evidence noted, in relation to agricultural spreading, which may have contributed to some of the complaints received.

RL stated that there were no failures of the permit or the site-specific odour management plan (OMP).

RL added that the Company continues to proactively progress the action tracker for positive improvement projects on site.

At the last meeting in May 2022 Ian Dakin requested a layman's description to explain what constituted a permit breach to understand the process. RL provided the explanation in written form and it is appended to the minutes.

3. Advanced Proteins Update

- The Category 3 cooking process was due for a full roof replacement in Autumn 2022 but the project has been delayed again as the installer is no longer trading. A new installer had been appointed but they cannot commence the works until January 2023.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be 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.

Joe Smith has previously asked the Company if they would leaflet/postcard an information bulletin to the applicable areas of the village ahead of any major works, such as the Category 3 roof replacement works. Likewise, Cllr Bowen suggested contacting the Parish Clerks at the applicable Parish Councils so that the councillors can be made aware and potentially the information could be posted on the council websites.

BW agreed to both actions at the time, and this will happen before the project commences.

- BW explained to the group that the Company have invested in a brand new cooking process for the Category 3 plant, which would hopefully be installed in June 2023. Again, the Company would ensure that a detailed EIA will be undertaken and the community would be made aware of the installation before and during activities.

- BW explained that Advanced Proteins are working through the site action tracker which is the proactive projects which ensure that the potential for odour releases to be mitigated. This includes further odour abatement installations in Quarter 1 of 2023.
- The Company instructed a specialist odour /olfactometry company earlier in 2022 to undertake odour sampling from the abatement systems to ensure that they are working efficiently. BW informed the group that the work was undertaken, and the resulting report clearly demonstrated that the abatement systems were operating at a very high level of efficiency
- The Company had engaged with a specialist energy consultancy in 2022, 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.

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 submitted to Staffs Moorlands District Council Planning department and a determination date was set by the planning officer for 17th May 2022. At the time of the Liaison Meeting (11/11) a decision has still not been made by SMDC. There are several statutory consultees who have still not provided comments to the application e.g. highways department at Staffordshire County Council and the Ecology department.

The FIE project is cutting edge technology which has been developed by Advanced Protein's parent company ABP in Ireland, it remains the only facility of its kind in the United Kingdom or Ireland. Furthermore, there are very few similar processes in the whole of the European Union. The project represents a substantial investment in the region of £25 million, and it would also ensure the enhancement of the existing factory in Cheddleton.

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

5. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

BW explained that the Company had been involved with several Avian Influenza (AI) government contingency operations since the last meeting. Activities include the safe collection and bio-secure rendering destruction (Category 1). It has continued to be the worst year on record for outbreaks, over 180 separate poultry facilities across the United Kingdom.

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 a minor spillage reported since the last meeting in the vicinity of Moorville Hall, Cellarhead. The source of the material was confirmed to be an Advanced Protein's lorry. There was a small amount of offal on the road, which was addressed by the Company emergency response team within minutes when reported. The root cause of the incident was a car pulling out from the hotel and the lorry driver had to take evasive action by braking sharply.

There were no other engagement or activities with Trading Standards since the last meeting.

7. Any other business

- Joe Smith informed the group that there would be a major scheme of works commencing in 2023 which will see the woodland areas of Bones Lane being trimmed back. JS stated that there is likely to be noise generated by the cutting equipment and therefore it would be wise to inform the residents in advance. BW agreed to do so.
- Ian Dakin (ID) stated that he had been approached by a resident to arrange a public meeting to discuss odour concerns from the factory. The group were in agreement that a public meeting would not be productive and more focused meetings with the resident or residents, would be very useful. BW agreed to host such meetings and would await contact.
- Residents – John and Mandy Daniel attended the meeting as spectators. KB asked if they would like to raise any points and they replied that they would like an update if possible with regard to a planning application which was lodged with SMDC. KB agreed to discuss the matter after the meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

21 April 2023

Location: Ashcombe Park Cricket Club