

FFOS-Y-FRAN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 021
Thursday 26th November 2009
Held at The Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil

ATTENDEES:

Appointed Councillor Members	Office	Ward	Present
Cllr Julian Amos	Chair	Dowlais	YES
Cllr Tony Rogers		Dowlais	-
Cllr Amy Kitcher	Deputy Chair	Town	-
Cllr Robert Griffin		Town	YES
Cllr Brent Carter		Plymouth	-
Cllr Derek Games		Plymouth	YES
Cllr Leighton Smart		Bedlinog	-
Substitute Councillor Members			
Cllr Ray Thomas		Dowlais	YES
Cllr Phil Williams		Dowlais	-
Cllr Gareth Lewis		Town	-
Cllr David Jones		Town	YES
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
Ms Zoe Pieris	Principle Environmental Health Officer		-
Mr Dave Dier	Head of Public Health		YES
Environment Agency			
Ms Laura Owen			YES
Mr Dave Griffiths			YES
Mr John Harrison			-
Resident Members			
Mrs Alyson Austin		Bradley Gardens	YES
Mrs Mary Bradley		Fochriw	-
Mr Ron Yandle		Mount View	YES
Mr Bill White		Dowlais	YES
Mr Phillip Murphy		Caerharris	-

Mr Alan Rees		Caedraw	YES
Mr Tony Chaplin		Cyfarthfa	-
Miller Argent			
James T Poyner	Joint MD		YES
Stephen Tillman	Joint MD		-
Brian Rostron	Director		YES
Gwilym Llewellyn	Deputy DP Manager		-
Robert Jones	Operations Manager		YES
Bob Edwards	DP Manager		-
Kylie Jones	Environmental Liaison Officer		-
Elizabeth Verrinder	Archaeologist		YES
LisaLlewellyn-Williams	Secretary		YES

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1.00 Apologies

Apologies were given from Mr Tony Chaplin, Cllr Gareth Jones, Mr Phil Murphy, Mr Stephen Tillman, Mr Bob Edwards, Ms Amy Kitcher, Mrs Mary Bradley, Cllr Tony Rogers

2.00 Declaration of Interest

There were no declaration of interest

3.00 Minutes of Last Meeting

Cllr Julian Amos (JA) asked if the minutes were true & accurate from the last meeting. All in agreement apart from Alyson Austin (AA) who expressed she did not think they were a true record. JA asked if she could explain why. AA replied that the minutes did not represent what was said at the meeting, JA asked what should be on the notes? she explained that there were issues discussed such as dust which were not recorded in the minutes and asked what are we to achieve?. JA stated that at the beginning of the last meeting Stephen Tillman (ST) stated that due to legal action against Miller Agent, he would not be able to give certain information which could be used against them in a court of law. Norman Davies (ND) read out the reason for establishing a Liaison Committee as a planning condition ref 7, it is purely meant as a Forum for Discussion. JTP explained that the style of the minutes is common practice for general Board Meetings, Council reports etc. AA said there is just so much missing. AA asked if her views could be minuted. All other members are accepting the notes as a true record.

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4.00 Matters Arising

5.0 b Norman Davies (ND) stated from the last meeting he had now brought in an ariel photo for such discussions in the future.

5.00 Reports

a. **Miller Argent Site Progress Report**

Robert Jones (RJ) read out the site progress report to the committee and its contents were discussed.

Alan Rees asked what the figure of the community fund was to date? JTP stated in the last quarter the value was £678,822.21 in terms of hard cash total to date £407,293.33. Difference of £271,528.88 been released from debt. Cllr David Hardacre (DH) asked who was in charge? JA said the leader was Gareth Chapman and Hugh O'Sullivan. AR asked if there were 17 trains per week? RJ informed that 17 was the maximum number of trains in one week. JTP stated we have a licence/agreement for 30 trains per week. AR said so that is under half. Derek Games asked do most trains go out at night? RJ said not many at night, mostly during the day.

b. **Environment Agency Report**

Laura Owens (LO) updated the committee on her report. LO stated there were no complaints this month, 2 site visits 1 at Taff Bargoed relating to sample point locations. No flow at any consented points recorded.

c. **Environmental Health Dept. MTCBC**

Dave Dier (DD) read his public health update to the committee and its contents were debated.

DD stated there has been no complaints during November and a few in October, x 2 from one address,

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	<p>Edwards Close re dust, no clear decision was made from them and doesn't think it was dust from Ffos-y-Fran. DD stated there is a building site a lot closer to the house in question. Bob Griffin (BG) stated he lives a lot further away and the noise is rather louder than in Bradley Gardens but doesn't constitute it as a nuisance. Ron Yandle (RY) asked DD why was there no record on visits to Mt View? DD apologised and said this was not a complete record, he stated he visited Mr Yandle's home. RY said that is why he was so sure of the date. JA asked is it relating to Ffos-y-fran? DD said it was an oversight by himself and said he would put it in the report. DD stated also missing was x2 meetings MA was in – will amend this in the report and send to Lisa Llewellyn-Williams (LLW)</p>	DD
6.00	<u>Residents Reports/Concerns</u>	
	<p>Alyson Austin (AA) said to be honest with the bad weather there was no complaints the rain kept the dust down.</p>	
7.00	<u>Elected Members Report</u>	
	<u>Dowlais Ward</u>	
	<p>Nothing to report</p>	
	<u>Town Ward</u>	
	<p>Cllr Bob Griffin stated there was a question from one resident asking is it true that Coal from Varteg will be transport to Ffos-y-fran site as there is a website that claims large number of truck movements. Ron Yandle (RY) asked what is Varteg? BG explained. Cllr Derek Games (DG) said this is the Disposal Point and the committee is purely for Ffos-y-fran so it is an irrelevant question. JTP asked what webpage this is on? BG said it is an independent Councillors and would forward the link via email tonight. JTP said the D.P is completely independent to Ffos-y-fran and allows us to bring in an unlimited tonnage, we cannot be responsible for developer Varteg what they put in their application at this moment MA have not received an approach but in the same instance would welcome it. Norman Davies (ND) stated that the D.P was set up in 1950's to do what its</p>	

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successfully achieved to do. DH asked would Varteg pay any money to dispose coal? ND made clear to committee clerk – Miller Argent to prepare report and issue presentations. JTP stated that Varteg has nothing what so ever to do with Miller Argent. JTP asked BG if there was a particular point to the website? BG stated there are suggestions that arrangements for moving coal from Varteg to Ffos-y-Fran is a done deal. JTP replied that this is extremely mischievous and that there is no done deal with Varteg or anyone else.

DH asked where would planning come from? ND replied Torfaen Council would be in control of planning, 80% of Cwmbargoed Disposal Point is with CCBC and 20% with MTCBC. ND stated that the D.P has had planning consent since 1957.

Plymouth Ward

Nothing to report

Bedlinog Ward

Nothing to report

Darren Valley

Cllr David Hardacre passed on thanks to Miller Argent for the sponsorship of prizes for Deri Primary Schools competition for Darren Valley History Group Centurion Event of the Darren Pit Disaster, also passed on thanks for the loan of the Miller Argent Community Minibus.

8.00 **Correspondence Received**

No correspondence to report

9.00 **Any Other Business**

JTP informed unfortunately Stephen Tillman (ST) was not able to come to the meeting but he would speak on his behalf. JTP passed around copies of an article that was posted on www.stopffosyfran.co.uk Bob Griffin (BG) asked if this was relevant? Julian Amos (JA) replied yes as it is 'information'. JTP stated on behalf of Stephen

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Tillman he takes great deception in comments made against him, and to the understand of others he was a perfect gentleman and was not hostile or aggressive towards you in the last meeting. JTP stated when asked for information you have to be careful on accuracy on comments that you make. Alyson Austin stated anyone who read the minutes of the last meeting would ask what is this meeting achieving? AA stated when she put residents concerns forward Stephen Tillman said no comment. AA asked why am I asked for residents comments when you cannot comment? JTP informed that MA are not going to put in writing for AA to use for legal issues. AA stated she feels personally that its ineffective. Brian Rostron (BR) stated he was at the last meeting and ST was not aggressive. Alan Rees (AR) stated he feels strongly about this and is has suffered the same conversation going around and around ST mentioned due to pending legal challenges on that basis he is not going to answer. AA stated that other people were aggressive, AR asked what other people were aggressive? AA said Jane Flower in her letter of resignation stated that attitude towards AA was bad. Cllr Derek Hardacre said the whole reason information was taken out was because of legal battle. AA said if they have nothing to hide? DH asked AA who wrote this article? AA replied the writer.

Norman Davies (ND) said its how you deal with a situation, he stated ST was firm but behaved very correctly and cautious in response to questions fired at him. Julian Amos (JA) said when you come to Court of Law words can be twisted and in all fairness the residents of stop Ffos-y-fran are not going to fight their case and Miller Argent are not going to give you information to use against them. ST was his usual polite demure self – Alan Rees agreed. AR said he is not taking sides all his comments are all unbiased.

AA stated her biggest problem at the liaison is that concerns are not being recorded. JA stated the reason being is because of legal action. AA replied she didn't think it should make a difference.

Ron Yandle didn't think ST was being hostile even more reason MTCBC should record it, an extensive dialogue took place on AA, DD & RY. Bob Griffin (BG) said he

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thinks we have exhausted this now.

Julian Amos (JA) said it is not a 3rd party as AA is a member of the Stop Ffos-y-fran group. BG asked if he would then be able to bring in an article on Miller Argent to discuss? JA asked does it reflect on this committee? DH said if it written by Ffos-y-fran about Ffos-y-fran then it should be okay. JA agrees. JTP stated he would not respond to ambush, could BG send a copy in advance? BG asked if referring to a public article. Cllr Derek Games (DG) was irate and stated it was the worst committee he had ever sat on, it is a disgrace. DH said ST was not aggressive in anyway. Ray Thomas (RT) said we shouldn't be going down this road.

JTP informed that Mr Stephen Tillman had written to Mr & Mrs Austin following Mr Austin's allegations in letter to (BT pension??) the letter was sent on 20th October via recorded delivery but there was no one at home and the postman left a card for the letter to be collected. The letter was returned to Argent on 13th November as failure to collect from the sorting office. JTP had been asked to hand deliver the letter tonight to AA, and passed the letter to her. Julian Amos stated this is a private letter so we cannot ask what was written. JTP stated the letter use the word 'corruption' and as it is a very large organisation they take this very seriously and have to investigate.

Ron Yandle (RY) mentioned the allegation on www.youtube.com. Julian Amos questioned what was said on this video, RY asked if he had seen the video? JA said no and asked does it mention the council?, f so he for one will be mentioning it to Gareth Chapman. RY stated it did not mention MTCBC.

10.00 **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday January 28th 2010 at 6.30pm held at the Civic Centre.

Apologies from Ron Yandle.

Appendices

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Miller Argent – Contact Details

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