

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2008 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES CIRCULAR ROAD DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor R Burton (Chair)
- Councillors Badger, Daly, Gillespie, Greenaway, McGuigan, McLarnon, Monteith (7.45 pm)
- OTHERS:** Councillors Currie, McGonnell and Molloy
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr Frazer, Acting Chief Executive
Mrs McClements, Deputy Director of Environmental Health (DDEH)
Mr Donnelly, Senior Environmental Health Officer (SEHO)
G Smith (Secretariat)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** 16 residents from Granville
Mr Richard Moore, Linergy
Mr Phillip Cummings, Industrial Pollution Inspector, Environmental Heritage Service (EHS)
Dr Hugh McGinn, EHS

The meeting started at 6.00 pm.

1 PROCESSING PLANTS – GRANVILLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The Chair advised that procedure would be to hear the residents concerns, followed by meeting with plant operators and then representatives of Environmental Heritage Service. The Council would then discuss how to move forward.

1.1 Residents

The Chair welcomed the residents to the meeting and invited them to address members.

A number of residents outlined their concerns as undernoted:

Planning application for the present plant went through as extension, give no detail or description of what going to take place, in reality slurry and power plant, more than lead to believe. Further application now going through in similar manner.

Built in residential area with housing estates in close proximity, odour and toxic fumes will destroy further residential/tourist development.

Smell and toxic omissions from the stack.

Linergy's - lack of accessibility in raising problems etc with plant operators.

Top of stack for fumes not as high as some of the houses, smoke and toxic omissions come down, round and through the houses,

Health issues now and further problems in the future - they say steam, why not condense.

Houses devalued – why should we pay rates.

Additional traffic and danger on the roads.

Pollution of crops, fruit and vegetable growers in the area.

EHS based 50 miles down road, when problem need someone who can attend immediately. EHS contacted when problem arose, came up but called and spoke to plant prior to speaking with residents.

No dignity or respect for residents. Devious way carried out in 1st and 2nd application. Asking that Council totally object to current application and to rescind decision on first application and have plant closed.

Permit for running plant. When residents asked the EHS what and where odour detectors are, EHS stated that residents are the odour detectors. When plant commissioned EHS did not run tests for a number of months.

EHS only carryout samples once per year rest of year plant do what they want.

No faith in plant owners, operators or EHS, things not dealt with effectively.

Deep concern and anger continuously forced to breathe horrible smoke and smell, fumes like fog on regular basis, unable to open windows or hang out washing, unable to spend time outside property.

Rat problem in area.

Continuously suffered from breathing difficulties – outlined cases of 3 members of one family who required hospital stays in a period of 4

months with same diagnosis, severe breathing difficulty. Family practice healthy lifestyle, do not smoke.

Basic human right to breathe clean air.

Photographs of smoke from stack circulated.

Interfering with business in the area - when wind in direction of lough smoke left stack, dropped down come up along water, anglers on lough demanded money back because of smoke, smell and fumes, went to rendering plant – no one received complaint

Council has responsibility to ensure that someone monitors processes like this on a daily basis. Implore Council to put some sort of methodology in to monitor this. If going to pollute environment and homes etc serious measures need to be implemented.

Used inferior second hand machinery in plant.

Pollution and stench appalling.

Will approach media to get action taken.

Why build such a development in a residential area.

How aware was Council that this being developed in this area.

Is it going to be same with new application.

Has Council been concerned about, odours, emissions etc before tonight.

Request closure of plant totally and completely.

Story in Tyrone Times this week on the red effluent coming from the plant.

In order for existing plant to be in situ have to pass the Council. If approve plant to be there surely have responsibility. Has the Council elected to carry out on going monitoring?

Want backing of the Council to object to present application.

Councillor Molloy arrived at 6.33 pm and Councillor Currie arrived at 6.45 pm during discussion of above.

In relation to Council's role in monitoring the Deputy Director of Environmental Health advised that depending on function and/or size of company there is different enforcing authorities. Linergy regulated by EHS which is much more superior to regulation under Environmental Health Department of Council.

Members expressed deep concern about what hearing, advised that meeting with plant operators and EHS later in the meeting. Will address concerns with EHS if don't get satisfaction will organise to meet with Minister on this issue.

In response to query the Acting Chief Executive advised that minutes of this meeting go to Council for ratification following which minute is a public document.

Residents left the meeting at 6.50 pm

1.2 Linergy

The Chair welcomed Mr Moore to the meeting and invited him to address the meeting. He commented and answered questions as undernoted:

Mr Moore stated that he was previously Managing Director of Linden Foods and had stood down and was now Managing Director of Linergy. Linden Foods and Dunbia two biggest neighbours and both shareholders in Linergy.

Strategic and economic importance, plant about underpinning job security for 1200 jobs, therefore strong pressure on company to perform.

Opportunity to address energy costs, green renewable energy, green credential being part of our marketing.

Taking control of environmental responsibilities.

Implications for NI food agri – concentration in this part of Tyrone.

Huge implication for proper compliance on waste disposal.

Operate under PPC license issued by EHS, unannounced audits are carried out.

Linergy open to anyone. Prefer to have dialogue with people – several visits to the factory by residents. People rebuffed as behaviour threatening and offensive. Would be horrified if anyone can justify not open.

Perception seems to be the issue. Some of the complaints have been less than genuine, have complaints when factory not processing.

EHS has advised that received 22 complaints from 3 people one of whom during commissioning process. EHS claim to have responded to every complaint.

Phase 2 for generation of electricity and heat from biomass fuel, to be used in meat plants. At moment raw material leaving Northern Ireland to go to Scotland and England.

Not out to cut corners, from the start high quality plant installed.

We have also experienced obnoxious odour and dust but not from plant, was slight odour issue from plant during commissioning.

Health screening nurse in plant and no employees have any breathing difficulties.

There is no smoke from the factory. It is a rendering process with a significant amount of water vapour released.

There is significant monitoring. EHS on site monitoring every third or fourth week. Odour going up stack, measured by company. Spent extra funds on platform at top of stack to accommodate monitoring purposes.

Tallow fuel used to run thermal oxidant plant from which there was a slight problem with odour at the commissioning stage.

Do have problem with people making allegation, this is not an incineration process is an evaporative process.

Smell from general industrial estate, another company operating a baking and poultry manure process.

Thermal oxidiser stack height is as per regulation.

Base level of odour units in licence.

Visible plume to do with evaporative units.

Standard operated to meeting best available technology (BAT).

Highly expensive to condense and recycle steam on scale that operating at present. When operating fully will be harnessing steam.

Members stated unfair to categorise residents as mischief makers, come from families living in the area for generations, at times there is

obnoxious smell coming from the location of the industrial estate. Need to be regular communication between plant operators and residents. Residents try to send complaints on daily basis but no one from EHS taking calls.

The Chair thanked Mr Moore for his attendance following which he left the meeting at 7.16 pm

1.3 Environmental Heritage Service

The Chair welcomed Mr Phillip Cummings Inspector Industrial Pollution and Dr Hugh McGinn. Officers commented and answered questions as undernoted:

Plant operates under PPC Permit.

EHS officers not qualified to go up stack, problem with test platform. Delay until company provided adequate access. Company carries out monitoring on daily basis. EHS team now on site and have taken odour samples, these have been sent to England for analysis. Test results in draft format and when ready will go on public register. Another set of tests will be taken in June.

From April to March last year carried out 17 inspections, key performance indicators are 4 times a year

Councillors R Burton and Currie left at 7.30 pm
Mr Frazer and Mrs Smith left at 7.30 pm

Councillor Gillespie, Vice Chair, took over as chair of the meeting.

Independent test team for chimneys, inspection once per year. Emission level set on chimney and EHS check this on their visits. Thermoxidiser optimum – operates continuously and records 24/7 and EHS can get print outs.

23 complaints received from 3 people.

Other sources of odour from industrial estate - United Feed Mill processing molasses, Linden foods, lairage etc, Dunbia, lairage, effluent plant and Westland Peat.

EHS representatives circulated documentation Sector Guidance Note IPPC SG8 – October 2004 and IPPC and Odour sheets.

EHS – 3 premises (PPC permit BAT within permit).

Times when odour will be detectable. Smell detectable but not at high enough level.

White stack – steam, CO₂, SO₂, NO₂ particulate matter.

Similar plants.

Design parameters – test to provide within design parameters.
Air dispersal models.
Residents standards.
Documentation given page 6 summary of releases.
Page 10 diagrammatically explains process.
Dark smoke – commissioning issue.
Colour of emissions will depend on time of day, weather etc.
Breathing issues complained of – EHS not aware of this.
SHSSB asked to comment. If operating to BAT then no specific concerns. Regarding health concerns - levels measured – guidance notes from EHS giving safe levels.

Night complaints – Dunbia/Linden process during day, accumulated material processed by Linergy in afternoon. Residents requested three night time visits. Third one Philip Cummings visited but smell was barely detectable.

Members spoke regarding devolving responsibility from EHS to EH and if EH detect a smell they would contact EHS. Also spoke of EHS/EH issuing a joint bulletin to residents.

Figure 1 BAT accept or not.
Next page Permit conditions odour.
Page 53 calculations chimney stack height.
Page 54 odour exposure – acceptable or not
Health risk at above 2 per cent outside limits.
Nuisance issue.
Plume going to ground – no health issue.
Dilution and distance to ground – no significant levels.

The Chair thanked Mr Cummings and Dr McGinn for their attendance following which they left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

2 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.15 pm

MAYOR _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____
(Acting)