



## **CABINET – 19TH OCTOBER 2022**

**SUBJECT: BRYN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To propose the establishment of a Liaison Group to promote effective engagement between Bryn Group, local residents, and other stakeholders in addition to a number of other community engagement interventions.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Council operated a formal Bryn Compost Liaison Group from 2010 to 2018. The Bryn Compost Liaison Group was established to address complaints of odour associated with In Vessel Composting (IVC) of food waste. The IVC plant was replaced by an Anaerobic Digestion Plant (AD) at the site removing the source of the food waste odours and the Liaison Group was disbanded.
- 2.2 As well as waste transfer and treatment operations, the company, Bryn Group, also operate a dairy farm and a quarry at the site. In view of ongoing complaints from the community regarding operations at the site it is proposed that a formal Liaison Group be re-established. The proposed Terms of Reference are at Appendix 1.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Cabinet approve the establishment of a Bryn Liaison Group with the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1, but in doing so is asked to consider the comments received from the MS and 2 of the local ward members.
- 3.2 Cabinet approve the other interventions as set out in section 5.5 below.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To promote effective engagement between the Bryn Group, local residents, and other stakeholders.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Council operated a formal Bryn Compost Liaison Group from 2010 to 2018. The Bryn Compost Liaison Group was established to address complaints of odour associated with In Vessel Composting (IVC) of food waste. The IVC plant was replaced by an Anaerobic Digestion Plant (AD) at the site removing the source of the food waste odours and the Liaison Group was disbanded.
- 5.2 As well as waste transfer and treatment operations (the company take in green waste and skip waste as well as food waste, for example), the Bryn Group also operate a dairy farm and a quarry at the site. The formal group was replaced by an informal group to discuss impacts on the community including odour, dust, and noise from these other activities. The informal group held a number of meetings, the last being 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 5.3 Complaints continue to be received from the local community and from local elected representatives on their behalf. The site is complex with multiple operations and activities which are in part regulated by the Council's Environmental Health and Planning teams and partly by Natural Resources Wales, as detailed in the table below. Consequently, it is proposed to re-establish a Liaison Group to promote effective communication between Bryn Group, local residents, elected representatives, the Council and other agencies.

Process	Complaint type	Regulator	Hours of Operation
Quarry	Dust from mobile plant	Rhondda Cynnon Taff County Borough Council	As per planning permission
	Noise	Env Health CCBC	
	Blasting vibration	Planning CCBC	
Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant	Permit	NRW	As per planning permission
Farm/digestate & slurry spreading	Odour	Env Health CCBC	Unrestricted
	Noise	Env Health CCBC	
Small waste incineration plants	Noise	Env Health CCBC	Unrestricted
	Smoke/odour	Env Health CCBC	
	Permit	Env Health CCBC	
Waste Transfer Station	Permit	NRW	As per planning permission
	Dust	NRW	
	Noise	NRW	
Compost Production	Permit	NRW	As per planning permission
	Odour	NRW	

- 5.4 The proposed Terms of Reference for the Liaison Group are at Appendix 1. It is intended that membership will include local residents, local Members, relevant Cabinet Members, the Member of the Senedd, Officers of the Council, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales (corresponding members with attendance when appropriate), and representatives of Bryn Group. It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property will Chair the meetings and that Committee Services will support with meeting arrangements and minutes.

5.5 In addition to the proposal to re-establish a Liaison Group a number of other measures are being considered and can be progressed before the end of the year, subject to Cabinet approval. These include:

- A webpage – including who the regulatory bodies for various elements of the site are, and monitoring results, for example.
- A site visit for all CCBC Members to see for themselves the operation at the Bryn Group site.
- The Bryn Group have confirmed they are also very open to further engagement opportunities – including a mechanism for the community to come forward directly with any issues relating to the site, and opportunities for ‘open days’ for members of the public to visit site and gain an understanding of the operation.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 In conclusion it is considered that the proposals contained within this report including the establishment of a Bryn Liaison Group will serve to improve engagement between Bryn Group, local residents and other stakeholders. It is proposed that the effectiveness of the Liaison Group will be evaluated after it has been operating for a period of 2 years.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS**

7.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

## **8. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 The group is intended to improve communication and relationships between stakeholders; no strategic decisions will be taken by the group therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

## **10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 On being consulted on the report Hefin David MS suggested that Cabinet consider quarterly meetings to ensure a better evaluation at the end of the two-year term as if an evaluation is undertaken with bi-annual meetings, the evaluation would be after only four meetings.

11.2 Cllr Haydn Pritchard has provided the following comments on the draft Terms of Reference on behalf of himself and Cllr Judith Pritchard:

## **Membership**

**Residents.** 6 local residents. We do not believe they should change for every meeting as this will hamper any continuity. Instead the representatives should be elected by local residents for a term of 1 year. It would be the responsibility of those elected to ensure the information was disseminated to the community as a whole. Representatives should be drawn from local areas to include Gelligaer, Penybryn and Nelson; all of which are affected by the smells and noise generated by the site. It should be the responsibility of the residents to decide on the composition of the representatives.

## **Meetings**

These should be held more frequently than the 6 months suggested in the proposal. They should be held every 3 months as a minimum or more frequently if deemed appropriate by the Chair.

11.3 The views of the other listed consultees have been incorporated into this report.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

12.1 The Local Government Act 2000

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Councillor Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection  
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property  
Councillor D.T Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Ann Gair, St Cattwg Ward Member  
Councillor Haydn Pritchard, St Cattwg Ward Member  
Councillor Judith Ann Pritchard, St Cattwg Ward Member  
Hefin David MS, Senedd Constituency Member for Caerphilly  
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director Economy and Environment  
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Hayley Lancaster, Transformation Lead – Insights and Intelligence  
Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager  
Ryan Thomas, Planning Services Manager  
Jon Goldsworthy, Operations Manager (South East Wales), Natural Resources Wales  
Dr Sarah Jones, Consultant in Environmental Public Health, Public Health Wales  
Andrew Kibble, Senior Manager, UK Health Security Agency (Wales) / Public Health Wales

Background Papers:

Report to Council 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 entitled: "Establishment of Gelliargwellt Farm Liaison Group"

Report to Council 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 entitled: "Proposed Dissolution of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group"

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Bryn Liaison Group Terms of Reference