



## **BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor D. V. Poole - Chair

**Councillors:**

H.W. David, W. David, G.J. Hughes, J.A. Pritchard, S. Morgan

**Together with:**

**Residents:** Mr G. Reynolds, Mrs G. Davies, Mrs P. Lapsa, Mr J. Szura

**Gelliargwellt Farm:** Mr P. Colley

**Natural Resources Wales:** Mr. J. Harrison, Mrs E. Roe

**Public Health Wales:** Mrs T. Deacon

**Environmental Health:** Ms C. Edwards, Mr G. Mumford, Mr S. Wedge

**Officers:** R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

It was advised that Mr Raymond Matthews had tendered his resignation as a local resident representative of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group, with thanks extended for his valued contribution to the meetings. Mr Matthews' replacement, Mr Joseph Szura, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group.

The Chair also welcomed Mr Simon Wedge (Student Environmental Health Officer) to the meeting.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Angel and D. Bolter, together with local resident representatives Mr J. Cuthbert, Mr M. Davies, Mrs A. Gray, Mr W. Griffiths, Mrs. C. Woods, Mr T. Matthews, Public Health Wales representatives Dr G. Richardson and Mr H. Brunt, and Mr R. Thomas (Gelliargwellt Farm).

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

### 4. MINUTES – 3RD JUNE 2014

The minutes of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group meeting held on 3rd June 2014 were received and noted.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

Reference was made to the ongoing investigation into the waste volumes received at the site and the outcome of the findings presented to the National Resources Wales Enforcement Panel.

It was confirmed that investigations had been completed with it determined that there was insufficient evidence available in relation to the volume of food waste processed at the Bryn Compost site. Members discussed the recycling methods utilised by the site and by other local authorities. It was confirmed that Bryn Compost staff were aware of the issues in relation to the co-mingling of food waste and green waste and were continuing to monitor and assess the volume of incoming waste on a daily basis.

With regards to the recording of odour incidents by the NRW Call Centre, it was advised that enquiries had been made into the logging of complaints, with it confirmed that the location of the odour was now being consistently logged. Members were satisfied with this response.

In response to the Chair's request for data relating to odour complaints to be presented on a day-by-day basis over a 3-month period, it was noted that a graph containing this information had been included with the agenda papers. Reference was made to the Composting Best Practice Document, with it advised that this was still in draft form with a date for publication not yet determined. **NRW confirmed that they would make enquiries as to whether they would be permitted to share the draft version of the Composting Best Practice Document with the Group ahead of the next meeting.**

### 6. UPDATES FROM NATURAL RESOURCES WALES (NRW)

The Group were referred to the overview of complaint data from Bryn Compost between 1st June and 31st August 2014 with it explained that a new dataset within this information enabled viewing of the complaints at a daily rate over a three-month period. Reference was made to the monthly updates sent to local residents from NRW with it hoped that residents found these newsletters informative. It was requested that residents contact NRW if they were not receiving these updates.

Officers explained that the new dataset made it clear how many complaints relating to odour had been received on a daily basis, with NRW visits to these odour locations also displayed within the dataset, together with whether or not an odour was detected during these visits. It was explained that there were no calls in June or July that triggered Officer visits but that procedures changed at the end of July which resulted in a subsequent increase in NRW visits to odour complaint locations.

The Group noted a peak of 6 odour complaints received by NRW on 2nd July 2014 which did not trigger a visit by Officers with it explained that the cause of this odour was due to farming activities within the area.

The Chair made reference to the monitoring visits from NRW detailed within the dataset and requested, that in addition to visits made in response to odour complaints, the information also display the visits made as part of NRW routine inspections. **NRW Officers arranged for this information to be clearly displayed on the next dataset of odour complaints received.**

A query was raised in regards to the cause of the odour complaint on 6th August 2014. It was explained NRW were carrying out a routine inspection at Bryn Compost that day and had detected odours off site. When on site the Officer found a small break in the seal to the ventilation system from the in-vessel composting facility which was emitting composting odours. Bryn Compost agreed to fix this section immediately and a Category 3 breach was recorded for this event.

A return routine inspection on 12th August 2014 again detected composting odours off site. It was explained that Bryn Compost had attempted to fix the leak but were unable to complete the fix to the seal due to poor weather conditions and the seal thus being unable to adhere. As they had not communicated the problem to NRW since the visit on 6th August 2014, a Category 3 breach was also recorded for this inspection. Bryn Compost informed NRW that they would implement a temporary fix until weather conditions improved so that full repair could be completed. A subsequent visit by NRW on 9th September 2014 saw that the seal had been repaired.

A query was raised in relation to the recording of breaches, and NRW clarified that two separate breaches were recorded. It was explained that had Bryn Compost informed NRW of the difficulties fixing the seal, then NRW would probably have extended the completion deadline, with only one breach recorded against the initial report. Bryn Compost will now report back to NRW if they encounter any problems in carrying out actions arising from inspections. This will enable NRW to re-assess the situation and determine if any extensions to deadlines can be given on a case-by-case basis.

**It was arranged for information regarding the number of breaches and type of breach recorded against the Bryn Compost site for the current year to be forwarded to Members following the meeting.**

Residents made reference to an odour complaint in the Mill Park area of Penybryn in August 2014 with it explained that it was reported to Environmental Health and the local ward member. Environmental Health Officers attended the odour location immediately upon receipt of the complaint. However by the time they arrived, the odour had dissipated. The Chair assured Members that Officers would also attend promptly to future complaints.

Reference was made to the graph within the agenda papers which displayed the number of odour complaints and the odour complaints by location. Members noted a downward trend in complaints and raised concerns that residents were being deterred from reporting repeat odour incidences because they felt the issue was already being addressed. NRW Officers encouraged residents to report all odours so that they could be investigated, and also detailed the procedure that was undertaken upon arrival at the odour location.

Members of the Group referenced a recent occasion where Environmental Health had communicated information regarding slurry spreading in the area, and the usefulness of information was noted and welcomed in that it helped residents in attributing odours to a possible source.

A query was raised regarding the current position of the proposed Anaerobic Digester facility. Mr Colley of Bryn Compost confirmed that he had consulted with a number of companies in order to progress the development and that it was hoped that this facility would be up and running as soon as possible.

Reference was made to the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2015 event which would be held in the grounds of Llancaiach Fawr manor, and a query was raised regarding contingency plans for

the addressing of odour incidents during the weekend of the event. Environmental Health Officers assured Members that they would liaise with Bryn Compost regarding the event and also that an event management plan would be prepared to ensure the safety of the event and the surrounding areas.

Members discussed the frequency of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group meetings and it was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next meeting in January 2015.

The meeting closed at 2.40 p.m.