

REPORT OF SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL VISIT TO COUNTYSTYLE AT RIDHAM DOCK

TUESDAY JULY 9th 2013

Short History.

Countrystyle (CS) applied for planning permission for 'The construction and operation of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), Anaerobic Digester (AD), associated Office and Parking Facility' application number Y08 / 0124 / SH on January 28th 2008.

This type of application is decided by the KCC Planning Committee, who on March 28th 2011 granted permission. There were 37 conditions attached to the permission. A copy of this permission document (988_00_KCC_Planning_Decision_notice.pdf) will be with this document.

This permission is only for the erection of the buildings, it does not give them any permission to actually carry out any work.

To allow the site to work as intended by CS, various permits have to be obtained from the Environment Agency (EA)

To take this forward, details of how CS are to mitigate the conditions, have to be submitted to both the KCC and the EA for consideration and approval.

Early last month the officer at KCC who has been dealing with the application previously and who will be dealing with the conditions as far as KCC are concerned, contacted the Parish Council (PC) and advised the PC that the KCC, EA and CS have been having dialogue to take for the conditions. (These are listed on the attached sheet, please note that the date due to be submitted, refers to the documents being submitted to the KCC and EA and not the PC).

Mr Niall Cormac – Walshe who is one of the directors of CS contacted the PC with a view to coming and speaking to the PC.

A short meeting took place. Mr Cormac – Walshe produced the list of conditions that are being taken forward during the next few months. During that meeting it was arranged that a site visit would be organised at Ridham Dock, and this took place today, Tuesday July 9th 2013.

We were taken round by a member of staff

We were shown the

- Areas that hold compost at various degrees of decay. (Green and kitchen waste)
- The computer where the temperature is controlled.
- Where the dirty water is stored until it is cleaned.
- Where the clean water is stored.
- Some machinery was not working, due to conditions which have been placed on the site, when the wind is in a certain direction.

The site at Ridham Dock bears no resemblance to the one that is to be built at Otterpool Quarry.

- At the Ridham Dock site, the composting of waste is carried out both indoors and outdoors.
- Also large amounts of wood and some paper are recycled.

The MRF at the Otterpool Quarry site, is for the sorting of inert materials, like paper, glass and plastic.

- At this time there is no work being carried out to take forward the AD plant.

The idea of having regular meetings with Mr Niall Cormac – Walshe, is to ensure that there is a dialogue with the PC. He feels that this would ensure a proper cascading of correct information.

Issues can arise where a number of people contact CS and as things change, they may not be given the most up to date information.

Once the information is passed by CS to the EA and KCC, where both organisations will have the details examined by their respective experts. This information will then be passed on to the PC to disseminate to the wider public.

There is no timescale to any major work at present.

The Otterpool Quarry site has had bore holes for testing the land, and to see if there are any contaminates, which need to be dealt with, and for water levels and other issues which may affect water.

The PC has been informed, that as soon as CS has agreed their work programme and have some confirmed dates, they will contact the PC.

This is a very short report, given the time restraint, but makes everyone aware of the current situation.

Linda Hedley
Clerk to the Parish Council
July 9th 2013