

Four Winds Garage meeting on the 9th of November 2022, with Darren Smith and Louis DeQuincey, Environment Agency (EA), Therese Johnson and Steve Collin, Haynes Parish Council (HPC).

The EA were asked about the potential for HPC to commission work for noise and dust meters. The following was established:

- They would provide advice with setting up the meters only.
- They stated it was a 'legal grey area' as to whether the product provided could be used as evidence as it was not commissioned by them.
- They were unable to advise HPC on companies, who could undertake the analysis.
- The timing of the analysis would be best conducted in the summer, particularly regarding dust pollution.
- The location of the meters was important particularly as the authenticity of the analysis was dependent on pinpointing, which noise activities were being committed by Wilstead Skips (WS) or Entyre Group Limited (EGL) or both at the same time.
- The analysis commissioned by HPC may be useful in supporting the EA with their work.
- The EA would consider an assessment of the site at the weekend subject to a case being made out to do so.

The EA explained they had assessed the entire site several times and determined the level of noise and dust did not warrant the deployment of meters, although there were clearly issues of noise and dust pollution. They went on to say that if this were the case, they would most likely direct WS or EGL to pay for independent noise and dust analysis, which would be acted upon by the EA, as necessary.

As we know, on the 26/10/22, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) served enforcement orders on WS and EGL. In essence, WS have been refused planning on its most recent application but of course can continue to operate within its pre-existing ones. From my visit on the 7/1/22, I noted a significant portion of the WS site is assigned to storing many new ship containers. The enforcement order has asked for these to be removed.

Concerning EGL, its planning application has been refused, there was no pre-existing planning, so they have been ordered to remove their entire operation subject to appeal. I established the EA issued a permit to operate even though EGL did not have planning permission from CBC. I am told by EA this practice is because of a government directive to do so. That said, the permit is for the management of **waste** tyres, but EGL currently operate the site as **worn** and **part worn** tyres, so the permit is irrelevant. EA have assessed the current tyre stock are worn, part worn tyres.

EA officers advised of the importance of referring the environmental concerns residents have at the site, which will be assessed, and appropriate action taken by them. They also said it would be good practice to refer these concerns at the same time to the relevant site manager of WS or EGL.

The shared view at the conclusion of the meeting was for CBC Enforcement to work with or take legal action against WS and EGL via the served Enforcement Orders as this would seem to deliver on the environmental issues everyone has. In the meantime, residents, HPC and EA will continue to monitor the situation and reassess as appropriate.

Steve Collin, Chairman of HPC, 12/11/22.

