

**Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting
4.00pm Friday 8th November 2024**

Location: Cheddleton Community Centre

The following members were present:

Chair Karen Bradley - Member of Parliament – Staffordshire Moorlands

Environment Agency Jon Philpin – EPR Installations Regulatory Officer

Councillors / MP: Cllr Sue Rogers Cheddleton

Advanced Proteins: Barney Williams - Technical Director
Andrew Brown - Managing Director

Animal Health: See apologies

Representing Residents: Patricia Duffy
John Tunna
Joe Smith

Apologies: Steve Thomason – Environment Agency
Stephanie Young (Trading Standards)
Animal and Plant Health Agency

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Karen Bradley (KB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and the members of the group reciprocated. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2. Updates from: Environment Agency

John Philpin (JP) introduced himself and gave the following update to the group.

The Environment Agency has received 18 public notifications of odour nuisance since the last liaison meeting in May 2024 (6 months).

This time period covers both summer and the majority of autumn 2024, bringing the cumulative number to the Environment Agency to 21 so far this year.

For context the total complaint numbers within one kilometre radius of the site over the last five years are as follows:

2020 – (53) 2021 – (71) 2022 – (47) 2023 – (21) 2024 – (21)

By comparison, the total notifications for the two most contentious rendering permits held in this industry sector (there are six sites at this scale) recorded 1,373 and 156 notifications respectively in 2023.

The reports since the last meeting impacted on five separate residential locations. With one notification associated with transportation significantly removed from the site, and one report did not disclose a location.

Folly Lane and Ostlers Lane accounted for 13 of the reports. With five notifications for Folly Lane over a two-day period on 18 and 19 September.

06 June – Notification of Category 3 Plant access door stuck, temporary fix prior to permanent repair. No correlation with odour complaint.

13 June - Ostlers Lane, odour at 0930 and 1740 hours.

25 June - Folly Lane, odour at 14:00 hours.

26 June - Ostlers Lane, odour at 18:58 hours.

25 July – Notification of safety valve operation on Category 1 Plant thermal oxidiser – steam release. No correlation with noise or odour complaint.

09 Aug - High Street, Tean, odour at 12:35 hours. This was related to a vehicle, not the site.

13 Aug - The Avenue, odour at 14:08 hours.

23 Aug – Notification of power dip impacting thermal oxidiser and boilers. Equipment reset. No correlation with complaint, although conditions acknowledged to rapidly disperse odour.

27 Aug - Cheadle Road, odour at 18:00 hours.

28 Aug - Undisclosed location, odour at 09:45 hours.

02 Sept - Ostlers Lane, odour at 10:45 hours.

03 Sept – Routine boiler and oxidiser safety inspections – advisory only.

09 Sept – Final oxidiser safety inspection – advisory only.

18 Sept - Folly Lane, odour at 04:00, 0700, 1640 hours (three in total).

19 Sept - Folly Lane, odour at 11:45 and 15:30 hours (two in total).

21 Sept – Notification of power dip. 10-minute impact on odour abatement equipment site wide, prior to restart. No correlation with odour complaint

26 Sept - Folly Lane, odour at 15:50 hours.

02 Oct – Folly Lane, odour at 17:40 hours.

10 Oct – Phase 2 of the boiler safety check – advisory only.

12 Oct – Ashcombe Park, odour at 11:00 hours.

18 Oct – Ostlers Lane, odour at 09:20 hours.

As noted at the last meeting, a focus of 2023 inspection and audit work was the review of the site's Noise Management Plan (NMP). It is very pleasing from a regulatory perspective to record that no noise notifications have been received to date during 2024.

At a national level the UK BAT (Best Available Techniques) Technical Working Group, under DEFRA stewardship will meet over 12 to 14 November. Identification of Key Environmental Issues will be at the heart of this first meeting.

2025 audit aspirations will focus on effluent treatment efficiency. This is recognised a potential high-risk source of odour, especially associated with condensate from the cooking processes.

JP stated that there were no failures of the permit or the site-specific odour management plan (OMP).

JP added that the Company continues to proactively progress the action tracker for positive improvement projects on site.

3. Advanced Proteins Update

- The Category 3 cooking process building roof is now complete.
- The Company continues to work with a specialist energy consultancy with the key objective to identify technologies which could replace natural gas as the major fuel source at the factory. The long term commitment is to decarbonize the process and become net zero by utilizing existing fuel grade products produced. If deemed viable, the scheme would require an appropriate EA permit, and consultation with the community.

AP are also in discussions with specialists to advise on appropriate technologies to recover heat from existing processes. Reducing AP's gas consumption and lowering their carbon footprint.

- The Company will be recommencing their annual biofiltration abatement system remedial programme in March and April to ensure the efficiency of the equipment is at optimum level ahead of spring and summer months.
- Further remedial roof works planned on a smaller scale in 2025 and an environmental impact assessment will be submitted prior to commencing. Likewise, the programme will be communicated through the Liaison Group and to the residents via postcard.

4. Food Ingredients Project Update

At this point of the meeting, BW updated the group in relation to the planning application for Food Ingredient (FI) England project that Advanced Proteins were hoping to progress at the Cheddleton site.

The full planning application was approved by Staffs Moorlands District Council Planning committee, but at this point in time the project is on hold due to volatility in the marketplace.

The project will be reviewed in Q2 2025.

5. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

BW explained that Avian Influenza (AI) continued to be under control by APHA at this point.

The regular site APHA audits conducted since the last meeting were all positive, with zero non conformances reported.

6. Trading Standards

There was one very minor spillage during the period since the last meeting. Handled by AP's emergency team, close to Wetley Rocks.

7. Any other business

- Date of next meeting to be confirmed. Proposal 25/4/25
- Joe Smith requested feedback on the companies landscaping proposals for 2025, based on the schemes previously.

Date of next meeting

25th April 2025 at 4pm

Location: Cheddleton Community Centre, Hollow Lane.