

Minutes of the meeting of Barton Stacey Planning Committee held at 19.30 pm on Tuesday 28th September 2021 at Barton Stacey Village Hall.

Meeting opened at 19.30pm. **Present:** Cllr V Oliver-Bellasis, Cllr C Coates & Cllr J Govett
Also present: The Clerk – Mrs Jo Gadney, **Members of Public** – 1

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION For ten minutes residents are invited to address the Parish Council, make comment on items on the agenda or raise matters for consideration at a future meeting.

Statement prepared by Rob Westell (Read by Martyn Jones), Estates & Planning Director on behalf of Fortis IBA Limited

Good evening Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen. Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend in person – a combination of the fuel shortage and a heavy cold have conspired against me, but I am grateful for the time afforded to present this short statement. The revised planning application is now available for all to see and I do not wish to explain it in great detail here. Rather, the focus of this statement is to explain the reason why the additional storage area is needed and the changes we have made since the original planning application was withdrawn.

Our primary role at the A303 Enviropark is to receive ash (Incinerator Bottom Ash or IBA) from Energy from Waste plants, which use residual non-recyclable waste to produce electricity and heat. We process the IBA to remove metals, which are recycled, and the remainder of the material is used in construction, primarily for road building, thus diverting 100% of the IBA we receive from landfill. The requirement for additional space for IBA Aggregate storage at the site first arose during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak. The construction industry effectively ground to a halt, while the Energy from Waste sites continued to operate and produce IBA. Stockpiles quickly grew and Fortis had no option but to request temporary dispensations from both Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency to use the application site as an emergency storage area. By the end of June 2020, over 20,000 tonnes of IBA Aggregate was stored on the application site. The temporary dispensations were due to expire at the end of March 2021, with no prospect of any time extension. Anticipating that use of the front field for IBAA storage would need to continue beyond this date, Fortis submitted planning and Environmental Permit applications for continued use of the storage area in January 2021. Recognising the urgent nature of the application, the Environment Agency granted an Environmental Permit in February 2021 with a requirement that the storage area should be lined with an impermeable surface before expiry of the temporary dispensation at the end of March. Fortis had no option but to install a geotextile membrane across the storage area and create the surface water holding pond in advance of grant of planning permission to maintain compliance with the newly issued Permit. Our initial planning application generated much interest in the local community and a number of objections were lodged. As the summer of 2021 progressed, Fortis undertook a reassessment of market demand for IBAA and forecast space requirements in the additional storage area, concluding that it may be possible to reduce the footprint to exclude the tree belt to the north of the application site. Our revised planning application is, essentially, to retain the footprint which currently exists, while working within the limits imposed by the temporary dispensation and the newly issued Environmental Permit. Stockpiles of material will be no higher than 5 metres, surface water will be captured in a lagoon and used for dust suppression and there will be no discharge to groundwater. Additional planting on bunds and towards the road frontage, combined with retention of the tree belt will aid visual screening and add to biodiversity interest. We feel that the revised proposals address many of the concerns raised during the initial application. I'd also like to take this opportunity to answer a few key questions which have been raised in consultation responses to date:

Why does Fortis want to use the site for storage permanently?

Fundamentally, we do not know how long it will take for stocks to return to pre-pandemic levels. 2021 has seen some turbulent trading circumstances and stocks are forecast to remain as they are until at least the end of 2021. We are working closely with Hampshire County Council's Highways team to try to get more material into Hampshire's road schemes and we sincerely hope that we will be back to normal during 2022. We are constantly trying to find ways to use our IBA Aggregate product in new applications. Space for product testing and development has always been an issue at the A303 Enviropark and once stocks are

back to normal, the application site will be a useful area to develop ways of making better use of the IBA Aggregate in a wider range of products.

Why is Fortis importing IBA from Kent?

We have secured a contract to take IBA from a new Energy from Waste facility near Sittingbourne, Kent. In December 2020, we secured planning permission and an Environmental Permit to construct a new IBA processing facility close to the new Energy from Waste facility on land at Ridham Dock. Planning permission took longer than anticipated to be granted and as a result, our timetable for our new site becoming operational was extended. Construction has now begun and our new facility will be ready to receive IBA in early spring 2022. In the meantime, IBA from Kent will continue to be received and processed at the A303 Enviropark in accordance with our existing planning permission. The vast majority of lorries bringing IBA from Kent are returning with a full load of IBA Aggregate, indeed we have had occasions where we were not able to fulfil orders in Kent due to a lack of lorries available to carry a return load. Approval of the current planning application will not result in additional vehicle movements over and above those which are already permitted. Cross boundary movements of waste and other commodities are not unusual as many local authorities rely on others for the provision of goods and services. Hampshire, for example, is reliant on Somerset for the provision of limestone aggregates used for road construction. IBA Aggregate can be a direct substitute for imported limestone, thus reducing traffic and CO2 emissions from vehicles travelling into the County from further afield.

I am seeing more dust as a result of the additional stockpiles and I am concerned about my health if I breath it in

Our operations are controlled not only by planning conditions, but also by our Environmental Permit, regulated by the Environment Agency. In response to a number of complaints, the Environment Agency has released a useful note covering dust emissions from the site, a quote from which states' *it is very unlikely any dust seen at your property (meaning properties in the vicinity of the site) is from the IBA and IBAA wastes stored at the Fortis site... The dust is most likely to be from other sources, such as resuspension from roads and fields*'. IBA is classed as a non-hazardous waste as demonstrated by testing at the producing Energy from Waste facility under a protocol endorsed by the Environment Agency. The protocol ensures that risks to the environment and human health are minimised. In the unlikely event that a load of IBA received at the A303 Enviropark fails to pass the testing regime, it is quarantined and removed from site before it is processed.

I am concerned that the River Test will be polluted

Both our existing site and the application area are constructed on an impermeable surface with a closed water collection system. No water from the site can percolate down through the underlying chalk to reach groundwater level or enter the River Test. This issue is also covered in the note from the Environment Agency.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to present this statement and I am more than happy to field any further questions or queries. I can be contacted at Robert.westell@raymondbrown.co.uk

1. Election of Chair – Cllr Oliver-Bellasis, proposed and resolved

2. Apologies – Cllr Sherwood, proposed and accepted

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Minutes of previous meeting – To approve the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on Thursday 19th August, 2021. Proposed and resolved that the minutes should be approved. The minutes are by Cllr Oliver - Bellasis.

5. Planning applications

Discuss/agree application 21/02681/CMAN – Ancillary storage area (amended schedule) – The A303 Recycling Facility, Drayton Road, Barton Stacey, SO21 3QS.

Cllrs have all read the various documents on the portal. Cllr Coates attended the recent liaison meeting and was concerned about the impervious membrane/concrete pad. The concrete pad is expensive and isn't currently present just the membrane. This was mainly due to the urgency of the previous temporary planning application during Covid. The expensive pad suggests a longer

term plan/strategy – however presumably the Environment Agency are satisfied with the membrane for now. The lagoon is a sensible idea. The Kent site won't be functional until Spring 2022. There is concern that if planning given this will set a precedence and there is certainly nervousness in the parish concerning the dust. There is also the traffic issues to consider and that the local roads are not set up for large numbers of heavy goods vehicles. Visual issues are to be considered too. The Environment Agency will have various strategies set up which the PC feel will be sufficient. Cllr David Drew recently commented that although he understand the reason for the application this doesn't mean necessarily that it is the right location for a site like this. The PC are pleased that the removal of the trees is now not necessary (as it was with the previous application) however concerns remain about mission creep, traffic/slip roads, ash clouds, expensive concrete pad and that the site lies between 2 rural/residential communities.

Proposed and resolved to object to the application including comments as above

6. Date of next meeting - TBC

Meeting ended at 20.00

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