

TPL Community Liaison Group Meeting

3rd April 2019

6:30pm – Johnsonville Community Centre – Room 3

Attendees: John Taylor (TPL)
Neta Magele (TPL – Minute Taker)
Hugh (Greater Wellington Regional Council)
Amber (Wellington Regional council)
Shirley Morrison (Onslow Residents Community Association) ORCA
Pat & Murray (Residents)
David Stephen (Resident)
Carol (Resident)
Robbie (Resident)
Mehdi Yassaie (Resident)

Apologies: David Clarke
James

Welcome: Welcome to the 3rd April meeting of the TPL Community Liaison Group.

Discussion: **Hours of work**
Currently we have 2 shifts running. Beef dayshift and night shift since October.

Our Mutton Chain is currently on one shift as this is our off season where farmers hold back a lot of their stock.

October should pick up as that is where our peak season starts and it will go back to 2 shifts for the Mutton Slaughter board

Number of people on site

We have about 850 people on sight if fully manned. This year has been the worse for Taylor Preston due to absenteeism. 90 – 95 people short, about 15% MSB workers not turning up.

Plant Improvements

At this point not at the moment, however we are working to build a cold store on sight in the next 18 months which is a multimillion dollar project.

Taylor Preston Ltd are working to build a cold store on sight with the loss of our cool store in the previous earthquakes. Currently sending product off-site to Hawkes Bay and Longburn is costing TPL between 2 and 2.5 million dollars extra per year.

Livestock odour

Residents identified that there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of livestock odour coming from Taylor Preston's. John noted that one of the main causes was livestock trucks that arrive on site that haven't been washed out for several days, so drivers wash out at Taylor Preston's before they leave the plant.

David asked what steps could be taken to encourage these drivers to manage and mitigate these smells on site (e.g. driver education and awareness, smell mitigation steps etc.).

Action: John to investigate what additional steps could be taken to manage odours coming from livestock and livestock trucks.

Reporting of issues

John noted that Taylor Preston's had received six odour complaints over the six months. John tabled an example of what one of the write-ups of these reports looked like. John offered for Taylor Preston's to upload a summary of these reports to the Community Page on the Taylor Preston's website. All meeting attendees agreed that this would be a good idea, although H pointed out that individually identifying details of complainants (such as names and specific addresses) should not be identified.

David noted that a number of reports appear to be missing from Taylor Preston's record (and hence probably not being written up). As an example, David noted that he made a complaint on the same day as the tabled report but that this wasn't written up or recorded. David also noted that his household had made at least six notifications over the last six months, so the numbers being recorded by Taylor Preston's are highly likely to be understated. John mentioned that he would follow up and ensure that all complaints were recorded and forwarded to GWRC.

David identified that one of the major barriers to reporting issues was the time needed to speak with someone over the phone (plus being available for follow-up phone calls). David suggested that Taylor Preston's consider developing a simple web-based reporting form for reporting issues via Taylor Preston's website (as envisaged within the original Resource Consent approval).

Carol identified that there had been a discussion at previous meetings around allowing text message notifications. John noted that this would cause issues, as text messages would often not include the information necessary to follow up on a complaint. John also noted that the reason why phone calls were useful was so that Taylor Preston's could obtain all the information necessary to follow up and try to resolve odour issues as they occur.

It was discussed that a web-based form could be created that required users to enter key pieces of information (e.g. smell type, location, wind direction etc.) before the form was able to be submitted. It was agreed that residents would still have the option of phoning when one-off odour issues were identified, or where there is a chance that the smell could be fixed straight away, but the web form would be useful for monitoring and keeping a record of ongoing or systemic issues that may not be able to be fixed without long-term term changes (e.g. education/awareness related to correct cleaning of livestock trucks).

John agreed that he would investigate the possibility of web-reporting further.

Actions:

- John to upload a summary of complaints/reports to the Community Page on the Taylor Preston's website
- John to ensure that Taylor Preston's systems are in place and operating correctly so that all complaints are recorded and forwarded to GWRC.

- J to investigate the creation of a web-based form for residents to record raise odour complaints (and potentially other complaints, such as noise etc.).

Engagement with the local community

Residents asked how wide the outreach was for community meetings. It was noted that a number of new residences have been built in a subdivision within Newlands, and that these houses were now the closest houses (proximity-wise) to Taylor Preston's. Robbie noted that at least one resident in this subdivision (someone he knew) had commented to him (in a personal capacity) about the odour.

John noted that he was not aware of the potential effect on residents in this location, and would extend the distribution list in the future.

DS noted that previous meetings had raised the idea of sending out fridge magnets (or similar) to residents to help make it easy to remember how to report odours. It was suggested that if this did go ahead, then the fridge magnet could include the URL for reporting issues.

John noted that he would be happy to invite the local community to visit Taylor Preston's to see what steps were being put in place to manage odour, noise and other environmental effects. All attendees agreed that this would be a good idea, and several indicated an interest in participating in a walk around (either as part of a tour or combined with the next community liaison meeting).

Action:

- John to widen the distribution list for future community engagement meetings to the new subdivision in Newlands.
- John to investigate the printing and development of fridge magnets listing the phone number and link to the community page on the Taylor Preston's website.
- John to consider extending an invitation to community to attend a walk around of the plant.

Smell Mitigation

Residents asked what steps Taylor Preston's was undertaking to ensure that odours were being mitigated as much as practicable. DS asked that Taylor Preston's include a copy of Taylor Preston's annual Odour Management Plan on the community page of the Taylor Preston's website.

David asked a question about the hours of operation of misting odour neutralisers. John noted that these were running constantly, but sometimes needed to be shut down in high winds. David enquired about the possible consideration of new vapour technology that is claimed to be significantly better and mitigating odour than existing misting technology. John noted that he hadn't yet come across this technology, but would be interested in learning more. David Stephen to send through information to John to review.

David identified that at previous RC hearings, the possibility of planting a shelterbelt around the factory was identified as one possible measure (alongside others) to mitigate odour and improve the general amenity. The RC hearing at the time supported this idea in principle, but noted that further evidence would be required to prove its efficacy before it would be considered at Taylor Preston's.

David noted that he was aware of at least two, peer-reviewed articles that confirmed small but discernible positive environmental impacts that ameliorate odours coming from abattoirs and other livestock facilities. It was noted that any shelterbelt around Taylor Preston's would need to take into account the specific environmental conditions (e.g. wind, soil condition, required height of trees etc.). DS agreed to send these articles to J, who agreed to consider these further.

John and Hugh noted that the main mitigation against odour from rendering was the bio-filter. It was noted that this is a very effective control, although for it to work optimally it needed to be regularly maintained and monitored. Hugh noted that there have been some issues with backpressure that Taylor Preston's would be taking steps to manage. John also noted issues with the acidity of the bio filter, and outlined plans to address that with lime plus replace the existing bark chips scheduled for later this year (around October 2019).

Action

- John to upload copies of annual Odour Management Plans to the Taylor Preston's Community pages.
- David to send John information about vapour technology for consideration and possible adoption at the plant.
- David to send John information on the evidence-based effectiveness of shelterbelts to control odour for consideration and possible planting around the factory.

Pest Control

John tabled information regarding pest control (rates, mice, hedgehogs) at the factory. All residents agreed that this pest control was comprehensive. R noted that he has noticed possums in the area and it might be a good idea to consider controlling those too. David identified that he had noticed a particularly high volume of flies over the summer. John noted that Taylor Preston's had a programme to spray for flies, which should keep numbers under control.

Carol asked if there were any dead animals on the hillsides. John mentioned that this is checked and to the best of his knowledge there were none.

Actions

- None

General Business

Residents raised various concerns related to dogs barking, animals crying, mechanical noises and light pollution from factory lighting. John noted that he would look into issues that might be able to be controlled or better managed.

Residents concluded the meeting by thanking John for his attendance and active interest in helping to address issues. All attendees agreed that the attendance, constructiveness and positivity throughout the meeting was a good sign and hoped that this would continue into the future.

Actions:

- John to consider and identify possible options for mitigating/limiting the adverse effects of noise and light pollution.

Meeting concluded at 8.00pm.