

Meeting with Bassetlaw District Council and Tunnel Tech (North) Ltd

Meeting information

Date: Tuesday 29 January 2019

Time: 14:00

Location: Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), Potter Street, Worksop

Present: David Armiger, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, BDC
Elizabeth Prime, Head of Neighbourhoods, BDC
Andrea Stewart, Environmental Health Manager, BDC
Councillor Annette Simpson, BDC
Councillor Julie Leigh, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, BDC
Councillor Peter Edwards, Misson Parish Council
Mark Hooper, Parish Clerk, Misson Parish Council
Simon Middlebrook, General Manager, Tunnel Tech (North)

Agenda items

1. Update on developments at Tunnel Tech
2. Complaints from residents
3. Liaison between Tunnel Tech, BDC and the local community
4. Other business

1. Update on developments at Tunnel Tech

Simon Middlebrook presented a detailed set of plans for the enclosure of the area outside the bunkers where the straw/chicken litter/horse manure is presently composted. This would result in virtual total enclosure of the entire production process and effectively prevent the odour from this particular activity escaping directly to atmosphere. Emissions from this area would be ducted away to an additional scrubbing facility and second bio-filter.

He said that this was a major project that would take approximately 31 weeks to complete and was intending to seek tenders from four contractors with a view to work commencing before April 2019. He did, however, point out that approval to proceed was first needed from their Board.

Peter Edwards then asked what would happen if this approval was not forthcoming to which David Armiger said that he would be seeking to meet senior personnel from Tunnel Tech and impress upon them the importance of having this work completed in a timely manner and outline to them the

consequences of not having the work done. He went on to say that whilst prosecution remained an option he considered this to be the least satisfactory outcome as it could only result in further costs and delays.

2. Complaints from residents

Andrea Stewart noted that there had been a recent increase in the number of complaints about the odour from Tunnel Tech from Misson residents. There was no obvious reason why this 'spike' had occurred at this time, particularly as there had been virtually no complaints throughout the summer. A bar chart showing the number of complaints recorded month by month over previous years clearly showed a reducing trend but it was noted that the figures for December and January had tended to be relatively higher in previous years. Although no reason could be given for this it was thought likely that atmospheric conditions must play a part.

Andrea Stewart confirmed that the situation would continue to be monitored and residents were asked to continue submitting complaints detailing the time and location that the odour is detected.

3. Liaison between Tunnel Tech, BDC and the local community

The meeting was informed that, in view of the forthcoming building works and the current level of complaints from residents, Tunnel Tech had undertaken to liaise with BDC every two weeks and with Misson Parish Council every month so as to review the level of complaints and to advise on the progress of the works. Simon Middlebrook said that he would attend Misson Parish Council in March*

4. Other business

Peter Edwards said that were residents in Misson who believed that the emissions from Tunnel Tech were having an adverse effect upon their health. Both Simon Middlebrook and BDC were emphatic in their rejection of this suggestion.

Simon Middlebrook said that they had to comply with Health and Safety legislation and had been satisfied that the even greater exposure to the emissions experienced by the people that worked there did not call for any particular PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to be worn other than dust masks in the dry indoor area.

*In view of the current number of complaints and the limited additional time available during a normal MPC meeting to deal with potentially contentious items this may be better dealt with during a separate meeting.