



Wardell Armstrong

Engineering & Environmental Solutions

Our ref: KM/RJK/LE03808/0030
Your ref:

20th May 2008

Mr Keith Rothwell
Councillor
18 Kestrel Drive
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 6JE

Dear Mr Rothwell

Planning Application 49415 Fernhill, Bury

Please find set out below our response to your comments with regards to the proposed development at the waste management facility at Fernhill, Bury. We have responded to each of your comments under sub-headings as per your letter for clarity.

Visual Impact

During the public consultation process, an alternative design was proposed which retained the existing Transfer Loading Station (TLS) and existing Green Waste Processing Facility (GWPF) in their current locations. Feedback from nearby residents highlighted noise (relating to the existing facilities) as an ongoing issue, and thus contributed to the current design layout of the site. The proposals as part of this application address the noise issue through changes to the site design layout and the inclusion of mitigation measures, such as noise attenuation barriers.

As part of the design layout within this application, there will be only one (new and enlarged) TLS, which will incorporate the reception and bulking of residual waste, co-mingled recyclates and paper/card. In addition, the GWPF will be re-located to the south west of the site and the existing TLS building will be demolished. There will therefore be more space within the existing hardstanding in the north west of the site to incorporate the new TLS

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building. The new TLS building will not result in the removal of the existing screen planting to the north west, which is subject to provisional Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Proposed planting to complement existing vegetation within the northern boundary will include species of local provenance to enhance existing vegetation, as well as some coniferous trees and evergreen shrubs to provide some screening in the winter months.

As part of improving the design layout of the site, lowering the ground level has been considered. However, to ensure a sufficiently sized operational area in the centre of the site which provides a safe and efficiently operated site, the site must be operated at one level.

Blue Bin Recycling

All of the proposed vehicle movements are detailed within chapter 12 and Appendix 12.1 of the Environmental Statement (Volume 2). The traffic generated by the development proposals is considered to be minimal and can be accommodated on the local highway network without additional delays or highway improvements; the number of private vehicles will increase marginally between 2007/08 and 2019/20, where as the numbers of HGVs and RCVs generated is expected to reduce. The transport assessment provides analysis for 2007/2008 and 2019/20 to reflect conditions prior to and 6 years after all the proposed waste management facilities in Greater Manchester are operational.

There will be a reduction of 38 RCVs and 4 HGVs, when comparing traffic movements per day in 2007/2008 and 2019/20. This is a result of the diversion of WCA vehicles (which deliver green waste and kitchen waste), from the Fernhill site to one of the proposed In-Vessel Composting facilities predicted to come online in 2009/10.

Measures to be undertaken to mitigate noise arising from unloading/loading operations include:

- The unloading of refuse collection vehicles/loading of HGVs to be undertaken within the enclosed Transfer Loading Station
- The doors of the proposed TLS, which provide vehicular access for plant and RCVs, will be located in the southern façade of the building to screen the receptors to the



north of the site, i.e. Marquis Avenue and Victor Avenue. In addition, the doors will be fitted with noise attenuation strips to screen the receptors to the south of the site, i.e. Fernhill Caravan Park.

- A noise barrier will be constructed along the north eastern boundary of the site, adjacent to the HWRC.
- The GWPF will be partially enclosed. This will screen the receptors on Marquis Avenue and Fernhill Caravan Park from operations associated with the facility.
- A noise bund and acoustic fence (i.e. the fence will be constructed on top of the crest of the bund), will be constructed along the south eastern site boundary, adjacent to the Fernhill Caravan Park.

It was agreed during scoping discussions with Bury MBC that no capacity assessments would be required as the traffic generated by the upgrading of the site is considered to be negligible. As discussed within the Transport Assessment (Chapter 12 of the Environmental Statement, Volume 2), the traffic generation associated with the proposals at Fernhill is considered to be minimal and is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on Every Street, Birch Street/Walmersley Road junction.

HWRC, TLS & GWFP

The hours of operations, which have been amended since the public consultation (and have been included as part of this application), include:

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Monday to Sunday

Summer (BST) 08:00 – 20:00

Winter (BST) 08:00 – 18:00

Green Waste Processing Facility

Reception

Monday to Sunday 07:00 – 18:00

Treatment

Monday to Friday 07:00 to 18:00

Saturday 07:00 to 13:00





Transfer Loading Station

Monday to Sunday 07:00 – 18:00

Hours of operation stated during public consultation

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Monday to Sunday

Summer (BST) 08:00 – 20:00

Winter (BST) 08:00 – 18:00

Green Waste Processing Facility

Reception

Monday to Sunday 07:00 – 18:00

Treatment

Monday to Friday 07:00 to 18:00

Saturday 07:00 to 13:00

Transfer Loading Station

Monday to Friday 07:00 – 18:00

Saturday 07:00 – 13:00

The above opening hours are an operational requirement and have been discussed with Bury WCA, to ensure an efficient collection of waste, and also to ensure an efficient dispatchment of bulk recyclable waste for onward recovery, recycling or treatment. The hours of operation have been incorporated within the noise assessment, which concludes that the level of noise likely to be generated by the proposed development is significantly less than the measured, current average ambient noise levels, at monitored receptors (further discussed within Chapter 13 of the Environmental Statement).

Initially, the GWPF at Fernhill will also accept an additional circa 35,000 tonnes per annum of green waste from Bury WCA; however, this will cease once proposed In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facilities come online within the Greater Manchester area (predicted for 2009/2010). The IVC facility at Waithlands (Rochdale), which will accept green waste, has been granted planning permission, and construction has started on the site.





Railway Line

The use of the railway line, to serve the site, has been considered; however due to practical and economic reasoning, the incorporation of a railway siding is not feasible.

Present and Future Noise Levels

Noise impacts presently experienced from surrounding residents will be mitigated on site by those mitigation measures stated above.

The noise assessment outlined in the Environmental Statement (Volume 2) has taken into account the specified operational hours as required by Bury Waste Collection Authority and GMWDA. The assessment concludes that the level of noise likely to be generated by the proposed development is significantly less than the measured, current average ambient noise levels, at monitored receptors. Therefore, the operation of the development (with the mitigation measures in place) will reduce the ambient noise levels, at existing receptors.

The site is currently operated by GMWL, and not under the control of the applicant. Therefore it is not possible for Viridor Waste Management to implement measures to mitigate against current noise impacts.

Conclusions

The issues raised are dealt with above, with the exception of how we propose to deal with odour.

To control the potential for odour, bioaerosols and dust to be generated at the proposed TLS the following controls will be implemented:

- the movement of the materials and the loading and unloading will be supervised to ensure correct handling;
- all activities will take place in the building;
- the residence times of any wastes will be minimised and the First In First Out (FIFO) principle will be implemented in the TLS. FIFO helps to ensure good management of



waste to comply with waste management licence storage conditions and prevent waste material from being held too long in the TLS area;

- odour and dust control atomiser spray units will be mounted at the doors of the TLS and will be used when necessary; and
- dust suppression methods will be implemented as needed. For example, if the waste were very dry and likely to cause dust, it will be wetted with a water spray.

To minimise the potential for odours to be generated from the proposed GWPF, the following measures will be implemented at the site:

- contingency plans are in place should the deodorising plant or shredder break down; and
- the residence times of wastes are minimised and a best practice management plan is implemented to ensure that waste is handled to minimise the release of odour, bioaerosols and dust.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the proposals in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or John Topping on 01942 260101.

Yours sincerely

for Wardell Armstrong LLP

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