

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the meeting held between Leominster Town Council, Herefordshire Council and RPC BPI on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 10.00am at the RPC BPI Factory, Leominster.

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## **PRESENT:**

**Leominster Town Council:** Cllr Jenny Bartlett, Cllr John Rumsey, Mr Paul Russell (Town Clerk).

**RPS Acoustics:** Mr Torjussen

**RPC BPI – Leominster:** Mr Tim Roome (Site Manager – Leominster), Neil Hawkins (Health, Safety & Environment Manager – Leominster) and Simon Henshaw (Engineering Manager)

**Herefordshire Council Environmental Health:** Marc Willimont (Head of Regulatory and Development Management Services) and Elisabeth Laughland (Principal Environmental Health Officer)

**Local Residents:** Mrs Downey, Mr Domanski and Mr Bloxsome.

Cllr Bartlett Chaired the meeting.

## **1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Bartlett welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked RPC BPI Ltd for hosting the meeting.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Mr Ferrari (ill)

## **3. MEETING NOTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were considered and agreed.

## **4. PRESENTATION**

The meeting received a presentation on the works undertaken since the previous meeting and future works scheduled in.

### ***Penetrations through the Building***

Work had been undertaken to address noise issues penetrating through the building. Work undertaken included:

- Duct attenuators had been installed;
- Silencers had been installed;
- High level exhausts had been fitted with silencers including additional lagging.

### ***Dry Air Cooler***

The Dry Air Cooler had been enclosed in a steel enclosure with louvres fitted.

### ***High Internal Noise Levels***

The compressor shed had been identified as emitting high noise levels. The roof had been clad and the doors replaced with steel doors that were sealed. The penetrations had also been treated.

### ***New Assessment***

A new assessment had been undertaken to assess whether the works had improved the noise issues previously identified. Base line measurements were taken between 1am and 3am when there were no freight trains and low levels of traffic. They were taken in Waterworks Lane to BS4142 standards in August and again in January.

An overview of the results was presented. It was acknowledged that there was a level of uncertainty regarding the figures at lower frequencies as they were more difficult to measure accurately. It was confirmed that the measurements were taken in 10 minute samples and that BS4142 does not focus on low level frequencies.

Feedback from residents had been generally positive except over the last three weeks when a higher level of low frequency noise had been experienced. It was reported that higher sound levels had been experienced between 3am and 3:30am.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June at 3:20am a low frequency sound had been identified that had woken residents up. BPI agreed to investigate this to assess whether it had been generated by its site.

Measurements indicated that the result of the mitigation works had reduced sound levels emanating from the site based on a comparison between BPI data and Herefordshire Council published data. A 4dB reduction had been identified following the mitigation works. Both HC and RPS figures concurred with each other and a significant difference had been measured in Waterworks Lane.

It was confirmed that the plant ran 24 hours a day.

The history of the development of the site/area was as follows:

- 1865 – Pumping Station;
- 1930 – Caswell Terrace constructed;
- 1964-77 – Industrial Estate developed;
- 1967-77 – Flats built in Waterworks Lane.

The average level of noise measured from the site was 47dB which was an extremely low level of noise from an industrial site.

### **GOOD PRACTICE MEASURES**

The following good practice measures were being implemented by BPI:

- A revised procedure had been produced to help manage change especially with regard to external and internal noise;
- Tonal alarms have been phased out and replaced with white noise alarms;
- A strict door closing policy was in place; and audited weekly;

- Condition monitoring, a previous commitment, was in place;
- Machines were now continually monitored;
- Proactive servicing was now in place which helped address low frequency noise.

### **FUTURE WORKS**

The following works were planned:

- A further exhaust will be attenuated on the right hand side of the building;
- External pumps were being upgraded. Two new pumps were being fitted with the others being upgraded;
- Pumps would be enclosed;
- Anti-vibration mounts are being looked into to help reduce vibrational noise.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

- Concern was expressed that some areas of the main building were not cladded;
- It was acknowledged that BPI was a source of low frequency noise but it was not the only one in the area;
- The majority of the issues identified had now been addressed but low frequency noise was still a potential issue, although not a statutory nuisance where officers had been able to measure;
- Once the further exhaust is attenuated on the right hand side of the building, HC was of the view that BPI had taken the best practical means to address the issues that had been identified in Waterworks Lane;
- Factory and management systems had been improved;
- Residents were still experiencing low frequency noise issues;
- Herefordshire Council had not identified a Statutory Nuisance issue but were there to advise and monitor;
- Planning would be looking for environmental gains in the future, should future applications come forward;
- There was no further measurement phase currently available;
- BPI had given a commitment to improve where it could, with an undertaking that all new plant & machinery would be reviewed prior to procurement to ensure that the noise rating levels were considered and all reasonable steps were taken to attenuate noise, including low frequency.

It was suggested that an annual update meeting be organised and BPI was in agreement. BPI was committed to improve its site and it was agreed to arrange a meeting in June 2019, although it might be more informative to hold this after the August shutdown period – TBC, but September may prove to be a more meaningful date.

BPI also offered to undertake additional measurements at residents' homes if access was provided. It had previously been denied and it was agreed that the residents in question would liaise directly with BPI.

There being no other business everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed at 12.12pm.