

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the meeting held between Leominster Town Council, Herefordshire Council and BPI on Friday 9th June 2017 at 10.00am at the BPI Factory, Leominster.

PRESENT:

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

RPS Acoustics: Mr Torjussen

BPI –Leominster: Mr Neil Shaw (Operational 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), Elisabeth Laughland (Principal Environmental Health Officer) and Charles Yarnold (Environmental Health Service Manager).

Local Residents: Mr Ferrari, Mrs Downey and Mr Bloxsome.

Cllr Pendleton thanked BPI for organising the meeting and those in attendance for coming.

Mr Shaw outlining the action taken to date by BPI. The Company had commissioned and carried out a noise survey using RPS, recognised there was works required and wanted to be a good neighbour.

Mr Torjussen then gave a detailed presentation of the Noise Survey undertaken by RPS. The main items covered were as follows:

- Complaints included experiencing low frequency rumbles, vibrations and whines that interrupted sleep;
- An explanation of sound and vibrations;
- Confirmation of locations where the measurements were carried out over a 4-5 week period – before and during last year's shutdown;
- Locations where spot measurements were taken;
- Confirmation that when the factory shut down there was still a level of noise being generated from ancillary equipment which was demonstrated with a graph and supported by a graph of daily energy used in the factory during the period;
- An overview of the various measurements taken over the four week period and an explanation of types of noise recorded;
- Internal measurements taken at a resident's dwelling and conclusions reached;
- It was noted that windows act as a high frequency barrier when closed but did not reduce low frequency noises as they offered poor resistance;
- An overview of NAN45 measuring criteria for low frequency noise assessment;
- An indication that using NAN45 there appeared to be a breach during the day but not at night;

- An overview of the residents logs kept which concluded there was no correlation with one another. There was also an indication that the noise being experienced was probably not due to the extruders or winders;
- An overview of the BS4142 Assessment undertaken which assessed the degree of impact determined by the difference between rating level and the background sound level;
- The specific locations used to carry out the BS4142 assessment and confirmation that four different assessments were undertaken based on day (7am to 11pm) and night (11pm to 7am) operations both during factory operation and factory shutdown;
- Any measurement of 10dB or more was likely to be of a significant adverse impact. During factory operation a measurement over this limit had been recorded;
- Ground borne vibrations had been measured and had been discounted as emanating from the factory;
- Noise reduction work had been undertaken on replacing louvers, vents, ducts and external plant in 2016;
- An acknowledgement that machinery sited close together, when operating, created a beating effect that emanated low frequency noise. The challenge had been to identify sources of low frequency noise.

A mitigation plan had been drawn up based on sources of broadband sound including weak points on some older louvers, ducts, vents and noise breakout from the buildings.

BPI aimed to:

- Tackle the worst sources of noise emission identified first;
- Undertake the majority of works identified during the summer shutdown period in August 2017 but, if not completed, the rest would be undertaken over the Christmas shutdown period;
- Focus on the likely adverse impact issue identified.

BPI staff were now aware of noise issues and were more proactive in assessing the impact of new machinery when installed.

The following works would be carried out:

- Small noise penetrations points would be addressed externally;
- The compressor in the packing area would be upgraded;
- The Dry Air Cooler would be upgraded;
- The Vacuum Pump and Compressor Shed would be upgraded;
- The ventilation systems on the high level mezzanine would be upgraded;
- The old production area would be re-clad.

It was expected that the works outlined above would cost in the region of £500,000. Readings would be undertaken pre and post construction to assess the value of the works undertaken.

There was a question and answer session. Main concerns raised included:

- Concern that the relevant planning permissions had not be granted for the factory to operate as it was. The issue of noise was first identified in 2007 which meant that any retrospective planning applications and permissions required would need to be dealt with within the next six months.

Mr Willimont agreed to investigate the planning query raised and check that the relevant permissions and change of use classes (B1, B2 & B8) were in place. He welcomed the actions outlined to address the noise and would revisit the matter once the works had been undertaken.

There being no other business everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed at 12.30pm.