

Urgent item requested by the Executive Leader – Clayton Hall Landfill

Members will be aware of the ongoing issue with odours coming from the Clayton Hall landfill site. When we last met as a council in January it was expected that the problems would have been resolved in a matter of days so although we discussed what action was being taken at that time we did not take a formal view as a council. With local people seemingly having lost all confidence in the operator to rectify the problem we wanted to agree the next steps as to what pressure we put on the relevant authorities to get this situation resolved as soon as possible and demand:

1. A clear update from the Environment Agency as to what progress is being made with the cap being put over the affected area
2. Reassurances that this work (that the Environment Agency has set a deadline of 19 March for completion) will resolve the immediate problems with odour from the site to give residents confidence after the installation of gas wells failed to have any impact
3. A commitment that monitoring of the air will continue once the odour has stopped to ensure any further releases of gas from the site are captured
4. Clarification from the Environment Agency as to what the next course of action will be following the 19 March deadline should odour still be coming from the landfill
5. A letter to be written to all residents in the affected area in the next week explaining what has happened, what is being done to resolve the problem and where they can report any problems with the landfill

If the above cannot be provided in the coming days then we agree to use our powers to take this matter to the secretary of state expressing our disappointment at the failure of the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council to deal effectively with this situation in a timely manner using existing enforcement powers and ask him to step in and take control of this issue by undertaking further enforcement action and ultimately closure of the site.

Once the situation has been resolved we demand:

- A multi-agency investigation into this issue to find out what has gone wrong in this case and what can be done to prevent this happening again

If closure of the site hasn't happened at that point:

- That Lancashire County Council uses its planning powers to limit and reduce the size, scale and scope of the landfill
- That the Environment Agency/Secretary of State close the site ordering the landfill is covered, capped and closed