

## ARLA AYLESBURY LIAISON GROUP MEETING

### EIGHTH MEETING

6.30pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013

#### ATTENDEES

- Mr Richard Maskell – The Turpin Charity
- Cllr Nigel Hayward – Buckland Parish Council
- Mr Richard Peel - Acrid
- Cllr Keith Wilkinson – Weston Turville Parish Council
- Cllr Barry Bachelor – Tring Town Council
- Mrs Meryl Nodes – Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting
- Cllr John Watson – Aston Clinton Parish Council
- Mr Alan Sherwell – Local resident
- Mrs Sue Gillingham – Local resident
- Mr Evett – College Farm
- Mr Tim Evans – Arla
- Mr Jakob Nielsen – Arla
- Mr Chris Bradley - Arla
- Miss Victoria Walker – Beattie Communications

#### Apologies

- Mr Tom Ross
- Cllr Carole Paternoster
- Cllr Clive Carlile
- Cllr Steven Mitchell

#### 1. Update on progress

- 1.1 In terms of the landscaping, the bunds have been established and the top soil is now in place. There will be further tree planting in the coming months, once the next planting season begins. As some of the soil remains very wet there will be further planting in the spring season as well.
- 1.2 The perimeter fencing is almost in place, the gaps are there to allow access for the planting/bunding machinery and once this work is complete the gaps will be closed.

Regarding the emergency access to Buckland Road, a net will be placed underneath this gate as well to prevent any rubbish leaving the site.

- 1.3 The route of the cycle path crossing has now been agreed and this work will be completed later this month.
- 1.4 **ACTION POINT** – VW to look into progress of the towpath activity.
- 1.5 The north side of the site is now being completed and levelled. There are no further plans for this area at the moment.
- 1.6 The access from College Road North into the site is still being finished and tidied.
- 1.7 Construction of the VMU to the north east corner of the site will commence within the next few weeks. This will be completed in the middle of next year.
- 1.8 The dairy construction itself is now complete; there are no further buildings or canopies to be erected. The site has been accident free which is something both Caddicks and Arla are very proud of.
- 1.9 The three gatehouses are now in operation and are manned 24/7 with Arla security staff.
- 1.10 Inside the dairy, the first milk went through the system last Friday. This means that all installation is now completed and tested. Arla is therefore on track to achieve the commercial 'go live' this autumn, according to plan.

## **2. RECRUITMENT**

- 2.1 CB explained that 168 members of the new team have now been recruited. Of these, 32 of the technical roles and senior dairy team have relocated into Aylesbury and the rest are local recruits. Just over 90 of those recruited are from local postcodes.
- 2.2 Chris Bradley explained that the site will go live in October but will not be at full capacity. There will be 500 employees based on the site of which 100 will be drivers. The drivers will start and finish their working day at the dairy so they will need to be reasonably local. Some of the distribution roles will be filled by local distribution companies. In total there have been 4,500 applications to date and we are getting a very good calibre of employees from the area.
- 2.3 Before we go live, Arla will have delivered 75,000 man hours of technical training to the new team. This doesn't include the driver training as this is linked to licensing. We are using local solutions as well as on site solutions to deliver this.
- 2.4 It was agreed that further profiling of the flows of vehicles to and from the site would be prepared for the next meeting. **ACTION POINT** – CB
- 2.5 It was highlighted that within Buckland there have been a lot of concerns regarding the lighting on the A41. Arla had previously stated that they didn't want lighting on the A41 and when this road was built it was highlighted there shouldn't be lighting on it. It was queried

that if Arla doesn't feel there is a need for this it would help Buckland to try and get these switched off. TE agreed that Arla had not requested these lights.

- 2.6 It was queried if the Arla illuminated signs had been erected and TE explained they haven't been erected yet. A member highlighted that the lighting on site is far better than residents thought it would be.
- 2.7 Mrs Gillingham queried if the towers would be flood lit. TE agreed to clarify **ACTION POINT - TE**
- 2.8 Mr Carter queried if Arla is now connected to the grid as the lighting seemed much brighter  
TE explained that there were temporary lights during construction which have now been removed. The poles on site have always been supplied by the grid. It was agreed that we would look at whether these have been getting brighter. There could be an alignment issue and it was agreed Arla would look at this **ACTION POINT - JN**
- 2.9 It was highlighted that Buckinghamshire County Council has just resurfaced the A41 past the Arla entrance and as they haven't put the correct core down it has increased noise locally. They will therefore be resurfacing again.
- 2.10 It was queried if there was an update regarding the other developments proposed on the site. TE explained that the first of these would be the VMU which will be finished next year. As a business, Arla has been concentrating on the dairy but it is hoped that there will be fruitful discussions next year with suppliers in order to progress other inward investment opportunities on the site.
- 2.11 It was queried who owns the ditch which runs alongside the canal? There are now fish in it so there must be a leak in it large enough for fish to get through it. SG highlighted that the canal towpath in the area is hollow and there has been trouble here for many years.
- 2.12 AS stressed the importance of the provision of the vehicle movement profiling as it is likely that Arla will be blamed for any issue and where it is clearly not Arla's fault, liaison group members will be able to clarify this. It was also queried if it is possible to provide details regarding employee movements to and from work, as well as Arla vehicles.  
It was agreed that this would be provided and TE highlighted that the majority of the vehicles will be Arla branded. **ACTION POINT**  
CB highlighted that the shift patterns are designed to avoid peak periods as well.
- 2.13 Mrs Gillingham highlighted that some of the trees have died and JN clarified these will be replaced
- 2.14 It was highlighted that one of the chimneys was puffing out black smoke, then the next day this was white, was this due to testing? JN explained that we are testing at the moment. We are adjusting and commissioning things in order to ensure the energy centre is fully functional.

### 3. Road Improvements

- 3.1 JN explained that the Oakfield junction improvements were now complete.

Mrs Gillingham queried that at Adams Garage if you slow at the traffic lights but if the second set changes it is causing issues as people have to brake quickly. It is very difficult to get out of Adam's Garage onto Tring Road as you are pulling out between two sets of lights.

**ACTION POINT – VW agreed to pick this up with BCC**

Other attendees highlighted that the improvements have worked very well in terms of traffic flows, going into Aylesbury particularly is very easy but it is hard to confirm until the Bedgrove Junction is complete as well.

- 3.2 The lit pedestrian crossing outside of Tescos is making a big difference as you don't have a continuous stream of kids crossing here; they are waiting for their green light instead.
- 3.3 AS highlighted that the residents trying to get out of Broughton Avenue turning left are worried that this will be a challenge as there is no box junction. VW explained that this had been highlighted to BCC and they want to assess how this works, particularly once the other junction is complete so it is an issue which can be reviewed again at later meetings.
- 3.4 Overall, attendees felt that the road improvements were definitely improving the situation now but will also want to see how this looks once the dairy is operational as well.
- 3.5 JN explained the process of work to Bedgrove Junction. It is now 50 per cent complete and it should finish before Christmas. There will be up to two weeks of night time working.

It was highlighted that there is some frustration at the amount of disruption now the schools are back. There is also some strange signage off from Wendover Road saying road closed but this is right at the other end so if accessing Ingram Road people were confused. This should be fed back to Bucks. **ACTION POINT**

### 4. Archaeology

- 4.1 VW explained that we were still awaiting the reports being signed off.
- 4.2 **ACTION POINT – VW to confirm the wording for the internment plaque with the archaeologist**

### 5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 Mr Evett queried why the landscaping to the side of College Farm still looks like a building site, with brick rubble and yet the Arla side of College Road North is all complete and finished. The final tarmacking is still to be complete and Arla still has to replace the hedge in this area. **ACTION POINT it was agreed that JN would look at this.**
- 5.2 There is also still a ramp on College Road North which needs to be resolved. **JN agreed to look into this. ACTION POINT**

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

- 6.1 This was agreed as 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 at 6.30pm on the Arla site. It was agreed that we would meet at 6.30pm at the Holiday Inn and a bus will take everyone to site. A site tour will be available for those who wish to undertake this following the meeting.