

EGGER LIAISON MEETING 31 JULY 2008

The Meeting was attended by five representatives from Sandhoe - Robert Macfarlane the chairman of the Parish Council, John Pennie parish councillor with special brief for Egger matters (in the chair); Bill Grigg the clerk to the PC; and Neil and Jean Fearon District and County Councillors.

Egger UK Ltd senior staff - Simon Dotlinger, Andrew Billings and Paul Turner

It was agreed that all members of the Committee would receive a draft form of the minutes. When agreed these would be circulated to all Parish Councillors. When this was completed the minutes would be uploaded on to the Parish Council website www.sandhoe.info. All parish residents who requested a copy of the minutes would be sent an e-mail containing the relevant information.

TREES

1 The committee chairman tabled the plan drawn by the agent for the Beaufront Castle Estate showing the possible tree and hedge planting for the scheme to screen the plant from the road in Oakwood. Said plan is attached to a letter from the Agent, Paul Dancer of Smiths Gore Corbridge dated 6 June 2008, as shown previously to the parish.

2 The meeting was informed of costings, as calculated by Philip Herdman, the tree contractor. Meeting told that the Beaufront Castle Estate also needed a 'sinking fund' as a one off payment to cover the present loss of amenity and all maintenance costs going forward. Said fund was £3000. Meeting advised that a small contingency should be built in and that VAT needed to be taken into account. After careful consideration Simon Dotlinger agreed that Egger would contribute up to £18,000 towards all this. The meeting thanked Herr Dotlinger warmly.

3 Meeting was advised that the Hexham Mart was the long term agricultural tenant of the field adjacent to the Oakwood road for most of its length and they too had agreed in principle to a hedge improvement scheme. They wanted to wait until the autumn 2008 to see where the real gaps show once the hawthorn is bare. The meeting also concluded that a second row of Holly, rather than any deciduous species of tree, would be the preferred planting on the mart land. The budget could cope with the small price difference there.

4 The likely way of setting things in train will be for Egger to make direct contact with Philip Herdman so that they can pay him direct. Egger will also enter into a direct payment relationship with the estate so as to effect the one off £3000 payment. In that way the money does not have to be held by the committee. John Pennie would set out the arrangement on Dickinson Dees letter head so as to have it properly recorded and to give a framework for the above arrangements.

OTHER MATTERS

5 The noise survey was completed on 10th June and Egger is in direct contact with Tynedale about it. The final report will be issued later in August and Egger will then

work out with Tynedale how to take action in relation to any issues that may be identified.

6 The recent environmental tests were all passed. Further testing is scheduled for September. Again, this is something where Tynedale play the lead role.

7 The old chimney was dismantled recently and the visuals have therefore improved somewhat - particularly the view from Hexham market place. The WESP will disappear imminently.

8 The order has been placed at in excess of €1m for the improved log handling plant, the main aim of which is to quieten the process. The process is designed to be much more efficient and Egger are still confident that operational benefits will follow - the main one being not having to work through the night. This would cut night time noise too, of course.

9 The planners at Tynedale have said that Egger must submit a detailed planning application for the new log handling plant. This will be done very soon. Egger has visited Tynedale to explain the technicalities to them - not all of which were readily understandable for the lay reader of the technical specification. That process will happen as fast as possible so that there is no slow down in the scheduled works programme. The aim is to install the new equipment over the winter.

10 Egger again confirmed that only hack chips are stored outside and no saw dust. Saw dust is inside.

11 Internal changes to the plant's road way layout will soon lead to the virtual eradication of lorries queuing to enter the plant on the road outside.

John Pennie

Chairman
on behalf of Sandhoe PC Egger Liaison Committee

6 August 2008