Community Liaison Group  
Minutes of the twenty-seventh meeting  
Held 19 February 2019 6.30pm  
At the Living Earth Organics Processing Plant, Metro Place, Bromley, CHRISTCHURCH

Present: Alex Jepsen (Chairperson), Daniel O’Carroll and Dennis Marriot (Living Earth), Emily McLaughlin and Steve Firth (Environment Canterbury), Derek Keenan (Estuary Association), Craig Downie (Eco Central), Leon Austin (Christchurch City Council), Keith MacKay (Chairman of Dogwatch Trust), Yani Johanson (Councillor)

In Attendance: Annika Seddon (Minute Secretary)

1. Introductions and welcome

The Chair opened and welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Alexandra Davids and Sally Buck (Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Board), Carol Anderson (Resident), Gillian Jenkins (Environment Canterbury), Ross Trotter (Christchurch City Council), and Sara Templeton (Councillor)

3. Last meeting minutes

The group accepted the previous meeting minutes as a true and accurate record.

The Chair noted that the “Draft” watermark that appears on the meeting minutes will remain until they are approved at the following meeting.

The group discussed the action points resolved from 20th of November 2018 meeting:

- The Chair provided a larger site map to Keith MacKay, as requested
- Daniel O’Carroll and Dennis Marriot discussed shade cloth options with Ascot Canvas, and have a clear idea of what to purchase when replacements are needed
- Leon Austin gathered the information from the Council drainage team regarding the historic damage caused to the vegetation on Dogwatch property and will be forwarding this information to Keith MacKay. Further actions on this matter are outside the scope of this meeting
Actions still outstanding:

- Keith MacKay to arrange a site visit of Living Earth

- The Chair referred to meeting minutes from 2016 where it was agreed that the names and addresses of odour complainants should not be shared publicly, however the dates and times of the complaints can be included. ECan report will be edited and circulated to the group.

Leon Austin informed the group that there will be a presentation to the Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Board on Monday the 18th of March at 3pm detailing the research into other potential odour sources in the Bromley area.

4. Report from Living Earth and discussion

Daniel O’Carroll noted that dust measurements are still falling under consent levels and organic dust has decreased over this quarter compared to last year. Historically, January has been one of the worst months for the number of days of odour complaints and the total number of odour complaints. However, this year complaints were down by half and the number of days were down by a third.

Daniel O’Carroll has reiterated to the Living Earth site crew that if they feel that an activity has any risk of causing an odour and/or excessive dust then the activity should not be undertaken.

Keith MacKay expressed concern about the amount of dust at Dogwatch as a matter of health and safety for his staff, particularly for asthmatics.

The group discussed increased planting of taller trees around Living Earth (i.e. Lombardy Poplars) particularly along the upwind perimeter of the site in an effort to reduce dust dispersal.

Daniel O’Carroll noted that while there are no exposure limits on organic aerosols specified in New Zealand at present, Living Earth abide by UK standard limits.

Yani Johanson commented that dust at the Dogwatch site seems to be a recurring issue and he shares the concern that has been raised by Keith MacKay.

Daniel O’Carroll explained the positioning of the control dust monitors and how the dust figures are calculated.

**Action** – Daniel O’Carroll to label the sites that are part of the consent more clearly in future dust reports.

5. Report from Environment Canterbury and discussion

Emily McLaughlin noted that odour complaints are down from last year. She feels that ECan has responded pretty well over the holiday period. In general, more calls were received from different areas and businesses within the Bromley area. The officer stationed in the area was able to respond
very quickly to complaints on some occasions. Officers have also been doing some proactive 10 minute assessments in the area.

The group discussed the odours coming from the estuary, surrounding waterways and chemical spraying along the river.

The sea lettuce growing in the estuary gives off a sulphurous odour, particularly at low tide, and there have been numerous complaints about this.

Yani Johanson noted that a chemical had been sprayed by ECan along the river which resulted in an odour.

**Action** – Steve Firth to advise what odorous chemical ECan has sprayed along the river.

Leon Austin had also received complaints about an odour coming from a river weed growing in surrounding waterways.

Daniel O’Carroll informed the group that Living Earth is no longer receiving notification from ECan when odour complaints come in, and are not warned that an odour assessment is taking place. For Living Earth, it is business as usual, but they continue to do proactive monitoring.

Yani Johanson mentioned that he had received complaints about odours coming from Ecodrop. Craig Downie advised that they have not been doing anything differently. He noted that the product they receive is moved out during the day and nothing is stored onsite. He added that Dyers Road has recently been widened and many trees have been removed, and wondered if this coincided with odour complaints.

Yani Johanson asked Emily McLaughlin to explain the assessment term “Non-compliant, no action required” from the ECan report. Emily McLaughlin explained that this term means that the officer had detected an odour, found the source, but did not consider it to be intensely unpleasant in that instant. It is still considered “non-compliant” because if the odour were to continue and become “chronic” then it would become unpleasant enough to warrant action.

Keith MacKay noted that when he started Dogwatch in 1992 he felt the odour in the area was minimal and that it only increased when Living Earth moved into the area.

6. **Other business relevant to meeting purpose**

The group discussed the feeling of hopelessness expressed by some residents with regard to the lack of action resulting from calling ECan to complain about an odour.

Steve Firth advised that ECan have been looking into using an app to allow people to easily lodge that they detect odours to support any calls received. This will allow ECan to potentially see a wider odour issue along with support of the call.

**Action** - Leon Austin to talk to Gillian Jenkins about disseminating information to the local community about the process that is underway to find other potential sources of odour in the Bromley area.

Daniel O’Carroll advised that Living Earth will be having an Open Day on the 16th of March.
Yani Johanson advised that the Bromley Community Fair will be held on the 23rd of March.

The group discussed attendance by the community at future meetings. The consent holders decided that they would not reconsider the attendance of an individual who is currently barred from attending the meeting at this stage. The meeting is advertised as a public meeting and the barred individual is supplied with agendas, minutes and has also been encouraged to send a representative if desired.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st May at 6.30pm at Metro Place

*The meeting concluded at 7.33*