

Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes

6:30pm to 8pm, Tuesday 20th August 2024

Waitai-Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Boardroom

180 Smith Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8062

Executive summary of minutes

Reporting back on previous meetings actions

All actions addressed with the below action coming out.

Action 1: *Living Earth to provide update at November CLG on annual biofilter assessment.*

Environment Canterbury staff apologies and statement to be struck from previous minutes

Carl Pascoe (Chair) shared written apologies from Environment Canterbury (ECan) staff for the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting. ECan staff advised that they were instructed by management not to attend as it was considered a health and safety issue. The reason for this was a statement recorded in the previous meeting minutes which noted Geoffrey King (community) stated the Chief Executive of ECan “*should be put down*”.

A number of meeting participants didn't hear or recall Geoffrey King making this comment. Geoffrey refuted making the alleged statement. The group agreed that as Geoffrey contested the statement, and it wasn't heard by anyone present it should be struck from the previous minutes.

Carl Pascoe (chair) later asked Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) to convey to ECan staff that no one is under threat at the CLG meeting and reiterated that the meeting should be a respectful forum for discussion.

Action 2: *Greg Brynes (ECan elected member) to convey to ECan staff that no one is under threat the CLG meeting.*

Discussion around ECan's reporting on complaint responses

In response to ECan's report, Yani Johanson (Christchurch City Council (CCC) elected member) noted that it was disappointing that ECan have only provided the average callout response time to all complaints rather than the response time to each individual complaint. This information was useful when it was provided previously as they were able to cross reference it against other events that may have been taking place at this time. It would also show if there had been a breakdown in responding to after hours or weekend complaints.

The group agreed that they would like ECan to provide data in relation to the time, date and response time of each individual complaint. ECan to action this for the next meeting.

Action 3: *Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) requested ECan for the reporting of complaints in their CLG report provide the time, date and complaint itself.*

Discussion about the Ōtautahi Organics Processing Facility update and consents

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) explained the Hornby Organics Processing Facility's planned opening of December 2026 is on track and the consent application has been lodged. The company has a milestone of February 2025 for the consent to be granted.

Bruce King (community) asked how a construction tender can be progressed by Ecogas without the outcome of the consent application being known. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) clarified that companies can still progress with the tender for construction procurement without knowing the final refinements of a consent application.

Community in agreement about a reduction odour from the Organics Processing Plant

Geoffrey King (community) tabled his odour report and noted there had been less days of strong odour. Carl Pascoe (Chair) asked other members of the community what their experience of the odour has been since the last meeting. Jackie Simmons (CCC elected member), Geoffrey King (community), Carol Anderson (community) and Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) agreed there have been a reduction in the frequency and strength of odour occurrences.

Geoffrey King (community) will send his odour report data to David McArdle (CCC staff) each month. Geoffrey will include the dates and odour rating so the CCC can correlate these against the other data sets like the Smelt-It app, the Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) report and the daily operations of the Organics Processing Plant (OPP).

Living Earth's OPP update, boundary plantings and future use of site

Jaco Kleinhans (Living Earth (LE)) advised that there were no dust complaints in the period and monitoring continued to trend below the limit.

Bruce King (community) asked about the boundary planting and whether LE were maintaining this at the OPP as per the original consent plan. Jaco Kleinhans clarified that they are replacing planting and that CCC's Heritage team now also use the site so LE are no longer responsible for all the plantings. Carl Pascoe (Chair) advised that the community would like clarification on whether the original planting plans are being maintained and the plans for the future use of the site.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) added that the community would like assurances from the CCC that they are going to proactively engage with the Bromley community so that similar mistakes aren't made. Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) advised that they are in the process of planning this and will provide and update at the next meeting.

Action 4: CCC staff to update November CLG on community engagement plans for future use of Bromley OPP site.

Tania Seward (community) statement

Tania Seward (community) contacted the Chair prior to the meeting and asked to read a statement. Tania owns a property in Bromley and reads the minutes of the CLG meetings. She had previously voiced concerns about the inappropriate behaviour of participants at the meetings via correspondence to the Chair, Yani Johanson and local media. As she felt her concerns were not adequately addressed then, she had no other choice but to attend the meeting and read her statement so that this behaviour could be called out.

Verbatim Minutes

Chair – Carl Pascoe

CCC staff – Lynette Ellis, Alec McNeil, Rory Crawford, Tayla Smith

CCC elected members – Yani Johanson, Jackie Simmons, Paul McMahon

LE – Jaco Kleinhans

ECan elected members – Greg Byrnes

Community – Bruce King, Carol Anderson, Geoffrey King, Nick Plimmer, Tania Haglund, Tania Seward

Minutes – Beth Walsh

Apologies – David McArdle (CCC staff), ECan staff

1. Welcome and Introduction

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Opened the meeting. Advised that he received a written apology from ECan staff that they won't be attending this meeting because of the statement recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting by Geoffrey King (community) that the CE of ECan "*should be put down*". They consider this a health and safety issue for their staff. Added that ECan are not required to be here by the consent conditions.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised that he would like to point out that although he is not ECan staff, he is in attendance.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that while he appreciates this, Greg is not ECan staff. Added that we should keep our views to ourselves about the reason for ECan's non-attendance.

Geoffrey King (community) – Commented a discussion should happen as in The Commissioner advised in 2011 that the purpose of the CLG meetings was for ECan and CCC staff to discuss the problems the community have been having for 15 years. Added that he is sick of the crap that comes from ECan and CCC.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised there is no need to shout as he is simply conveying the correspondence ECan have provided to the meeting.

Bruce King (community) – Commented it should be noted in the minutes that the absence of ECan reflects their effectiveness for the last 15 years.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised he didn't recall hearing the comment in question at the previous meeting but respects that ECan staff have a process and a duty of care to staff. Pointed out that despite this, he is present and has the ECan report that would have been tabled anyway.

2. Confirm previous meeting's minutes

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Asked if any edits to the previous minutes were required.

Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) – Pointed out that there is a statement from the previous minutes that is a matter of contention.

Q. Bruce King (community) – What page of the minutes?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Page 14, paragraph 2.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Noted it states the comment was made by Geoffrey King (community).

Geoffrey King (community) – Advised he said the CE of ECan was useless but not that she should be put down.

Bruce King (community) – Added he didn't recall the comment and he was sitting next to Geoffrey King.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Asked the group to settle down. Asked Geoffrey King (community) if he would like it to be withdrawn from the minutes.

Geoffrey King (community) – Clarified he has regularly said she is useless but never that she needs to be put down.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Summarised that it is Geoffrey King's view that he never said the comment and other people in the meeting either did not recall or hear it and so the sentence should be struck from the record. Added that a person's competency in a role is an acceptable thing to comment on but had he heard such a statement he would have said it wasn't acceptable.

Asked the group if they happy with that amendment to the minutes.

Community - Agreed.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Added that it's important that people aren't threatened in this meeting. There have been instances of robust discussion and finger pointing previously but the CLG tries to avoid this as it's not acceptable.

Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) – Added that disagreements should be respectful, and any arguments should have the goal of trying to solve a problem. CCC have spent a long time not solving problems so now we should try.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Supported this view and thinks the group is making progress in this respect.

Geoffrey King (community) – Advised that last February Bruce King (community) asked ECan a question which they had not answered. Since then, they have sent a different staff member to each meeting. Expressed that ECan has a chairperson that has breached the law. ECan are not a democracy, they sit there like Statler and Waldorf, one goes to sleep at the meetings, it's shocking.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Reminded the group that Sophie Harland (ECan staff) who attended the last meeting is ECan's single contact but was on maternity leave recently. Added she would have been in attendance tonight but was instructed by her team leader not to attend. She has provided everything needed by the meeting.

Geoffrey King (Community) – Added there was a gentleman from ECan that was here in February who was asked a question by Bruce King and he hasn't been at the meeting since.

Bruce King (community) – Questioned the rationale for the CCC employing a security guard to be present tonight if that wasn't enough to curtail the threat of violence.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Expressed that in his time as Chair there hasn't been any physical threats to anyone.

Bruce King (community) – Commented that his wife was previously threatened by a staff member that used to work at the CCC. They stood over her at the meeting and gave her a hard time. As a result, she no longer attends these meetings.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that he's sorry this happened and it's not acceptable.

Bruce King (community) – Added that it was lucky that he didn't hear that staff member threatening his wife or there would have been violence that day.

Geoffrey King (community) – Commented that they have been abused and bullied as they never get an answer from the CCC or ECan.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Acknowledged Geoffrey's frustrations and that he has expressed them at every CLG meeting for the last number of years. There was however progress made at the last meeting.

Geoffrey King (community) – Responded that was rubbish and they're just shifting the plant to Hornby.

Q. Tania Seward (community) – Asked if the group could return to the agenda.

A. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Responded that he is trying to get the meeting back to the agenda.

Q. Bruce King (community) – If we can't discuss more general topics here then when will we ever get to discuss them?

A. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Agreed with Bruce's sentiment but the group has agreed its terms of reference. It will endeavour to stick to meeting rules. Understood that residents have had a particular frustration with ECan and the inaction of the CCC for many years. However, there has been an acknowledgement that things have improved recently.

Bruce King (community) – Agreed that currently the CCC are the best they're ever been to talk to.

Carol Anderson (community) – Commented it's notable there are at least two couples that have stopped coming to these meetings, presumably because they are fed up. This is sad as they had some valid points.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Summarised that that the minutes have been amended by the striking of the statement in contention and the previous minutes have been approved.

3. Report back on actions from previous meeting

(May) Action 1: Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) will investigate how the refuse station gate fees compare with the rest of the country and if there is any ability for this being reduced.

Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Advised he is interested in organising non-organics clean-ups in the community. CCC are progressing a non-organics clean up trial with the University of Canterbury. The key concern is making it easier for people to clean up material that's been left on the roadside that's hard to dump. The concern about the gate fees was that it was a barrier for people getting rid of rubbish.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Commented that this topic has started to stray into the CLG's discussions which is outside of its terms of reference. There is now time allotted at the end of the agenda for further discussion.

(May) Action 2: Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) will provide information to the Community Board around the refuse station gate fees and requirements.

Actioned with this agenda.

(May) Action 3: Carl Pascoe (Chair) will build time into future agendas so a discussion can be held in the last five minutes, for any other issues that individuals would like to discuss with the community board.

Actioned on this agenda.

(May) Action 4: Alec McNeil and David McArdle (CCC staff) to find a solution to arrange an audit for the biofilter.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised that the annual process for the biofilter is to have it assessed by Tonkin & Taylor and a report generated. with the assessment considers parameters such as the PH, back pressure, etc. If these parameters change it's a sign that the biofilter media (bark) may need to be changed. The assessment is currently ongoing and so they will be able to give an update on that at the next meeting.

Action 1: Living Earth to provide update at November CLG on annual biofilter assessment.

(May) Action 5: David McArdle (CCC staff) to update the CCC OPP webpage with regards to the interim solution and the progress that has been made. Focusing on consistency with the language used.

Completed 22nd May 2024 <https://ccc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/organicsplant>

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Noted the website has been updated.

(May) Action 6: Victoria Henry (LE) as part of LE's CLG report going forward to include a summary of the biofilter performance including data on the variables measured.

Actioned with LE's CLG report for this meeting.

(May) Action 7: Sophie Harland (ECAN staff) will update the group at the next CLG of changes that are being made to the Smelt-It App to more accurately capture the odour profiles.

Actioned with ECAN's CLG report for this meeting.

(May) Action 8: Sophie Harland (ECAN staff) will look into the response data to help the group understand time from the first call to the first assistance and a breakdown of afterhours complaints being investigated.

Actioned with ECAN's CLG report for this meeting.

Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Commented it was disappointing ECan have still only provided the average response times in this update. It's useful to know if a call takes 20 minutes or an hour for someone to attend. This information was previously provided. There have also been issues with ECan not attending after hours, at the weekend and on public holidays. Added that ECan's reporting was inadequate.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Clarified that Yani is seeking information about the response time to each individual complaint.

Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Agreed as previously when they were given this information, they were able to cross reference it against other works that may have been taking place, for example in the road corridor which may have actually been the source of the odour in that instance.

It's also particularly important to the community to have this information as ECan took so long to respond to the complaints for so many years.

Bruce King (community) – Added that when ECan used to receive complaints they would tell LE so the issue could be rectified before they attended the complaint. In addition, if they received a number of complaints in 20 minutes they would class this as one complaint and so there has been some fiddling of statistics.

Commented he's been to all CLG meetings except for three. ECan have been pulling the wool over the community's eyes.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added they used to turn off the fans.

Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Summarised they would like more transparency around the complaints and the response times.

Q. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Would you like this information by event?

A. Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Responded that time, date and the complaint are necessary. Not the event because one event could have 20 complaints.

A. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Asks if everyone is clear and in agreement with this request.

A. Community – Agreed.

Action 1: *Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) requested for the reporting of complaints in their CLG report, ECan provide the time, date and complaint itself.*

Q. Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) – Asked if the information would be discoverable from ECan under an official information (OI) [request].

Bruce King (community) – Advised he was still trying to get one from ECan from three years ago.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added it's called ECan't.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised he didn't want to sit here and listen to that.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that that was enough.

Tania Seward (community) – Suggested that if Bruce King hadn't received a response to his OIA request, he should check he's using the local government OIA request system. Added he should then contact the ombudsman if he hasn't received a response.

Bruce King (community) – Commented he has done all that.

Q. Tania Seward (community) – What was the response?

A. Bruce King (community) – The CCC had to have a major inquiry.

(May) Action 9: David McArdle (CCC staff) to look into ECan Consent Monitoring Report history, specifically regarding Condition 10 of CRC080301.1.

ECan reviewed all previous compliance monitoring reports issued for Living Earth and confirmed on Thursday 20th June no previous reports of non-compliance for Condition 10 (below) of CRC080301.1 (Discharge to Air).

10. The process building shall: a. House all receiving, shredding and blending of organic waste that is to be composted in the tunnel composting process; and b. Be operated under a negative pressure system with all discharges to air being treated via a biofilter.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised there has been no non-compliance against Condition 10 from ECan.

(May) Action 10: David McArdle (CCC staff) to supply the operating schedule of the OPP.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Jaco will talk to this when he gives his report regarding the truck movements on site and what the operation currently looks like.

(May) Action 11: David McArdle (CCC staff) to confirm final amounts budgeted in the LTP for the additional costs for the Bromley/Hornby sites changeover period.

We are continuing to manage this complex transition from both an operational and financial perspective to deliver an improved organics processing solution for Christchurch and the wider Canterbury region.

We are currently assuming the new Organics Processing Facility (OPF) in Hornby will be fully commissioned by December 2026. We are aiming to ensure there is a smooth transition between the existing Organics Processing Plant in Bromley and the new OPF over a six-month commissioning phase.

Our current financial modelling suggest that this transition will peak at approximately \$2 million in 2026/27, and these costs will then decline in 2027/28 due to the transition to the new OPF. These transitional costs will not impact on rates as they are offset by other non-rateable funding sources.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised there is an allocation in the CCC’s budget to cover this period. For at least the first 6 months there’ll be two operations running. Bromley will be continuing and the Hornby site will be coming up to full speed.

Q. Bruce King (community) – Asked if it’s on track to be commissioned by December 2026.

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Yes. The consent has been submitted. The company has a milestone of February 2025 for the consent to be granted.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – What does the consent say about odour at Hornby?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – What consent?

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – I thought you said the consent had been granted.

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – No, the consent applications have been lodged.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – So is there any point in going ahead with it unless the consent is given?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – In the project plan for the December 2026 opening date, we have an allowance of February 2025 for the consent to be granted.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – How are you going to control the odour?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Responded it has been set out by the company in their application which is on ECan’s website. It states all operational activities are in fully enclosed buildings which have an air exchange system. The main difference is that the Bromley operation had large operational element done outside with compost maturing. In this operation they won’t be making compost.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – Is there odour?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Yes, but it’s all within an enclosed building.

Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – Suggested to Geoffrey he should read the consent on the website.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added the woman who worked for Ecogas said there was odour.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised The Hornby OPF and its consent are not part of this group's scope.

Geoffrey King (community) – Commented the subject was brought up. The experts went on their free holiday to Reporoa and said there was no odour. However, Councillor Mark Peters stated there was odour near the building but not on the boundaries.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised Geoffrey that that was enough.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added you can go 100 metres north or east of this plant and you don't smell anything but here you can.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised the group are not discussing the Hornby OPF, the focus of this meeting is the Bromley plant closure. Added the consent application has been lodged.

Geoffrey King (community) – Commented that they're moving the problems from Bromley to Hornby.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that Geoffrey's concerns about another community are not the business of this meeting. If he doesn't hold to that I will shut down the meeting. Added there are people present who want to see that the promise about the plant closure is realised.

Since Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) has come on board, the CCC have honoured their promises and have mitigated any adverse impacts in the transition period. Added he appreciates that prior to that it was difficult to get any traction with the CCC but there has been a change since then.

4. Affected resident's felt experience reports and questions arising (10 minutes)

Geoffrey King (community) – Referenced his odour report for the OPP for the last 3 months.

May: 11/31 days had odour. Of these the strength was 2 days at 5/6, 1 day at 4/6 and 8 days at 3/6.

June: 12/30 days had odour. Of these the strength was 2 days at 5/6, 3 at 4/6 and 7 at 3/6.

July: 13/31 days had odour. Of these the strength was 1 day at 5/6, 3 at 4/6, 9 at 3/6.

Q. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – What is your summary of this, is it better than it was?

A. Jackie Simmons (CCC elected member) – Responded that it's definitely better.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Commented Michael Williams (community) made a point at the last meeting that it would be useful to correlate Geoffrey's data, the Smelt-It app data and data from the operation of the plant. Asked Geoffrey to send this data to the CCC.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Suggested that Geoffrey sends it monthly to David McArdle (CCC staff) and include the dates. It can then be compared to the Smelt it app and the PDP report.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added that there's been a lot of northwesterners recently.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that the purpose of correlating the data is to check factors like this. It would be useful if the felt experience of residents is as valuable as any other data sets.

Geoffrey King (community) – Advised that the reason he started collecting this data in 2015 or 2016 was because he was tired of the lies and deceit of those telling him there was no odour.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Confirmed that they're now at a point where Geoffrey's data is regarded as valid.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added he doesn't bother ringing in complaints anymore as it's useless. The afterhours don't know what you're talking about and ECan don't bother going out.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Opened the floor for all the residents to share their experience of the odour over the last three months.

Bruce King (community) – Noticed you can smell it close to the plant more regularly. You can also smell the sewage plant more frequently which can be confusing for people reporting odours. It's not as bad as it was. Added that he has also given up ringing to report it as the staff don't know what he's talking about. Smelt-It doesn't always work so has also given up using that.

Carol Anderson (community) – Comments she doesn't smell it as much before. There have been a few days of odour. Agreed with Bruce King that if you drive down certain roads the odour is quite strong.

Tania Seward (community) – Advised she doesn't live locally so can't comment.

Paul McMahan (CCC elected member) – Added as someone who frequents Bromley often, he hasn't smelt any odour in the last month. In the last three months he has smelt it twice and hasn't smelt OPP recently.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Summarised that there's been an improvement but there's still some odour.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – ECan monitor the odour but may say it doesn't meet the threshold for an offensive odour. Who are they to say if it's offensive?

A. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – I can't answer that, and I don't think there's anyone here who can.

Geoffrey King (community) – Added that's ECan's excuse to not do anything. They set the tune for the CCC to abide by. They have a clause which says if the offense is proven there can be a fine of up to \$600,000 and \$10,000 each day thereafter. It's rubbish.

5. CCC report, including Ōtautahi Organics Processing Solution update, and questions arising (10 minutes).

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – As was discussed, the Hornby application is on track. Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) and Jackie Simmons (CCC elected member) visited the Bromley OPP site a month ago to see the operation. At this stage the operation at the Bromley OPP plant is quite consistent.

Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) – Commented it was great to see that there's not much activity happening on the site. There is only one area of the building where you can smell the odour.

Jackie Simmons (CCC elected member) – Agreed as she had a similar experience onsite to Paul.

Q. Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Asked for clarity as the CCC website states they are still waiting for payment in terms of processing the consent.

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised it was a standard message but it was addressed yesterday. That was an internal CCC issue, they have paid.

Q. Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Does ECan have 20 working days to decide about whether to notify?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Yes, they could extend this period and ask for more information if they wanted to.

Q. Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – I'm trying to get the timeframes for the consent process through CCC so people can clearly see how it's progressing as it's confusing on the website.

A. Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – The best and most up to date information is on the website.

Q. Bruce King (community) – It says in the timetable that the construction tender goes out from September to December but they are not expecting to have permission to build it until February. How can they put out a construction tender without the constraints of the construction?

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – The company can still progress with the tender for procurement without knowing the final refinements in response to the consent application. Explained that some of the required equipment has a long lead in time.

A. Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – It's not CCC putting out that tender it's Ecogas.

Q. Bruce King (community) – I know but how can they put it out without knowing what the constraints are going to be?

A. Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – You can put out conditional tenders and the tenderers know that.

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – They get a lot of the work done and they can confirm the finer detail once they know what the consent is.

6. Living Earth answer any questions arising from their CLG report (10 minutes)

Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – Advised the reporting is still trending below the limit of 4g/m²/30 days. The dust monitors are maintained onsite, there are two controls and we just relocated a dust monitor inside.

Regarding the onsite operation currently, all the kerbside organics are processed in the tunnels for around 14 days. This material is loaded into trucks and brought to Kate Valley Landfill.

After the tunnel compost process, 60% of the original volume remains. We no longer reuse the tailings as was done in the past. This reduces the amount of material that's being processed in the plant which has been a big change. We anticipate that the movements in the next peak period will be drastically reduced compared to the last peak period.

Currently there are 7 trucks a day, three days a week, this may go to four days a week as the season turns. We have built up a good relationship with a number of trucking companies over the last few months.

There was a breakdown of an electronic biofilter fan controller on the 28th July and it was immediately replaced as the supplier had one in stock.

Q. Carol Anderson (community) – You mentioned the tailings aren't being used now, what happens?

A. Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – It all goes to Kate Valley now.

Q. Carol Anderson (community) – The only time I smell odour is on Monday when the bins are collected.

Q. Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – Are you smelling the bins themselves?

A. Carol Anderson (community) – No, it's after they have been collected.

A. Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – The first trucks arrive back at the plant around midday. This happens every day, not just on a Monday. You could be smelling the trucks.

Q. Bruce King (community) – With regards to the tree planting on the boundary of the OPP – are you planting as per the original plan that was submitted to ECan?

A. Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – We are replacing them.

Bruce King (community) – Advised there are plenty of gaps as the trees that have been missing for years haven't been replaced. Would like to see it returned to the original plan as there's going to be machinery stored onsite soon that we will omit grass related odours. The trees would mitigate this.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Clarified that to his knowledge Parks aren't going to be using the site.

Q. Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Asked Bruce if he would like to know the future plans for the site.

A. Bruce King (community) – No, just wanted clarity on if whether the trees that had died years ago had been replaced to the original planting plan as there is still many gaps present.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Suggested that the CCC should provide some clarity on the future use of the site.

Tania Seward (community) – Suggested that if the many of the plantings associated with the original planting plan had died, perhaps this plan should be reviewed.

Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – Advised he was aware of a plan a few years ago to do more planting at a later phase. The plan was created for a scenario where there would be material stored outside on the site which is no longer the case. A section of the site has also now been handed over to CCC for alternative use.

Q. Paul McMahon (CCC elected member) – Does Heritage use the site for storage?

A. Jaco Kleinhans (LE) – Yes, and so many trees surrounding the site now have nothing to do with the OPP.

Bruce King (community) – Added he isn't aware of any new consent for that planting so the site should be maintained to the original consent.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Summarised that the community want some assurances that the future use of the Bromley OPP site will be better than the current one.

Carol Anderson (community) – Agreed they would like some clarity.

Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised they will give an update at the next meeting what this process of community engagement will look like.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Summarised that the CCC has learned from this experience to engage early with the community. Suggests that CCC should implement this principle onto the next stage of development on the Bromley OPP site.

Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – Confirmed that Alec McNeil is in the process of that now and it will be confirmed as will be part of the next update.

Action 4: *CCC staff to update November CLG on community engagement plans for future use of Bromley OPP site.*

Bruce King (community) – Reiterated that at present there's a consent about the plantings at the OPP that's not being complied with. The plantings would help mitigate any potential odours.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that Bruce has made his point. We will request this as well as the update from CCC about their community engagement plans for the next stages on the Bromley OPP.

7. ECan answer questions arising from their CLG report (10 minutes)

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised that he had a valuable meeting with Craig Pauling the Deputy Chair of ECan, Bruce King and Geoffrey King. Craig is the ECan Councillor for Hornby so is dealing with similar issues around quarrying, etc.

Commented that he had nothing to add to the report but has taken extensive notes during the meeting for anything related to ECan.

Added when he was on site during the summer the material that was being spread was too green and there was no way anything was going to grow on that [referring to the compost from the Bromley OPP applied to the Wastewater Treatment Paddocks between May 2021 and June 2023]. Agreed that a review of the planting plan is a good idea.

If anyone has any questions for ECan, added he will follow up with staff before the next meeting.

Bruce King (community) – Commented about the compost, advised he had never seen compost on top of sand form lakes when it's wet. The water should be able to go straight through the compost.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised he had experience he did a horticultural apprenticeship with CCC. Agreed the compost was too green and it had too much animal protein which made the odour horrendous when the weather was warm. It was a stupid idea [again referring to the compost from the Bromley OPP applied to the Wastewater Treatment Paddocks between May 2021 and June 2023].

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Asked Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) to convey to the ECan staff that no one is under threat at this meeting.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised that he spoke to Sophie Harland (ECan staff) prior to the meeting. He didn't want to speak on her behalf but felt confident she didn't feel threatened and did not recall hearing the alleged comment. If there is a situation of a perceived threat, she can only do what she is told by the people she reports to. From an operational viewpoint, sometimes it appears to be overkill but you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. There is some comfort for everyone in having a security guard present.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Commented that it's his opinion the behaviour at tonight's meeting has been much better.

8. Any further questions about resource consent compliant for the Organics Processing Plant (10 minutes)

Yani Johanson (CCC elected member) – Noted that ECan have extended their consenting application time frame from 20 to 40 working days for the Hornby OPF. We've been told the notification will be on the 10th of September. Would like some assurance and confirmation that this is being prioritised and they are working to the 10th of September timeframe. When looking at the timeframes, the one thing that's missing is when the resort consent will be decided, i.e. either notified or committed to.

Greg Byrnes (ECan elected member) – Advised that it is a matter of priority as ECan's Deputy Chair is now involved.

Q. Geoffrey King (community) – Will Ecogas be taking rubbish from Timaru, Oamaru and the West Coast too?

A. Lynette Ellis (CCC staff) – They will be taking green waste; they are a commercial activity.

A. Alec McNeil (CCC staff) – Advised the main inputs to the site currently are from CCC and there is also an element of commercial activity. The facility is designed so that it has the capacity to take more council waste but that is a decision for each council. It could potentially come from other surrounding Canterbury councils feeding into it but there will be a cost cut off when the traveling distance reached a certain point that made it too expensive.

9. General business (5 minutes)

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Advised that Tania Seward (community) had contacted him prior to the meeting and asked to make a statement in the general business section.

Tania Seward (community) – Advised she had prepared a statement that she would like to read in full and would appreciate if any comments are left until the end.

My husband Andrew and I own a property in Bromley. We have owned it for 11 years and we lived there until June 2021 when we moved to Wellington for work. We receive the minutes of this meeting so we can pass the relevant updates onto our tenants who currently occupy our home and also so we can retain a sense of connection to the place we still consider our home.

I have flown down from Wellington to be here tonight. I have done that because I saw no other way to address the concerns about the behaviour of some members of the community who attend these meetings.

Two years ago, I raised my concerns about the racist, derogatory remarks being made at these meetings. I CC'd my comments to the Council, local media and Yani Johanson. I requested that the email, dated 30th of November 2022 be raised at the next meeting as incoming correspondence that could be discussed. That did not happen, nor did I get a response from Yani. I will forward you that email and I would appreciate a response.

They say the standard of behaviour you walk past is the standard of behaviour you accept. I do not accept for a moment that threats of violence, derogatory comments about a person's skin colour, intellectual ability or ethnicity is the standard of behaviour that this community should hold itself to.

It is a privilege, not a right to have this level of access to our elected members and the staff of the various agencies around the table. Especially those who turn up here to month after month, meeting after meeting in the face of the vitriol that has been minuted over the last few years. I have read some of the comments directed in your direction and they are appalling.

On the 30th of July this year, the Council cancelled a planned public information session on the wastewater treatment plant because “the wellbeing of attendees and council staff is our priority”. I cannot help but think that the behaviour that has been apparent in these meetings has influenced that decision, thus depriving other community residents of the opportunity to hear valuable information in a public forum. As we know, not everyone is on the internet, not everyone has email, not everyone has a website or social media. Face to face interaction is really important.

You tell me at the start of tonight that you have meeting operation rules that you try and stick to. I have seen evidence to the contrary this evening. You interrupt, you yell, you ignore the Chair when he tries to move the meeting to start the agenda. You laugh when health and safety is mentioned as a rationale for people not attending meetings but then you admit that residents have stopped attending meetings because they feel unsafe. Frankly if this was a good meeting, I’m not confident that I would want to attend a bad one.

My family were so concerned about my safety tonight that they asked me not to attend. Tania and Nick are here tonight to support me in case things went downhill. I really hope that their fears were unfounded because being one of the few people who calls out bad behaviour in a public meeting like this on the record is a very vulnerable position to be in.

For those of you whose behaviour I have called out tonight who are sitting here feeling a bit awkward or called out, it’s very easy to get in your car or on your bike and head down the road and passionately share your views at a meeting like this. It is a lot harder to reflect on your behaviour and consider whether you are a good representative of the Bromley community, and whether to be frank you are a good human being. Until that happens this remains an unsafe place. Your actions and your behaviour threaten the long term viability of community meetings like this across Christchurch.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa. Thank you.

Carl Pascoe (Chair) – Thanked Tania for her statement. Advised that in big meetings he also chaired, they created a “5 minute soap box” approach which enabled people to make statements which are listened to respectfully. They don’t start a major debate about them. Acknowledged that Tania has made her points clearly and thanked her for having the courage to turn up because quite frankly New Zealand communities can be quite staunch in how they talk to one another. Sometimes this can be dangerously so. Added that if anyone has any issues that you want to raise with Tania please feel free to do so directly.

Concluded the meeting.