

Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes

6:30pm to 8pm, Tuesday 19th August 2025

Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Boardroom

180 Smith Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8062

Executive summary of minutes

Apologies noted for Abinaya Velkumar (Christchurch City Council (CCC) staff) and Paul McMahon (Christchurch City Council (CCC) community board elected member).

CLG community members thanked Greg Byrne for his work as ECan Councillor in light of him not standing for re-election and wished him well.

Following David McArdle's (CCC) change in role, he has been replaced by Abinaya (Abi) Velkumar.

Previous meeting minutes confirmed in their entirety without amendment.

1. Actions from previous meeting

Action 1a: Provide links to NZTA report forms.

As discussed in the previous meeting, Carol has now collated the information requested by Paul McMahon, however due to his absence tonight it could not be passed on.

Action 1b: ECan to provide documentation on previous work undertaken on dust matters in the wider Bromley area.

Issue has been identified with the Fulton Hogan depot, so Greg Byrnes will chase this in future capacity as a citizen.

Action 2: ECan to confirm the time, date and venue for the Ecogas hearing.

Consent has been granted for the new Ecogas Hornby plant with conditions. There has also been an updated project timeline published, which may change due to unforeseen factors. Further information is available on the CCC website including the EcoGas press release, and article published in The Press.

2. Affected residents felt experience reports and questions arising

The group discussed ongoing dust issues and latest odour experiences.

Further discussion regarding the ongoing issues with dust, as reported in the last meeting. It was re-clarified that the dust is not occurring due to the Organics Processing Plant. There was

additional discussion regarding the potential that alternative truck routes are contributing to the spread of dust, however this was tabled in favour of raising through the Community Board.

Community members reported that there were very low levels of odour in the last three-month period, and all agreed that while not perfect, the odour is much less offensive and frequent. The maximum days odour was reported among community members was three days since the last CLG meeting.

3. Christchurch City Council (CCC) report, including Ōtautahi Organics Processing Solution update, and questions arising

Odour monitoring of the site by PDP will continue until site closure. There was very little odour detected in the last three months, and when this was detected, it was on the boundary of the site. It did not extend beyond into the residential area.

The new Hornby processing plant has been granted resource consent with conditions. The appeals process is now open until early September 2025. The future usage of the Bromley site post-decommissioning will be discussed following the Christchurch City Council local elections, and will involve an internal assessment within council, followed by consultation with the community.

4. Living Earth answer any questions arising from their CLG report

In light of comments earlier in the meeting, particular attention was drawn to dust reporting. The site is not currently producing any dust, but monitoring did pick up spikes in background dust production i.e. dust produced elsewhere.

Current organics processing time is 14 days, and the screening shed is currently being decommissioned. LE expects processing time to stay at 14 days, including during peak seasonal pressures. The process of transporting compost to Kate Valley will remain until closure of the plant.

5. Questions for Environment Canterbury (ECan) arising from their CLG report.

Chair notified the Group that ECan has chosen to no longer attend CLG meetings on the basis that the current site operation is within compliance. Questions will now be fielded to ECan through CCC representatives or ECan councillor Greg Byrnes. Discussion took place about the decision from ECan to no longer send a staff representative to the CLG meeting, and how this is largely disappointing.

There was concern raised that due to the choice of ECan not to attend means residents may find it more difficult to raise concerns that may or may not be linked to the processing plant. They also raised concerns about a general lack of enforcement action taken by ECan. Appeal made for ECan to continue investing in the community and the additional wider environmental concerns residents may have.

Action 1: Chair to send a report to ECan on behalf of the Group, expressing the concerns regarding the decision to no longer attend CLG meetings, and future collaboration between residents and ECan regarding additional wider environmental concerns.

6. Any further questions about resource consent compliant for the Organics Processing

Plant

The chair raised the question of whether the Group would like to continue CLG meetings every quarter for the next 2 years. The Group agreed to continue the CLG meetings.

7. General Discussion

Discussion regarding potentially creating a formal process of community feedback to ensure the issues that this Group have had experienced are recorded and reviewed, to prevent similar future occurrences. The residents repeatedly raised concerns about the residents near the new Hornby plant. CCC explained some details of why the new plant would be unlikely to face the same issues as the present residents. Residents also raised the concern that Hornby residents especially, as well as the wider Christchurch community, may not be listened to by ECan if there are no formal structures put in place to ensure enforcement action is taken for those that breach their consents.

The group discussed that this platform (CLG meetings) has been quite helpful and cathartic for them and should be considered as a useful model for communities facing similar issues.

Meeting closed.

Verbatim Minutes

Chair – Carl Pascoe

CCC Elected Member – Yani Johanson

CCC staff – Alec McNeil, Lynette Ellis

LE – Jaco Kleinhans, Chris van Niekerk

ECan elected members – Greg Byrnes

Community – Geoffrey King, Andrew Walker, Vickie Walker, Bruce King, Carol Anderson

Apologies – Yani Johanson (late), Abinaya Velkumar, Paul McMahon

Minutes – Saskia Graham-Bone.

Carl Pascoe (CP): Welcome all on this chilly evening. We are the brave and the foolhardy, maybe we should all just go home. So tonight, we are going to run through the agenda in the usual way. But firstly, Greg, I believe it's your last time with us.

Greg Byrnes (GB): Yes, and it probably would have been even if I was restanding, cos the ward boundaries have changed. So even though I live here, I was told it was no longer my community of interest. Which I'm not very pleased about but anyway.

CP: I'm going to give Geoffrey the opportunity to reflect his views to you

Geoffrey King (GK): I would just like to thank you Greg for participating and coming along to every meeting. You've never missed a meeting, and your contributions have been appreciated. I wish you well in the future, and, well, you know I'm pissed off that you're not standing. You could've stood in the same electorate; you only had to walk across the road.

GB: Well, yeah but I wouldn't live in the area.

GK: It doesn't matter.

GB: Well, to me it does. It's really important that I reflect the community that I live in. So, that's just my, where I sit. But thank you, I'll take that as a huge compliment.

GK: 20 metres.

CP: Is that how far the boundary shift was?

GB: My gate is now the boundary... I won't go on too far, but probably what broke the camel's back was that we didn't go out for that, we went out to change a small piece towards the university which was to take a hump out and align it with one of the city council wards. We

did go out to ask for an additional councillor in Selwyn, largest area in New Zealand, which would mean we would squash down the size of South Canterbury because it's 45,000 people less than the community I represent, but we decided because one person came down and said "Woolston should be in Coastal"... so it's okay, we now have Jo Davith, well, possibly Jo Davith and Mr East. You've got 5, 6 good candidates... so I would say do your homework.

CP: You know it's useful to reflect. I understand councillors get paid for the work they do, but it's actually still public service. They often go well over, above and beyond what you would expect. And just as much as the community have represented and come along faithfully time after time, arguing the case, ad nauseum, 16, 17 years of it... so to echo Geoffry, to recognise public service and thank you, because there aren't that many people willing to put their hands up anymore. The amount of crap people take from online, coming around to your house...

All laughing

CP: Right, we'll just quickly go around the room, as much for the minute taker as everybody. Just who's here.

introductions

GK: Who is replacing Mr McArdle?

CP: There is, I did meet her on Zoom. Whoever is David's replacement is...

Lynette Ellis (LE): Abi.

CP: She's organising in the background tonight, but we didn't want... no, she's not here tonight but she will come next time.

Alec McNeil (AM): Yes.

CP: But she did all the, made all the hard copies here Geoffry, even without prompting, which was quite good really.

GK: Very good. So, Mr McCardle is promoted, and he is doing what now?

LE: He has got a team leader role in the procurement team.

CP: Buying things with your rates, Geoffrey... and my rates

Laughter

GK: Well, he was a lovely man. Very polite. Not many of them at 53 Hereford.

LE: Well!

CP: Right, previous minutes have been circulated, you've all got hard copies if you want them. Any challenges, questions to the minutes?

CP: There being none, taken as read and confirmed, yes? Thank you very much and moving on. Actions, 1A, NZTA report about the transport issues in Bromley. Anyone want to say anything, raise it?

Carol Anderson (CA): I have a few issues.

CP: A few things to say Carol?

CA: The person I wanted to give that information to is not here tonight, so. He asked me to make a list, and I did. It involved pretty much every day of the week, sitting at my window, counting cars, vehicles, seeing who was speeding and who wasn't.

CP: So, you've gathered a whole lot of data?

CA: Well, I wouldn't call it data, it's just basic... you know, tick sheets.

CP: Evening Yani.

Yani Johanson (YJ): Hi.

CP: Do you want to pass that through and I can make sure it goes to-

CA: Well, when I've got it written up in a readable form. You won't understand my shorthand.

CP: Just, sorry, I meant to say- apologies. Does anyone have any apologies? So, I have a mystery one you can maybe cast some light on. I've had a text "apologies from me for tonight, sorry, I am suffering from effects of a bad neck injury.

AM: It's Paul

LE: Paul McMahon.

CA: Oh, well, that's the person I needed to talk to.

CP: Yes, well, so, he's done something.

CA: Must've stuck his neck down...

YJ: And I just flicked you an apology for lateness.

CP: Oh, you have to Yani, I've just seen the message come in. I usually have it on silent. Thanks, Yani, you signed yours. Any other actions, dust matters, anyone have anything there?

GB: Can I add the, as you're aware... the first action 1b, we talked about this a while ago, about trying to add this into the annual plan. We have concluded it's an issue with the Fulton Hogan Depot, which is just up the road from where I am which is pretty crappy. So, I'm personally going to follow that one up as a citizen, yeah, just now that I know how I can nag away. I will be doing that. The other is of course action 2, we've gone through the hearing now, and I presume that's done anyway.

CP: Ah, yeah, there's the action two about the EcoGas. It was put through the city council website last week, was it?

AM: Yes.

CP: And then today, in today's Press, article on the outcome, along with the projected timelines which was action 3. And these are on your table. They've been updated a little bit, more along Yani's line, you were suggesting that when we haven't met something it's red, not yellow.

Vickie Walker (VW): Very understandable.

CP: Make it clearer.

YJ: Yeah, I was just concerned the yellow was showing revised dates, but we didn't have the original milestones. We understand there are things beyond our control like the consenting, but it is good to just... adds a more accurate picture of things that are on or off track so thank you for amending that, I really appreciate it.

CP: Okay, affected residents, what's happened over the last 3 months in terms of smells etc?

CA: Basically, my biggest problem at the movement is dust. It's, pfft, coming from everywhere. I don't know where it is coming from, but it's just... there. As fast as I clean things down, the next day it's right back there.

Bruce King (BK): It's, and very strange you've got dust when it's been one of the wettest years. And I agree with you, the dust is... pretty much every morning I go outside I can feel it. It's coarse dust.

CA: I mean, there's a lot of to-ing and fro-ing down St John Street now again, and the reason for that is the speed humps down Bromley Road and Keely Road, it was the route the trucks are supposed to go down and general did from Linwood Avenue, down behind onto Macees Road. And now, they're coming straight back down St John Street, because they don't want to go over the speed humps.

BK: I'd like a point of order here. We're not here to discuss speed humps, that should go to the Community Board meeting, and this is the Community Liaison Group. I agree with everything you're saying, but...

CA: But it's the dust, and that's coming off the trucks.

BK: Yes, but...

CP: Go on Bruce, what else did you want to add to your point?

BK: The point of order is that we are not here to discuss traffic down St John Street either because they are breaking the law. Or the Council is breaking the law by not restoring the speed limit to 50km/h as the government ordered them to do. So therefore, we shall have

other points of order, shall we? Point of order, we are here to discuss the CLG. The dust is part of the CLG, but the dust is not coming from the CLG, it's coming from trucks, so therefore it should go to the traffic department, not to the CLG meeting.

CP: Noted Bruce, thank you. Appreciated.

CA: I'm just making my... my contribution.

BK: I know you are.

LE: It might be something that goes to the community board.

CP: Yes.

GK: They're useless

CP: Well, you've got an election coming, some chances to do the best you can with that. Right, in terms of the CLG, taking Bruce's point, what are the experiences for the people in the last 3 months?

BK: I have had three really stinky days, especially in the morning between 6 and 8, when I go out to get the paper I smell it the worst, and that's the worst I've smelt. It does still smell occasionally, but nothing like it has been, I'll give it that much. If we can put down the dust too, there is dust coming from the North-East wind, and that's what our prevailing wind has been the last 3 months. But, not here to discuss the dust today.

CP: Unless it's coming from your CLG plant.

BK: Well, but as Carol says, there are other things that cause the dust, that when you report them to the ECan, nothing ever happens.

CP: Yup. But in terms of smells, you are saying 3 days for you?

CA: It's not been too bad.

AW: Been very little at work. Couple of days where I've smelt it a bit.

CA: Compared to what we've had in the past it's been...

BK: Good

GK: Great.

CA: Virtual fresh air.

CP: Don't get excited.

CA: Oh, I'm not.

CP: Fresh air... okay, anything else around resident's felt experience reports? No? Okay, city council report, who's doing it? Alec?

AM: Yes, we will take the report as read. The PDP odour monitoring will continue until the site is closed, so we are not going to stop, we'll just keep going with it. Same program. Those odour scouting reports have been published on the council website. They were the same as what you said, there was very little odour detected. None in the residential area, some at the boundary at the edge of the industrial area. So, the reports are available. The second thing is obviously the progress of the new plant in Hornby. It was granted its consent in August with conditions. The company and anyone else who was at the hearing now have until 3 September to appeal. The company, I've given you a copy of their press release which went out just after they got the consent. I understand that they have a board meeting around 27th of August, so they will review it internally as a company, and they will obviously then progress after that. We don't anticipate them having any issue with the consent, but of course the appeals process is open until 4th September. That's probably it in terms of the report. The future of the Bromley site once it closes will be discussed with the new council after the election, and obviously by that time there will be a more definitive timeline of when the site will be vacated. And then we will start, well we've started the process already as to what the current site might become, including if that site would be useful to any council departments internally. It obviously wouldn't be a waste activity or anything that would cause odour or any of those sorts of issues. But because we are so close to the election now, we will wait until the new council forms and then start that process again.

GK: But what has been the gossip? What's going in there?

AM: There's nothing really to tell at the moment.

GK: But you've been talking about what's going to go in there.

AM: No-

LE: No, just taking options.

AM: Just taking options

BK: What are the options?

AM: Well internally in council, there is a bid that would, say, make it a public space, where the compost area used to be. But that's just an idea, an internal part of council... Within the building there are various ideas, but could be used as a storage facility, could be used for resource recovery in the sense of unwanted household goods, but not a waste processing facility or a facility that receives waste. And then there are other options, once that process opens up, there will be other considerations as to what the site could become

GK: City Care were in Sydenham, and they've gone. Where have they gone to?

YJ: Cuthberts. There's a new Parks depot going into Cuthberts.

LE: That's not City Care.

YJ: That's not City Care, but they brought some of the Parks work back inhouse, so they are building a Parks depot, but that's not City Care.

CP: That's Parks themselves. Bruce?

BK: Part of the area where that composting is was actually a wildlife reserve, so why isn't it being restored to a wildlife reserve?

VW: Well, they've still got rats there

BK: Yeah, I know that.

LE: That's one of the options that can be considered.

CA: I don't know that people would generally want to have a public space next to the dump.

BK: You mean near the transfer station?

CA: Yes, I do apologise.

BK: Well, there's a complete difference from a dump to a transfer station. Getting into technical terms.

CP: So, as I understand it from what you've said, there will be a public consultation process run by the community board?

AM: First of all, there will be an internal process to see if other council departments need access to the site for their own purposes or own infrastructure, then once that is determined, then the process will be opened up to the wider community

CA: Suggestions, from the public?

AM: Yes, it will come through the community board. We've spoken to them a few months ago just to see what the process will be, but yes at the right time we will have to have a conversation directly with the community.

BK: Can I just ask a question on that? Have you talked to the Estuary Trust?

AM: No, its internal discussion at the moment.

CP: Anyone else? Okay, anything else on your report?

AM: No, as I said we've given you the revised timetable. Once we move through the appeal process, we will give you further updates once that's locked in, and then we will revise this timeline to give you more detail on the construction phase.

CP: Jaco, for you from Living Earth. Your turn.

Jaco Kleinhans (JK): The report is fairly standard. Around dust reporting, I just want to... some of the comments are around background dust, so I just want to point out on page 28, that green on the graph, the average total just includes the monitors outside on Dyers Road, so

there was a bit of a spike in May, but July is lower than the previous year. That's not dust generated on site, that's just the dust monitors detecting background. We will maintain those, and then the onsite operations, that's currently going at 14 days, 14 days processing over the last period. What we are seeing in the next period is an increase around volumes, so normal seasonal changes. Biofilter refurbishment was completed, we spoke about that in the last meeting. And the screening shed decommissioning is underway. Quite a bit of work being done inside, so you won't see that, but then the cover comes down, you'll see it.

CP: questions. Bruce?

BK: As you say, you are now decommissioning part of the thing, but I'm looking at the timeline and that new plant isn't going to be operational for another two years. So, what are we going to do, when you decommission your plant, what's going to happen to the timeframe in between? And you've got 14 days in the composting oven, but now we've got the next, we're coming into next the high season for composting, so we're going to go back down to the 7 to 10 days, are we?

JK: No, I don't expect us to get down to 7 days. We have never hit 7 days, though the consent does state we can do down to 7 days, but we will not. We've done our planning already, Samantha is running the planning for us on site, and this is our third peak season, so, sort of, got that down to a T. We would not expect it to go down further.

CP: So, the Residents can expect the same level of odour exposure as they got over last summer, is that what you are saying?

JK: I don't expect any change to the operation, no.

LE: So, they'll be in the tunnel, then they'll be loaded and taken straight to Kate Valley, that's not changing, is it?

JK: No, that's not changing.

AM: I think, just the other thing to say Bruce, is the equipment that is being decommissioned, it's not actually in use. It was part of the old system they used to screen material; it's been redundant for a couple of years.

JK: So that equipment is being relocated to a site in the North Island. So, there's a lot of work being done to it, it's fixed and installed, so we had to change it to be mobile to relocate it.

BK: Okay thanks.

CP: Any other questions or moving on? Environment Canterbury, just... Geoffrey?

indistinct

CP: Environment Canterbury, when you read the consent, they are here, they are invited, they have chosen to no longer attend. They are not required to be here by the consent requirements, so...

GK: Well, how do we get them to answer the questions if we have any?

AM: We'll take those questions and field them to them and get the answers for you.

GB: And I will take them

AM: And Greg can take them too obviously.

GK: For 7 weeks

GB: Well, yeah, for 7 weeks.

GK: But they never answer them anyway.

GB: Well, it would be fair to say... I guess I've got nothing to lose, it's 7 weeks. It has been disappointing at times from my perspective in that, we have, we might get a staff member along for two meetings, and you sort of think "great!" you're getting to know someone. And then unfortunately, for whatever reason, we end up with someone else, or someone on a temporary basis, so... it's very difficult to establish a rapport with anyone. And again, there are some issues we have certainly Yani, myself, you've been in many of the emails where we have constantly been trying to get information and have struggled to get it in a timely manner. I think that's a really polite way of saying it. I got interviewed by Chris Lynch, wait until you hear that one. But anyway... The beauty is I can call it as it is. There is some really fantastic staff there, like all organisations, it is difficult at times to get anyone to actually respond in a timely manner, because of the fact that, you know, some of the departments where they have enforcement officers going out, they could be as far away as literally North Canterbury, Mid-Canterbury, from the Christchurch office, so it's very difficult to then get a turnaround quite quickly and prompt, so, yeah.

GK: Yeah, but the frustrating thing is that they go out, they say, "yes, there is an odour". It's over the boundary. The consent says no odour over the boundary. But the odour is over the boundary. But the person says, "oh but, it's not offensive".

GB: Well, look, the one thing...

GK: Well, hello.

GB: Look, I agree with you. It is... it would be fair to say there is some element of being subjective when you smell something. I was out at Mayfield for a ride, and to me it just smelt like urine and faeces. It was quite disgusting, very smelly. When I mentioned it at Environment Canterbury the farmers were very careful to tell me that as an urban boy, I didn't understand the smell of the country.

laughter

GB: So, again, it's... yeah. Potato, potahto. I'm not minimising what is going on.

CP: I think your best summary as to what you've said is, Greg based on what you've said, what we've heard around this table, is that from a regulatory, compliance organisation, ECan has fallen way short.

BK: They're slack.

CP: Yup.

GB: Well, hold on...

CP: No, no, in the eyes of the residents, the community, that is the perception. And that is an issue Ecan will need to think about in terms of its credibility in its communities.

GB: I agree. I don't think the staff is slack, I just want that to be recorded because I genuinely don't believe that at all. People respond, the day-to-day staff are really good, conscientious. It would be fair to say though, enforcement is not one of our priorities. For some reason, we have some idea that educating is more important than enforcing, but there comes a point whereby you can educate until the cows come home and it doesn't mean anything if there is nothing behind it.

GK: 16 years.

GB: Look again, Geoffrey, the reason I come along-

GK: Yes, I know.

GB: - I read your first emails and was told "look, you might want to read them". And when you read them, and I did read them, there was a lot of stuff in there you could not deny was an issue, and I have constantly said this to you. My habit of riding my bike down there, in the summer when they were spreading that material- appalling, absolutely appalling. And it was even worse, because the response was appalling as well. So, I'm not making any excuses for them. What I would say though... well my role is the community liaison, so I'm happy to be, I think that you probably go over the top a few times but generally the rule, you've got, when you get to the guts of what you are saying, you are absolutely right.

GP: Yani?

YJ: Yeah, I mean I think that ECan have chosen not to come, or at least to front up and say it in person that they no longer wish to attend and why. But just because they're not coming to this group, I don't think that absolves them of their responsibility to monitor what is happening in Bromley. The dust issues are just as prevalent from other people in this community, from other businesses like the quarry. So ECan still have a responsibility to this community to keep monitoring and keep enforcing and ensuring compliance with people's consents. So I hope at some stage, when this is all done and dusted and the plant is closed, that there can be a commitment from ECan to still invest resources in this community, monitoring what's going on in terms of air quality, dust, odour, because those issues will still be, there will still be other people doing it, and it's not fair they just... walk away.

LE: Just a quick response to that, Yani. ECan are still monitoring, and they are still publishing the reports on their website, and we are still linking them through to the Bromley page. ECan have never once said they're not going to keep monitoring; they just are not attending the meeting now because the number of issues they are dealing with has diminished.

CP: Bruce?

Bruce: Well, my experience with ECan over the last 14 or so years is that they've spent more money trying to prove us wrong than proving what we are saying is correct. If they had taken the other approach in the first place, and certain people in this group were not so abusive to certain people, we might have got better results so... I can see there are faults on both sides of parties there, but the main one is that ECan has said, they've made the decision it's okay to be there, we are not prepared to lay down the consent... You know, it's very interesting that in the new consents that they've issued out there, says this new area is going to expect dust and stink because that's the area it is in. So that- yes it does- and that area down there comes under the same classification as the area out there, so therefore we have to put up with what crap we've had. That's what I read after the new consent. Sorry, I don't like bringing the new consent up, but it was interesting to compare things.

CP: Yes, there is a risk history will repeat itself.

multiple affirmations

CP: So, I'm not sure where we take this without going around in a circle.

GB: I thought Yani hit the nail on the head by saying, I don't think it's out of place for this group collectively to say to Environment Canterbury, we don't even know why you're doing it. Yes, there is a consent in place, but there is a community expectation. So, I thought the wording you used Yani was very good.

LE: So can we use that and add it to the minutes and send it back.

AM: Yani's point, well, I don't want to speak for him, was the regulator shouldn't take their eye off the ball, even when the plant closes, as there are other issues and they should be dealing with those other issues.

GB: And perhaps, while Bruce is right that this isn't for this particular meeting, but it may be identified as well in this, that dust is a significant issue, and even if it isn't from the plant or around that area, it is to a point whereby it is having a detrimental effect.

CP: So, at some risk, I want to add another piece that you might want to put into the minutes. As I would hear it, it is not. ECan can monitor all day long, but what I've heard from this community is that it fails to enforce at the times the points the community believe it should have enforced.

multiple affirmations

CP: And what you're saying as part of your message, don't let it happen for the next issue, such as dust. Show us... they might throw me out for this... ECan, show us you've got a spine, and actually enforce some of the big industrial players when the issues are clearly outside of consent.

BK: They're behaving like they've been neutered.

CP: Yep.

CA: Can I just...

CP: Yep, Carol, go.

CA: I just wish that they had actually worked with us and come to the table, and said, "hey, look"... this is probably a little bit naive, but if they had said "hey, we understand you have got a problem, can you explain it to us, how can we help" rather than just blowing us off. It just... we just felt like we weren't listened to, we weren't worked with, we were working against them all the time, and it just got really, really hard. And quite depressing sometimes.

BK: Yep, a bit of history there. I'm going back at least 14 years. They guy who died, he was the elected representative throughout North Canterbury way, I can't remember his name-

YJ: David Bedford.

BK: - yeah, he was very supportive of us. He knew nothing about this plant when the decision was made, and he was on ECan. That's how informed they were of what was going on. And he was very supportive of us, but then he got crook and it fell off... but he was the only one in there that I had support from... so another point I'd like to make, we've had an attack this week on our councillor that has worked for us all this time he has been on the council, by people that said he did nothing for this group here, this one we are talking about, the CLG, and because their mate, who is standing to oppose Yani, so I wrote and said "well I've never seen your name on the attendees, for this meeting, so come along tonight" and not one of them has turned up.

murmurs of agreement

BK: So, they are all full of BS and like to stir up crap around the place.

CA: But that's what they do on Facebook, they just... keyboard warriors.

BK: We stuck up for you.

VW: I seen your...your poster, on the corner of our street, has not been touched because that's respect so, you know, you can have a big tick for that one because, if they don't want you... you know, it'd be gone.

GK: Who put the posters up?

VW: Yani.

YJ: I think there's going to be stuff that happens in the election, that's just social media but, you know, for me, I know we've made huge progress and I just think that ECan, when this is coming to the end, they need a proper review, and independent review of how they have treated this community, and what lessons they can take away from it because it's not acceptable. And even the dust thing worries me, because we had to get that Smelt It app... There's a lot of history here, but for the joint odour monitoring project that was supposed to happen between council and ECan around 2015, we thought "great, we'll do it" and we couldn't get the resources from ECan. And here we are, today, having the dust issue and we are told "we don't have the resources to do the dust issue". Because what they need to do for the dust issue is the same as the odour. They need to get that app, or whatever the technology is, crack down, and hold people to account. But they still, in my view, are not providing the resources to do the environmental monitoring you guys deserve so...

CP: Right, so...

JK: If you don't mind I just, I just want to clarify something. We have spoken about the dust quite a bit. The site do monitor dust, we do background dust monitoring, there is no dust being generated over the limits from this site, but there might be some value around monitoring. It was done, and we... that background data is available.

YJ: So that's my background reading of your report, that although the organic dust isn't the issue, there is background dust that is definitely an issue, and that is peaking on a regular basis. And that message should go to ECan, that we want them to do more around that.

GB: It should be, you made a comment before Bruce, that it's quite coarse dust, so I would imagine it doesn't travel very far, if the particulate size is coarse. So, if it's a localised issue, which is what Yani has just said, it shouldn't be too hard to track down what it is. It's all very well for us to say it may be trucks of whatever it may be, but we need to determine exactly what it is, and if it is a very large particulate, it should be easy to.

CP: So as a question of process, this group has just made a series of statements that they want conveyed to ECan, yes?

Wide affirmation

CP: So, are you comfortable, because it will come out in the minutes, and I don't want to wait until the next meeting to send it off to ECan. Are you comfortable if when it comes out, we can cut out a piece to report to ECan? I would put it out, going out as the chair of the CLG, but what I would propose to do is to circulate to the attendees tonight who are here, to make sure you are comfortable with the wording?

BK: Right.

VW: Yep

CP: Would that be acceptable?

BK: Yes, those in favour?

CP: Done. That'll make it... so, we can do that quite quickly, we don't have to wait another 3 months for it. And then that might also, if certain elected particular people running in the coming elections, the silly season as I call it, might find that that statement from the CLG group to ECan might be a useful piece of stuff that will make public news.

BK: If you read the public statements coming from the government, ECan might not exist in the next 3 years.

CP: That's right.

YJ: There is a good chance they won't.

GB: What I was going to say is that, if I get that very quickly, I have CE councillor time on Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.

CP: We can get it to you within a week, 2 weeks? We can get it well within your 7 weeks. There's a window, that's what I'm hearing.

YJ: In regard to ECan, I just want to personally acknowledge Greg for consistently coming to these meetings as well. Almost since the time he has been elected, Greg has actually worked really hard on this issue to help and support the local community. It wasn't always the case we had ECan people, elected reps coming. I think this is your last meeting, Greg?

GK: Nicole used to come.

YJ: Oh yeah, Nicole did too, that's true.

CP: Okay, so that's about 3 or 4 accolades he's had tonight.

YJ: Greg's a great guy, you know, I just thought it would be nice to acknowledge.

CP: Yes, thank you Yani. So, we're on track, where we know we have to wait for the appeal period for the Hornby thing. On the assumption this is tracking, you've got a couple of years before the uh... with the current plant operating under its current methodology. You've got no intention to change any of that? It does then raise the question... you have a consent, which requires a CLG.

JK: Yep

CP: 2 years, every quarter. Is that what you want to keep doing?

Various community members: Yep.

CP: Okay, I need to put it out, right?

VW: We're not done yet.

CP: I understand Vickie, but I need to, I am simply, I have a responsibility to say...

GK: Would you like us to recommend you to the Hornby group?

Laughter

BK: I haven't read that far in the report, whether they have to have a CLG.

CP: No, they don't. No, because this was a consent change.

BK: See, there's another part that happened. In the original consent, any changes, it said that those who objected originally had to be notified personally. My wife and I were part of the original ten I think it was, we never got notified and it happened at Christmas time, so we never saw the, it being notified in the paper, and it just sneaked through. See, all the sly, underhanded systems, like the crooks do when they want to get the licenses and stuff, they put it through when hardly anyone reads the paper. This is the old, this is the old tactics that business use. Sorry.

GK: Lies, deceit and deception.

BK: I agree with you. That's the only time I do agree with you Geoffery, when you say that so many times it becomes like running water.

CP: Like Teflon

Laughter

CP: So, you might want to think about for the next meeting, and the 2 years, at least another 8... right? over the next 2 years, just as you have tonight with the messages you want to get to ECan, about... shifting the focus a wee bit. So this is what we learn from what happened to us, what do we want to tell people out there, for other communities, that can benefit from our experiences Might be a useful part of the conversation alright, because you guys have put in years of hard, painful, anguish stuff... and I'd hate for all of that to be lost to the mists of time.

BK: Well, it's lost because no one has stuck to it. People who had the authority to uphold what was said; they never upheld the rules that they made. If we had a government like that, which we have had in certain times, this country would be a completely, third world. I mean, we are not far from it but... it would be completely overrun by those with guns and power. And Ecan isn't run but anyone who has power, to use the power that they've been given, in the law of the land they've already got. They've got the authority to make these rules and uphold them. But they've never upheld the rules they made, especially to do with that plant.

VW: So maybe after this, and we've got the new plant and things, there would be a review how not to do things in the future. That the council can look at, as a form of... was the community feedback and make it not happen like this again?

CP: Yeah, it would be useful Vickie, if you frame it that way which is: so from what happened to us, this next time, what we suggest you should do it this, this, and this, with the next.

VW: A bit like the shit ponds, really, you know.

BK: But after, I shouldn't say it, but reading the consents, comparing them, they've changed nothing. it's still airy fairy, and it's even worse.

CP: So, one of your statements Bruce, should be the consent should be really quite specific.

BK: Yes.

CP: Okay.

YJ: I think the thing that angers me most about ECan is aside from the original consent, is that every year they had an opportunity to review the consent, knowing the harm that was being caused to the community, and they never did. In 15 years, they never called the consent in and reviewed the conditions to protect the community from the harm they knew was happening, even when it was substantial.

BK: I told them in their meetings twice during that period. I told them every year. And they didn't listen.

VW: And we paid our rates for all that time.

CA: Similarities between this and the post office, in the UK.

CP: Mhm. Greg, did you want to say something?

GB: I just wanted to ask a question, and I just wanted to respond to that. My reading of it is because it's a publicly owned asset, and the sewer works is exactly the same, the decision was made somewhere in my belief, that lawyers from on publicly owned organisation would be funding lawyers from another publicly owned organisation for an amount of money which was literally throwing away, and if there was a result of some of the fines, it could've been placed in there. It's just an eternal circle, and the loser is the ratepayer. So, I'm thinking that what that's been based on. I'm not saying that's right, but that's my reading of it. What I wanted to ask Lynette, is that clearly this (CLG meeting) has been advantageous for the people that have come here, even has been cathartic at times.

CP: That's a nice way of describing some of the meetings.

Laughter

GB: Well, I guess that's the beauty of it, when you are with people who are experiencing the same thing as you, and that's probably not how I would do it, but collectively to be able to purge the fact you are feeling, you know, you have no control over your life because external things are coming at you all the time.

VW: Hitting your head against a brick wall.

GB: Exactly, so I'm wondering, isn't the sheer fact that has been of benefit to this community a reason why you would initiate a CLG fairly early in the piece, so that you would be front

footing stuff with the Hornby Community, rather than getting behind them? You know, just a thought.

LE: Yeah, it's definitely a thought, and definitely something we thought through. It's a very different system and process, that's what we are working on as well. That's part of the reason why, when we entered this process with EcoGas, we took the community on a journey, we took community leaders on a journey, to see the different process that was being provided, or being proposed. So, there has already been a lot of work with the community without us needing to provide a CLG out there. Alec does a lot of work with Mark Peter, the local councillor, and there has been a lot of communication going through.

CA: But if they haven't actually experienced and gone through what we have, they are not going to know what they are looking for, what should not happen.

LE: Well, and it's a completely different process, that's the other thing. Everything is enclosed, and as Carl said, we aren't talking about the process, whether it is good, bad, or otherwise, but to answer your question, we have already started that journey with the community, and we started it before we even went into the consent process. EcoGas are already buying into that fact, that they are part of the community.

GB: I guess what I'm thinking is... even as an elected councillor, Environment Canterbury's style is to have a large communications department, and to... we operate a lot in the shadows, so rather than front footing, which I believe is just ough, and even I, certainly-

CP: You've absolutely demonstrated that here on a number of occasions.

GB: Well, at the end of the day, it's the body that you... I represent a body of us, so what I know, unless it is commercially sensitive, but everything else should be... the more open you are, the more trustworthy you are. As soon as you start to lose that front footing, there's an element of "what's going on?". You allow something to build before you get on it, then it becomes crisis management, which our organisation... It's a hell of a lot of people. We seem to bring it in, and crisis manage it rather than... you know? And I think people respond to that a lot better.

LE: Yes, yes, I don't disagree. But the reality is, it's not our plant. It's a very different commercial model, but it is our community, and that's why we are requiring EcoGas to be part of that community, and be good citizens of that community, and be open and involved with that community.

CA: And to take responsibility of everything.

GK: But Greg you must admit there is something going wrong at 200 Tuam street because every week or second week there is a derogatory comment or...

GB: Well, hopefully Chris Lynch will take what I said and put it into something that is a coherent narrative because it was all over the place, but I would agree in one thing, and I'm

going to preface it by saying like all organisations, the majority, the great majority of the people who work there are awesome. Fantastic science in the building, really good staff, but it's set up to fail. The way ECan covers the region, 16 councillors, it is not proportional to population as I said earlier, so all of a sudden you are favouring some communities over others. So tough luck, who cares, so there is always that tension. So, my point to Lynch, and a couple people who have asked me why I'm leaving is... we started at, and the first vote was to pick a chairperson, and it got pulled out of a tin. So, day one was, and it's only ever been economic development versus all those issues around science, environmental issues, concerns, consenting, all of that, versus "you're in our way, head out the way, we have to have more resources in order to make more money". And look at the state of the place we've got. It's not only the smell and the dust and whatever, it's our water, lagoons, the sedimentation in our estuaries...

CP: Bruce?

BK: There is a saying about something about brains... I'm the longest person that's ever been coming to these meetings, then it's Geoffrey, then Carol, then Vickie and Andrew. Now, out of a population that's, what, what's our ward got, 50 to 60 thousand people? When we invite them to come, no one turns up, and that's how evil reigns. And another reason evil reigns is because they put all the shitty things in the Eastern side of Christchurch because it's the lowest economic area. It's the same thing that happens, worldwide, because all they are interested in is going to work to support their families. And the new plant, sorry, the new consent, but I'm comparing consents, but it is worse written that this one is.

GK: Yes.

CP: Point taken. Right.

GK: ECan think it's wonderful. I'm not getting at you.

GB: No, I understand, I'm not taking it personally.

CP: Are we done for the evening folks? So, we are committed to continuing the CLGs in the current format.

VW: So, I just had a question the council might be able to answer. On the EcoGas form, they say "limits on what organic material the plant can process". What are the limits? What does it mean by that?

AM: There were some issues raised I think during the hearings process about types of materials the site might take, what it's capable of taking, and... animal waste, sewage sludge, they are not allowed. So, they have explicitly told them what they are not allowed.

CP: Vickie, the press article clearly listed them this morning.

LE: Shall we add a link to the Press article for the minutes, so there is a clear link?

Murmurs of agreement

YJ: Can you take away the paywall?

LE: Yes.

BK: So, I just had a thought, someone mentioned the Estuary Society. When this first started out, there used to be at least one lot, if not two, until they learnt nothing was ever happening. One of those guys was the one turning the organic matter into oil, and he had plants with his technology all over the world, except this country who wants nothing to do with it. He was a very intelligent... I think he was actually a lecturer at university at one stage, and ECan didn't even want to listen to people like that. So that's the type of treatment people from this group have been awarded from ECan.

GB: Can I just say that ECan does support with funding the Estuary Trust, there are 3 ECan councillors on it, 2 in the capacity of citizens.

BK: I've only missed 3 meetings in the whole time it's been going... I only go, I've even invited the press to turn up... and the only reason everyone can come here is... under the original consent, the only ones who could come to these meetings were the ones who live on the boundary. Well, no one lives on the boundary anymore. The lady and guy who used to live in Dogwatch were the only 2 that could be there legally, and they don't live there anymore. The whole set up from ECan, they've got no brains, they do not engage with people

GK: It's the same thing in Hornby; there are people 300 metres from the site.

GB: Can I just remind you that the people that make the conditions for the consent don't actually work for ECan? They are independent commissioners. Not being precious, just correct

CP: We will call it time. Thank you for attending, see you in 3 months.

ENDS