

Waresley & Hartlebury Brickworks & Biffa Landfills Community Liaison Committee

Minutes 11th December 2025 5:30-7pm
Waresley Boardroom and MS Teams

1. Welcome & apologies

In attendance TBC	
Ray Kirby	Resident (chair)
Tony Miller	Worcestershire County Council
Mark Lane	Worcestershire County Council (Planning)
Kevin Arnott	Hartlebury Parish Council
Radmila Mihajlovic	Resident
Russ Parrett	Biffa
Stephanie Palmer	wienerberger (secretariat)
Ben Newnham	wienerberger
Mark Cresswell	wienerberger
Apologies	
Dick Herbert	Resident
Gethin Bowley	Environment Agency
Tony Miller	Worcestershire County Council
Anthony Hartley	Wychavon District Council
Gethin Bowley	Environment Agency
Neil Bishop	wienerberger
Martin Rose	wienerberger

2. Minutes of meeting 3rd July 2025

a. Confirm minutes

Minutes confirmed as accurate.

b. Review of actions

All actions from the meeting held 3rd July have been completed.

#	Action	Status
1	SP to share a weblink when the community update webpage is live. The CLC webpage is available at: https://www.wienerberger.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/community-liaison.html	Completed
2	SP to add update from WCC Hartlebury Landfill operators to the minutes when received.	Completed
3	SP to send a doodlepoll for the second meeting of 2025, to take place in November / December.	Completed

3. WCC Hartlebury Landfill operational update

Kristy Thomas at WCC could not attend the meeting but submitted a written response which was read aloud to members: "I'm happy to report that there have been no issues to report at the closed landfill site. The Pollution Control Team continue to monitor and manage the site in accordance with the monitoring schedule."

4. Transport management & speeding

a. Management of mud on the road

RK described that Richard Fellows has offered the Council some land to purchase for Station Road parking. RM said that parking might increase speeding. RP recounted that the group is also interested in speed management, but at present that is being tackled separately to parking and mud on the roads.

JH explained that the council now has a lengthsman to read data from the VAS, so the Council only needs the code and instructions for how to connect to the VAS. RP offered to check with the vendor and confirm how to access the data from the VAS.

[RP to share instructions on how to read the VAS data, and access code if applicable.](#)

RM asked why Biffa and wienerberger cannot bring vehicles through Walton Road, querying whether planning could be applied for to bring HGVs in that direction rather than via Station Road. RP explained that this access route was considered as part of the planning permission in 2009, and the assessment outcomes did not allow access to the sites from Walton Road. RM believes this should be reviewed. RP stated that the width of the lane would be an issue for HGVs, similarly, the rear of the trading estate has closed the gates to HGV due to the width of the road. TM explained that the travel plan associated with the planning application would have considered the access. RP said that roads would have to be widened to make it possible to go in that direction. RM communicated that residents are complaining about mud on the road and vehicle speed on Station Road, and there is a potential for cars to get scratched.

BN reported that wienerberger and Biffa have been working collaboratively to tackle the issue of mud on the road. The measures include:

- Constructing a storage bunker to prevent HGVs leaving the hardstanding area.
- Providing scraper training for the operators to get any lumps of clay off the hardstanding area.
- Purchased industrial jet washers to wash the concrete pad hardstanding.
- Installing markers on the road to improve the effectiveness of the wheelwash.
- Additional road sweeps are allocated if there is an issue.
- Providing drivers with inductions to access site and including wheelwash use in the training.

The wheelwash at Waresley is different in that it is longer can get all HGV wheels. At Hartlebury it's not long enough so the drivers need to know to go back and forward. BN added that when the wheelwash had broken recently, BN responded by cancelling deliveries until the wheelwash was repaired. At present both wienerberger and Biffa staff are responding to complaints.

5. Biffa operational update

a. Waresley landfill

RP reported that the Waresley landfill is still generating methane which is converted into electricity. The electricity generator is going to be downsized mid-Jan to Feb as amount of gas depletes. The new flare was installed in Oct/Nov, however it might not be visible to residents, as the new stack only 8ft high.

The gas in boreholes is still being monitored, and no issues have been raised by the Environment Agency. There have been no audits since July so no updates to share. Biffa's annual report is due to be submitted to the Environment Agency at the end of January.

Regarding restoration, there are hundreds of trees to plant by end of Feb to continue restoration. Grass cutting is planned too.

b. Hartlebury landfill

RP reported that deliveries have decreased to 7-8 HVGs per day at the Hartlebury landfill. The validation report has gone to the Environment Agency for approval, as Biffa wants to extend the tipping area, back down into the lower part of the site for a couple of years. Engineering work associated with this should last 2-3 years.

The Hartlebury landfill also has a new flare stack, again it is 8ft high so might not be visible from Whitleng Lane anymore. This flare should last 20-30 years now. Currently the gas flare is processing around 50m³/hr and can operate down to around 10m³/hr.

RP confirmed that besides mud on the road there has been one leaky pipe complaint which has since been repaired, where water was running into a surface water ditch. Unfortunately, the site has had one gate removed a couple of weeks ago, and another one was forced at Waresley quarry but not stolen.

RP stated that Biffa is up to date with sending monitoring reports to the Environment Agency. In turn Biffa should receive a report from the EA just before or after Christmas break.

Next year summer Biffa should start capping the current cell with soil and return it to grassland in line with the planning application.

6. Wienerberger operational update

a. Hartlebury brickworks

BN updated members that the factory building referred to as "H1" is still running with a small staffing crew. This production line should shutdown next Thursday for Christmas break. In contrast the kiln in the factory building called "H2" turned off on 1st December, which is a full shutdown for maintenance. At present the factory has a full production budget for next year, and extra staff are planned to be hired next year too. This will also mean the clay stockpile area will have more eyes on it for housekeeping.

BN confirmed that he is aware the conveyor net needs emptying and this will be done in the next week, just waiting for staff to be available.

In addition to the measures listed above to reduce the mud on the road, BN explained that the front-loading shovel vehicle now has the infrastructure to refuel in the stockpile area so that it does not need to cross the road. Another piece of mobile plant, the dumper truck, has been upgraded so that it can go through the wheelwash.

b. Waresley brickworks

MC updated that Waresley brickworks started the year with low stock, but since then the market has not been great, so there are now many bricks on the yard. Shutdown started 1st December and is not restarting until last week in Feb, with the exact date dependent on sales. As usual wienerberger is looking after its people, and during this time maintenance tasks will be completed.

MC stated that so far the capital investment allocated to Waresley for 2026 is good. There are lots of projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, reducing raw material consumption (dematerialisation), and trialling new materials. In addition, all of wienerberger's factory managers have been to conference in the company's global headquarters in Vienna recently, focused on safety.

Regarding the planning application to extend the quarry for use by both factories, SP stated that MR could not attend the meeting but submitted a written update for members, which was read aloud to members.

"Public consultation was held on the 9th October, we had a steady stream of people visiting over the period about 32 in total. To summarise: Most people were either supportive or impartial to the proposal, once they had reviewed the

plans, people from Hartlebury realised that it was not going to change anything at the brickworks, then it was dog walker wanting to know it would not impact on certain routes in the area.

The concerns were rightly from the residents to the south of the quarry, who had concerns over ongoing activity, expanding workings and impacts on house values.

Please pass on my thanks to the members of the CLC for coming down and supporting the application, it was greatly appreciated.

We received a note from the local MP that they had been approached by residents at Elmley Lovett, stating they had not been consulted. We did put posters in the area, but we agreed to extend the consultation period, and we completed a letter drop to the residents. Since then, I have been out to visit a concerned resident.

In terms of planning. We have just completed the drilling program, this is to allow us to confirm the water table and complete the final designs, we are also in consultation with the highways department, and we are completing a safety audit of the proposed crossing into Waresley, to accompany the application. We have completed a geophysical survey of the land which has shown no significant interest, the local authority are proposing we trench the field to confirm, we are trying to avoid this at the pre application stage as it will just cause a mess of the field which we won't be entering for another 12 years, so we are pushing to get this requirement conditioned.

We are aiming for a possible submission date of end of February."

7. Feedback from regulatory bodies

ML reported to members that the council has not received any complaints. ML explained has also taken on another role in the council, which requires him to spend more time in the south of the county. Therefore, he has not been able to attend the brickworks to inspect. ML is aware that Martin Rose at wienerberger said there would be a planning application, and discussions continue about this.

TM reported that he had received complaints about mud on the road and wheelwashing. TM understood from discussions earlier in the meeting that these were being addressed and would revisit the matter.

8. Any other business

Members discussed the planning application that has been submitted for 20 houses in the old sidings caravan storage area. At the last meeting, members recalled that the noise survey was not accurate because it was taken during a period when the wienerberger factory was on shutdown. MC and BN confirmed that wienerberger has commented on the application, explaining that a new noise survey needs to be completed as the brickworks is open and operating again.

TM explained that Wychavon's policy is if the ambient noise in the area exceeds 79Db then housing applications are not considered. The access would also need to be assessed by WCC Highways to see if the land is suitable.

RP shared that Biffa has some fruit trees they would like to donate. There are apples, plums and pears approx. 25 trees, they are about 6ft tall and potted. RP is happy for these to be donated to local schools. There is an opportunity to mention this in the Parish Magazine, suggest Hartlebury Matters.

9. Next meeting date

Members asked SP to send a doodlepoll for next year's meetings in March/April and Sept/Oct.

[SP to send a doodlepoll for next year's meetings in March/April and Sept/Oct.](#)