



Gel Bone Project Community Engagement

Since the project meeting at Advanced Proteins on 18th September 2020, I've had several meetings on site and via MS Teams, with key figures in our community, in relation to the gel bone project.

I provided the individuals with a layman's description of the process technology and the fundamental differences between the core rendering business and the gel bone process. Also, the need for complete segregation. I also reassured them that the process is cutting edge technology and that any environmental concerns would be addressed in the design process and would meet the requirements of the Environment Agency's requirements of best available techniques (BAT). I went on to explain the reasons why the project clearly addresses the very special circumstances that are required for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) planning officers and committee to deem the application an appropriate development and therefore acceptable with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the SMDC Local Plan.

Summary of Feedback

- **23/09/2020 Cllr Mike Bowen** - Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillor, Cheddleton Parish Councillor, Consall Parish Councillor. (20 years' service)

Cllr Bowen was extremely positive. Very enthusiastic at the prospect of securing local jobs and the potential for further positions in the future.

We walked the land in question and agreed that it was a sensible location and if the proposed building did not tower above the current roof line he could not envisage any objections and the special circumstances could be justified.

- **24/09/2020 Cllr Mike Worthington** - Staffordshire County Councillor, Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillor, Cheddleton Parish Councillor, Consall Parish Councillor. (25 years' service)

Mike was very enthusiastic about the scheme and will support it wholeheartedly. As a former chairman of the planning committee, he suggested that the design would be well received if it incorporated the existing factory colour scheme and the overall height did not exceed the current buildings on the factory boundary.

- **28/09/2020 Cllr Sybil Ralphs – Leader of the elected SMDC council, SMDC District Councillor and Parish Councillor** (<https://democracy.highpeak.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=119>)

Sybil is very concerned that the effects of Covid 19 will have on employment in the Staffordshire Moorlands, and the prospect of future job opportunities was very positive. Sybil made the offer to arrange a meeting with Ben Haywood, Head of Development Services at SMDC. I would suggest that we accept her offer once project drawings and the topographical survey are made available.



- **08/10/2020 - Karen Bradley, Member of Parliament for Staffordshire Moorlands**
<https://www.karenbradley.co.uk/>

The meeting was held through MS Teams and I gave Karen a similar overview that the district councillors received. Karen was also very supportive but unfortunately the meeting was curtailed as she had been called back to the Commons to speak.

We have a follow up Teams call on Wednesday 14th October to continue discussions and to review the feedback from the Liaison Group meeting below. Karen would also be willing to visit site in the future as the project develops.

- **09/10/2020 - Cheddleton Liaison Group meeting (Zoom), which included the following representatives:**

- Karen Bradley MP – Staffordshire Moorlands
- Jack Brereton MP – Stoke on Trent South
- Steve Thomason – Regional Environment Agency (EA) Team Leader
- Ian Dakin – Cheddleton Parish Councillor
- Mike Bowen – Cheddleton District Councillor
- Local residents : 5

The meeting is held every 6 months to review the performance of the factory and to discuss any concerns or forthcoming projects.

The tone of the meeting was very positive, and it was an ideal platform to float the project and to build the case to satisfy the planning requirement for community consultation.

The group were very supportive. Steve Thomason made the offer to review the process description and emission data at an early stage to assist with the necessary permit application but warned that the EA national permitting team are currently working to a minimum 20 week determination period.

The following list incorporates questions raised by residents during the meeting which I would have anticipated based on previous planning applications and consultation processes undertaken:

- Will the process be 24/7?
- Will there be a noticeable increase in the number of vehicles at weekends?
- Is the process odorous?
- If so, will we be using the same proven technologies (oxidizers, biobeds) to abate the smell?
- Is it a noisy process? Will the noise be controlled?
- How many jobs will be created?

None of the questions were raised with any anxiety or major concern. In fact, it was stated that if the Group could be provided with a simple Q & A document before the planning stage, they would have the facts at their disposal to answer any potential concerns from other residents.

A community consultation evening will be arranged once the application is prepared.