

Statement In Response To Objection Letters To Support
Application For Portal Frame Wood/Machinery Store, 4No External Biomass
Boilers & 2No. Steel Drying Skips,
The Woodyard, Off Draycott Cross Road, Brook Houses, Cheadle,
For UK Renewable Energy Ltd.

In response to the letters of objection received from adjacent residential neighbours, the applicant would like to confirm the following points :

The site was acquired just over 12 months ago and so they cannot be held responsible for any unscrupulous behaviours or bad practices carried out by previous tenants.

The current owners have a long proven track record in the biomass boiler industry and are registered with BSL [Biomass Suppliers List] and Woodsure which are the governing bodies to ensure only the correct grade of fuel is used to fire the boilers and that they are operated correctly. It is believed that the previous occupants did not have the necessary registrations with those bodies and did not have the specialist knowledge or experience to operate the current biomass boiler. This was evident when the site was acquired by the large quantity of unsuitable and incorrect scrap/waste timber products left on site, such as chipboard containing glue etc, which the applicant paid to have professionally removed. Furthermore, the existing boiler was found to be damaged caused by the burning of incorrect material and improper use, and has resulted in it being fully reconditioned and returned back to full working order.

It is well documented that there have been numerous fires on the adjacent Hillside Industrial Estate over the past several years, many attended by the Fire Brigade and one which lasted for over two weeks. Following such an event, the Environmental Health Dept erected devices on a pole within The Woodyard to monitor smoke and pollution from the Industrial Estate which are still in place.

The existing biomass boiler was first installed and accredited in July 2014 and used continuously by the owners [G & SJ Johnson] from that time up until April 2018. For the period from then until January 2022 the boiler and site was operated by their tenant which is when the problems that were experienced by the neighbours may have occurred. It is also believed that there were open bonfires held within the Woodyard on occasion in addition to the fires in the adjacent industrial estate which would have resulted in poor air quality.

As the applicants are registered with the necessary statutory bodies, they are spot checked on a regular basis and must submit a full audit every 2 months. In addition, the boilers must be fully serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specification every 12 months and reported to OFGEM. The operation of the boilers as stated by the manufacturer guidelines will ensure that there will be no smoke emitted through the burning of BSL listed and approved dry biomass fuel.