

SOUTH FERRIBY CEMENT PLANT

Community Matters

SPECIAL EDITION - DECEMBER 2013



WELCOME to this special edition of Community Matters, which is a brief update following the floods on 5th December 2013



The floods of 5th December 2013 had a huge effect on the South Ferriby Cement Plant. We heeded the warnings in the press and implemented our flood emergency plan on the Thursday morning. A number of actions were taken during the day in preparation and an incident control room setup.

As the first signs of water were noted to be breaching the defences, I ordered the immediate stop of all plant equipment and instructed the team to higher ground. Within moments a significant amount of water was cascading through the plant at high speed and on average we have had 1.5m of water from the Humber through the entire factory. Low lying parts obviously flooded to a greater degree, and these included the coal milling area which saw many metres accumulate. Despite some initial challenges we all safely assembled ourselves in the kiln control room, and six of our logistics colleagues took refuge on the top floor of the main office block.

It is clear that the pre planning and the incident team put in place undoubtedly saved lives at the plant that night and I am pleased to report all employees are safe and well. I would like to recognise the bravery and professionalism of the team who were at the plant with me at the time of the flood and to everyone who is helping us to get back on-line.

We have been struck by how similar our experiences have been to those of South Ferriby village where we were pleased to hear that all residents were safely rescued. We are proud to be a part of such a strong community and we have worked closely with South Ferriby Parish Council to provide mutual support as we recover from this extraordinary event.

The purpose of this flood special edition of Community Matters is to tell you what we have been doing and to let you know our plans for the future. First of all, I am pleased to confirm that CEMEX is committed to restoring the plant back to full operation in as short a time as possible. I cannot tell you how long this will be at the moment but by the time of our next edition of Community Matters I should have a better idea. If effort, commitment, and sheer hard work are any measure of the time it will take to get the plant up and running, then that date will be sooner rather than later.

I know that Christmas will have a hollow feel for many residents of South Ferriby but I hope you will gain some comfort from the companionship of your families and friends. I wish you all a very happy New Year as we all work together to get back on our feet.

Philip Baynes-Clarke, Plant Director



Helping hands...

Diane Wright, Admin & Facilities Coordinator, is known to many of you in the community and has been at the plant for over 30 years.



Di has been coordinating with the Parish Council to provide CEMEX support in the community. Soon after the flooding we were able to provide overshoes and other protective equipment at the village shop and offered the services of staff to undertake heavy lifting etc. For the first two weeks after the flood CEMEX staff could be found lifting heavy furniture, removing tonnes of reeds from back gardens and cleaning outbuildings. CEMEX has also run night time security patrols frequently through the village using its site vehicles and we will continue to offer what practical help we can to the local community.

Restoring communications

Like the village, CEMEX lost all its electrical power. As the village got power restored there was a very real risk of further damage to the plant, and potential danger for employees. It was necessary for all parties to work closely together. Mains power is still not restored at the plant but a series of generators are now providing all the power currently needed.

All IT services were lost and Quickline Communications provided valuable support by erecting a borrowed mast opposite the plant within a couple of days of the flood. This also restored the service to Quickline broadband users in the village. A generator has now been connected to the Quickline equipment originally installed on one of the plant's silos, to provide a faster broadband service to those residents of South Ferriby who wished to use it. CEMEX is now using this facility to restore its own IT services.

Top level support

CEMEX UK President, Jesus Gonzalez, has visited the site to see for himself the extent of the damage and to underline the aim of getting South Ferriby back on line as soon as is practically possible. He was also able to visit South Ferriby Village Hall. He spoke with members of South Ferriby Parish Council who were manning the information point, and he was interested to hear how CEMEX could help the community recover. He was very impressed to see how everyone was pulling together and was amazed at the array of clothes, food and cleaning materials, all donated by local people and businesses, and free for anyone in need of them, together with the provision of excellent hot food and drinks.



Repairs underway

We are still assessing the damage to the plant and further issues may arise. So far the most serious damage we are aware of was done to the plant's electrical systems, in particular the electrical switching gear – the network of controls, wiring and interchanges that provide the power to operate the many items of machinery on site.

We have already gone out to tender to refurbish / replace our damaged equipment and we are in the process of appointing suppliers. In the meantime, we have established temporary offices and welfare facilities by installing some 30 portacabins. We also have cleaning crews working daily to initially remove the millions of litres of water and to now clean the silt and mud from around the plant.

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