

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES

MEETING HELD 10TH JANUARY 2022 1500 (BY ZOOM)

In attendance:

Cllr Jane Lennie (JL)	Shepshed Town Council
Coun. Christine Radford	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Peter Grainger (PG)	Shepshed Town Council
Julia Howard (JH)	Local Resident
Peter Cunnington (PC)	Local Resident
Ms Landy Yang	Local Resident
Mr K King	Local Resident
Councillor Max Hunt	Leicestershire County Council
Ms. Becky Knighton	LCC Planning Officer
Mr Alan Twells	Charnwood District
David Spencer (DS)	Covanta
Craig Burdis (CB)	Covanta
Mary Tappenden (MT)	Biffa
Dr David Best (DPB)	Independent Facilitator
Mr Peter Wood (by telephone, part)	Local Resident
Ms Jane Hammersley	Local Resident

Apologies for absence: Ann Green, Councillor J Savage, Mr J Orchard, Mark Revill, Mr Peter Wood (part)

Disclaimer: Membership of the LLC does not imply either support for, or objection to, the Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) development. Rather it is an opportunity to facilitate the flow of information between the developer and local communities and vice versa.

1. Welcome

- 1.1. David Best welcomed members to the meeting. He welcomed Ms Becky Knighton who had recently joined the Committee, replacing Mr Galpin.
- 1.2. A copy of the papers circulated with the agenda will be available on the Newhurst ERF website after the meeting has concluded.
- 1.3. DPB stated that the meeting would be recorded to help prepare the meeting notes, but the recording would be deleted once these were approved at the subsequent LLC meeting. The transcript would not be published.

[The community engagement page of the site is here:](#)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

- 2.1 These had been previously circulated. These were approved and will be posted to the website in the usual way.

3. Matters Arising not on the Agenda.

There were none.

4. Construction Update.

Mr. Burdis presented the construction update, using a slide deck which has since been put on the web site and the link to which is [here](#):

4.1 Key points:

4.1.1 Detailed design is now 96% complete (October 93%) and procurement & manufacturing are 96% complete (October 87%). Progress is on time and the manufacturing of main components is also progressing on time, with deliveries of the Turbine and Stack arriving on site.

4.1.2 Construction is now 53% complete (October 43%) and on time.

4.1.3 The main civil works are now complete. Erection of combustion equipment is well advanced, building steelwork and cladding of the building envelope is continuing and is clearly visible on the main structure. There was some slight delay due to windy days in November, but no serious impact. Two steel and cladding deliveries are outstanding, but all is on track. The next key date is the Boiler Pressure test targeted for the end of January 2022.

4.1.4 Approximately 500 operatives are now working on site, and this is approaching the peak number of operatives expected to be on site at any one time. The project has just passed one million hours on site, a very significant milestone.

4.1.5 The Stack has been fully erected and stands 96.5m tall, and the most visible part of the plant. Construction of the substation by Western Power Distribution is also underway. There are two routes: one to Ratcliffe on Soar, and one to Coalville. Both import and export of power will be possible to Ratcliffe, and import will be possible from Coalville.

4.1.6 The Covid 19 Action plan remains in place and is working effectively to prevent and manage incidence of the virus. Less than ten cases have been recorded since before Christmas helped by the fact that the majority of the work is outside, reducing the spread of the virus.

4.1.7 Next three months planned activities:

- Erection of the Building Envelope will continue including steelwork and cladding.
- M&E Contractors will continue with installation of the Combustion equipment, Flue Gas Treatment and Water Steam Cycle equipment.
- Boiler Pressure Test scheduled for end of January 2022.
- Electrical and Piping subcontractors will continue with installation.

- Installation of the Turbine Generator to commence.
- Installation of the Point of Supply Substation and HV Switchgear in preparation for energisation of 132kV grid connection.
- Operations and Maintenance Manager will join the team, with recruitment of O&M staff ongoing.
- Mr Jim Thompson will join the team as Plant Manager and Ms Laura Curtis will join as Operations Manager. Each of them will then recruit their teams and in turn their teams will recruit their own staff.

4.1.8 Non-construction related visits are now able to be scheduled and **Mr Burdis stated that if members of the committee wanted to arrange to visit the site they could do so by contacting him.** It was best to visit after working hours for both safety and convenience.

Electricity energisation is being planned for April May time, and so all the actions necessary for that are now being carried out.

4.2 Questions on Construction Update.

4.2.1 **Questions from those living in the area to liaison group members were at present related to the size of the plant in relation to the plans. Was the plant bigger than shown in the planning submissions?** **Mr Burdis** replied that the plant was being built exactly as specified. **Mrs. Tappenden** described photomontages that had been included in the original submissions, which showed the proportion of the finished site in relation to the surrounding landscape. These montages were shown to the meeting, and were subsequently circulated to members, and may be circulated to the public as appropriate.

4.2.2 **Was the colour scheme of the plant as planned?** **Mrs. Tappenden** reported that it was, and that the appearance of the building changed slightly depending on the light and the angle of view.

4.2.3 **Mrs. Howard** enquired: **Would recruitment be focused as far as possible on local people?** **Mr Spencer and Mr Burdis** reiterated that as far as possible staff would be encouraged to apply from the catchment area of the plant, but that specialist skills may not necessarily be available within commuting distance of the plant.

A recruitment portal and link on the website would take interested parties to the list of opportunities available, but more outreach to candidate pools might also be undertaken. For reference, the link to roles at Newhurst and other Covanta UK facilities is [here](#) (please click on UK as the 'Location Country' to view current positions available).

4.2.4 **Councillor Hunt** asked **Was the local heating scheme in progress, or in abeyance until later?** **Mr Burdis** replied that the provision of a route for heat offtake was a condition of the planning consent. The team continue to

investigate opportunities for heat off take which will be progressed where viable, as the plant moved towards operation. A meeting had been held with the Midland Energy Hub and other activities to increase awareness of the potential were being carried out.

4.2.5 In relation to recruitment **a question was raised about community involvement and the significant investment that the plant represented and the beneficial impact the plant could have on the neighboring communities by promoting involvement in local activities and enterprise. Mr Spencer** reiterated earlier statements about the potential to establish a Community Trust Fund for the Newhurst project and participation by those on the site in local sports, clubs and action programmes. He further stated that this was a matter for the Board to determine closer to the start of operation of the facility.

Implementation of local links and initiatives, and for example the heat offtake arrangements, would be the responsibility of a **Portfolio Director** who is to be appointed to develop and manage these activities over the life of the facility. **Mr Burdis** stated that the Portfolio Director would take over his role on the LLC as the construction phase begins to run into completion and the plant begins operations.

5. Questions received previously

5.1 **An odour reported to Councillor Hunt.** A local resident had raised a question about a sweet and sickly odour. **Mr Burdis** reported that no emissions from the site were occurring since the plant was not operating and therefore there was no source for this. **Coun. Hunt** asked about the process for contacting the developer to get information should this or another incident require investigation. **Mr Burdis** stressed that during this phase of the project, he was the single point of contact for these types of enquiries. In discussion the point was raised that a prominent board outside other sites often provided the contact details for events such as this. **Mr Burdis** reiterated that he should be contacted in the event of such an occurrence. Once the plant had started operation it was likely that a front gate signage would be erected, providing a range of site and key contact information. It was also important that once the Plant was operating under its permit, the Environmental Health department of the relevant Local Authority should be advised. David Best agreed to be the first point of contact for any matter to go to members of the LLC which of course includes Local Authorities and the Developer.

5.2 **Footpath K62**

Footpath K62 currently runs along the A512 to the M1 junction before continuing south on the east side of the motorway. During the landfill application consideration was given to diverting the footpath through the

Newhurst site and to the east of the M1 through the tunnel and out via Longcliffe Quarry. For Health and Safety reasons this was not pursued. Had it been possible, the reinstatement of the path would have been a very long-term solution since it would not have been possible until landfill restoration had been complete.

There have been issues with individuals accessing both Newhurst and Longcliffe quarries (Longcliffe lies to the East of the M1 motorway and is slightly south and east of Newhurst). In discussions it was noted that:

- The possible routes are all not ideal from a public safety perspective.
- There is a stile from the A512 onto the edge of the Newhurst site adjacent to the BMX track which looks new (Mrs Tappenden to check this)
- Councillors Radford and Hunt raised concern about the possibility for anti-social behaviour of people in the tunnel below the motorway which the path would take and Cllr Radford expressed opposition to the path using it.
- That in any event solutions could not be considered until work on the site was complete.

The topic would be kept under review and solutions considered at the appropriate time.

6. Planning Update

7.1 Non-material changes. These had been approved at the time of the meeting in October and had been planned into the construction activity.

7.2. The Reserved Matters Scheme, covering elements of the construction such as the route to the site, heat off take arrangements, the restoration scheme and the aftercare of the restoration, were all nearing completion and **Mrs Tappenden** expected to be able to submit them before the Spring. The Committee would be advised as soon as the documents were ready and available.

7. Any other business

Mrs Howard had raised three further questions, which had been previously circulated.:

1. To understand how committee members might view the public register bearing in mind we have been told by the EA it is not available online, so that members can see the operational conditions that have been implemented and agreed by the EA which are placed on the public register
2. How members might see details of the emissions submitted to the public register one month after a quarter end which are again placed on the public register.
3. To discuss whether committee members might view emissions at the date of emission so the emissions and overall performance data might be made available earlier than the 4 months target,

In the absence of **Mr Revell** of the Environment Agency, their views on this were not available, but in discussion Mr Spencer commented that the practice would be once the plant was operational to be as transparent as practicable in publishing data, perhaps through the medium of an online dashboard. The decisions about this however were the province of the Operations management and would be decided in c. 12 months time.

CB reported that the permit was in the process of being transferred from Biffa to Covanta so Covanta would be responsible for giving these updates going forward. It was agreed to carry forward this topic until the appropriate colleagues are present and to add it to the agenda as a standing item.

8. Date of the next meeting.

This would be at a time to be agreed on **Monday 4th April 2022** and the time and the format of the meeting would be agreed when it was clear if it could be a face-to-face, a hybrid or virtual meeting format.