

**NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES**  
**MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022, 1730 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)**

**In attendance:**

Mr Charlie Harris	Environment Agency
Mr Rob Harrison	Environment Agency
Coun. Christine Radford	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Peter Grainger	Shepshed Town Council
Mr. Peter Cunnington	Local Resident
Mrs Mary Tappenden	Biffa
Mr. Craig Burdis	Covanta
Dr David Best	Independent Facilitator
Mr. G Newborough	Local Resident
Mr. John Orchard	Biffa
Mrs. Ann Green	Charnwood District Council (EHO)
Mr. Jim Thompson	Covanta
Mr Iain Cook (part)	Covanta/Biffa
Ms Helen Power	Environment Agency
Mr Peter Wood	Local Resident
Ms Jane Hammersley	Local Resident
Coun. Jane Lennie	Shepshed Town Council
Coun. John Savage	Charnwood District Council
Mr S Cuff (Pro Mrs Howard)	Local Resident

**Apologies for absence:** Dr Landy Yang, Ms Becky Knighton, Coun. Max Hunt, Mr K King, Mr D Spencer, Mr A Twells, Marie Dickinson. Coun. Ian Williams

**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.

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**1. Welcome**

1.1. **David Best** welcomed members to the meeting. He reported the resignations of Mrs Howard, who had left the UK with her family, and Mr Mark Needham due to ill health.

**Noted;** The LLC expressed its appreciation of both Mrs Howard's and Mr Needham's contributions and wished them both well.

In particular, the Committee expressed its good wishes to Mr Needham for better health.

Mr Cuff was attending the meeting in place of Mrs Howard under clause 5.1 of the LLC Terms of Reference.

- 1.2. A copy of the papers circulated with the agenda will be available on the Newhurst ERF website in the coming days.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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 have been posted to the website in the usual way.

## **3. Matters Arising not on the agenda.**

Mr Cuff drew attention to several issues raised in correspondence from himself and from Mrs Howard- these were covered under the relevant agenda items. Dr Best noted that in light of the resignations received and the need to ensure that the Committee was fully representative of the local areas, membership would be raised under AoB.

## **4. Construction Update.**

**Mr. Burdis** presented the construction update, using a slide deck which will be available on the web site and the link to which is [here](#)

### **4.1 Key points:**

- 4.1.1 99% of construction is now complete (July 87%) with the project now 97% complete overall and on time. Further significant and visible progress can be seen in the cladding and the build of the elements of the site. Around 250 operatives currently working on site, down from 400 in July, and now over 1.9 million project hours have been committed.
- 4.1.2 Commissioning is now 88% complete and progressing on time. Next phase of commissioning involves optimisation of all systems before starting the Take Over Tests in the first half of 2023.
- 4.1.3 Boiler boil-out commenced in August followed by Steam Blows in September. First waste deliveries are expected on site during October, shortly followed by first fire with waste. 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.
- 4.1.4 Photographs recording progress since April are provided in the construction update deck on the Community Engagement pages of the Newhurst website. Further visuals are likely to be provided on the basis of the original model used in the planning process to further illustrate the way in which the as-built plant is as-designed.

### **4.2 Activities undertaken over the previous three months.**

- Erection of the Building Envelope continued with cladding works substantially complete.
- Cold commissioning substantially complete, with all systems tested prior to hot commissioning.
- Installation of the Turbine Generator continued.
- Hot commissioning progressing well with Boiler Boil-out and Steam Blows complete

#### **4.3 Next three months planned activities:**

- First waste deliveries scheduled this month (October).
- Followed by Hot Commissioning on waste.
- Complete cold commissioning of Steam Turbine Generator with a view to synchronise to the Grid in November

#### **4.4 Questions on Construction Update.**

**4.4.1 Mr Cuff referred to the reported odour and colour of the first Steam Blow.** Whilst it was agreed that the steam was coloured by particles of Ferrous Oxide expelled from the interior of the pipework, it was not established that there was an odour emanating from this activity.

**Mr Newborough** commented that it was more likely that the smell had originated from the pet food factory on the opposite side of the A512 from the site, and that there were a number of sources of smells in the area. **Mr Grainger** and **Mr Cunnington** both gave the opinion that the explanation provided by the site management fully explained the nature of the event. In discussion **it was agreed** that detailed and timely information to the community provided both by pushing communication to the locality and provided via members of the LLC was very important in ensuring that local people were properly and fully informed about events taking place in the runup to operation. **Mrs. Radford** mentioned her monthly columns in the local press and suggested a monthly news sheet as one possible way of informing local communities. This would be considered by the team. **Mr Harris** of the EA added that anyone concerned by events at the Site could either contact the site directly (and Mr Burdis advised that a number will be provided once the site is operational) or that individuals could contact the EA using the Environment Agency incident hotline.

**4.4.2 Councillor Lennie** asked when Covanta would take over. It was explained that the Newhurst facility was a Covanta/Biff Joint venture, with Covanta operating the site and Biffa supplying the waste.

**4.4.3 Discussion took place on the representation of adjacent areas.** **Dr Best** explained that he had written explaining that it was open to the various local authorities to vary those who they had to represent them on the Committee. **Mrs Radford** and **Mr Hunt** both represented areas in more than one capacity.

**Ms Hammersley** noted that as a member of the Longcliffe Golf Club, she would be happy to reflect the views of members who observed or felt they were affected by the site. Finally, it was noted that the emissions from the steam blow were resampled and that **Mr Burdis** had visited the Golf Club and that no odours were detected on when further steam blows were being carried out.

## 5. Operations and Maintenance update.

**5.1 Mr Thompson** reported on progress in these areas.

- Steam blows were completed on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.
- First Waste was to be received on site 12<sup>th</sup> Oct
- First fire was in planning
- A Reliability run was in planning

**91% of the staff** had now been recruited.

**5.2** In response to a question from **Mr Grainger**, **Mr Thompson** stated that more than 10% of the workforce had been recruited locally with many more from the wider Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire area including from the Ratcliff on Trent power station workforce who had transferable skills.

**5.3 Councillor Lennie** asked if advance warning would be given of forthcoming events such as the first fire. It was agreed that the same approach as to exceptional loads would be used to provide LLC members with as much forward warning as practicable of upcoming events.

**5.4** The site was operating to a set of values developed collaboratively with the new teams that had been appointed under the acronym **STRIVE**

**S** Safety First

**T** Team Work Approach

**R** Respect for the individual

**I** Integrity always

**V** Versatility in your role

**E** Excellence in everything we do

**Mr Burdis** added that the project had received a high rating in the **Considerate Contractors Scheme** which reflected well on the whole team on site.

## 6. Planning Update

**6.1 Mrs Tappenden** reported that the implementation of the outage compound, the need for which had been previously reported, was now in progress.

**6.2** The change to the planting schemes, discussed previously and necessitated by the discovery of an alkaline soil composition rather than alkaline as had previously been thought, was now being developed and reviewed, pending implementation at the right point in the year.

- 6.3 Ms Knighton** had communicated to the Secretariat that no issues were outstanding from the point of view of the Planning authority.
- 6.4 Mr Wood** enquired where the boundary of the site was. **Mrs Tappenden** replied that there were in fact two boundaries. A boundary of the Newhurst operational site, which was now in the ownership of the Newhurst ERF joint venture, and a residual area outside this comprising the wider quarry area including the area of water and external site boundary which remained in the ownership of Biffa.
- NOTE** A plan showing these boundaries was distributed to members shortly after the meeting.

## **7. Permitting update.**

- 7.1** Mr. Harris of the Environment Agency explained the process of sign off pre-operations including for example ensuring that tests to demonstrate the correct temperature of the boiler for example were satisfactory and were signed off by the Environment Agency. He noted that he had visited the site during the steam blows and nothing of significance had been recorded during this inspection.
- 7.2** He was content with how the processes were managed and that the correct procedures and processes were being followed
- 7.3** Mr Harris commented on the application for an increase in the throughput of the plant (though with no increase in traffic movements). This was regarded as a substantial variation and would therefore be subject to consultation. Work was ongoing on the application and when it was submitted the normal process would be followed in considering whether to allow it.

## **8. Monitoring and Reporting**

**8.1 Mrs Green**, Environmental Health officer for Charnwood Borough Council explained the graphical data which she had previously circulated to the Committee (7<sup>th</sup> October 2022). These data and the accompanying email had been sent in response to the concerns expressed by the committee of the presence of PM2.5 in the air around the Newhurst site and any impact of these particulates on public health. These data showed the measurement of PM2.5 as a 24hr average of the particles per cubic meter of air from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022- 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This established a baseline before any operations at the Newhurst site had started to September this year. The measurements had been taken at the same time in each of three monitoring points. Mountsorrell Quarry (Charnwood BC), a location in the Garendon Ward of Loughborough ( on a University owned building) - and the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) monitoring point in Nottingham.

Whilst as might be expected the peaks and troughs of these data were slightly different it was clear that there was no material difference in levels at the Loughborough location from the levels at the other two. Mrs Green explained

that this was because the factors causing significant variations in the levels of these particulates could be as diverse as dust blown by winds high in the atmosphere originating in (for example) north Africa, volcanic activity to the North (from Iceland for example) which affected large areas of the country. The graphs showed that over the period of the measurement there was no discernible impact that could be attributed to the Newhurst site.

**Councillor Lennie** asked if there was the possibility to establish a benchmark from before the site began operation. **Mrs Green** reiterated that given that the monitoring began in February 2022 before any operating or testing activity at the site, these data did in fact provide such a benchmark. She further made the point that at present there was concern over the increase of wood burning due to the energy cost crisis, and the impact that this might have on local air quality, and that air quality events were cross boundary in nature. The importance of communicating clearly and frequently about this and other topics was repeated and agreed.

**Mr Cuff** commented on the potential risk to sports persons at Loughborough university. **Mrs Green** pointed out that these data made clear that for the period of measurement this risk was no greater than in average times.

**Mrs Radford** recalled the high occurrence of asthma sufferers in the area historically.

## **8. Discussion on CHP**

In accordance with the decision to have a standing item on the heat offtake potential of the site, discussion took place on the current status. Discussions and exploration of the potential customers for heat offtake were continuing. Any developments in this area will be reported to the LLC as they occur.

## **9. Questions received previously**

No questions had been received, not addressed in the meeting.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the LLC will be held on **Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023** at a time to be agreed.

## **11. Any other business**

**Membership.** A short discussion on membership of the Committee took place.

- **It was agreed, that the 3 mile radius of membership eligibility was satisfactory and would remain.**
- A discussion on the representation of various areas in relation to wind direction took place. It had been requested that a greater number of representatives be allowed from areas down wind of the site.

- It was noted that if the local authorities concerned wished to change the areas from which their representatives were drawn it was open to them to do so.

### **Postscript**

Membership; Following the LLC's decision to seek replacement members for Mr Needham and Mrs Howard, Mr Cook announced that Covanta would place advertisements in local media and on the website inviting applications.

Social media would also be explored as a medium for attracting applications.

Expressions of interest should be sent to [david@drdavidbest.net](mailto:david@drdavidbest.net)