

**NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES**  
**MEETING HELD 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022, 1700 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)**

**In attendance:**

Cllr Jane Lennie (JL)	Shepshed Town Council
Coun. Christine Radford	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Peter Grainger (PG)	Shepshed Town Council
Mr. Peter Cunningham (PC)	Local Resident
Ms. Landy Yang	Local Resident
Mr. Kenneth King	Local Resident
Councillor Max Hunt	Leicestershire County Council
Mr. David Spencer (DS)	Covanta
Mr. Craig Burdis (CB)	Covanta
Dr David Best (DPB)	Independent Facilitator
Mr. Peter Wood	Local Resident
Mr. G Newborough	Local Resident
Mr. John Orchard	Covanta/Biffa
Mr. Mark Needham	Local Resident
Mrs. Ann Green	Charnwood District Council (EHO)
Mr. Jim Thompson	Covanta/Biffa

**Apologies for absence:** Mr Charlie Harris (replacing Mr Revill), Mrs. Mary Tappenden, Mrs Julia Howard, Ms Jane Hammersley, Ms Becky Knighton, Mr Alan Twells, Coun. John Savage.

**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 Mr Newborough and members introduced themselves. Mr Jim Thompson was introduced as the newly appointed Facility/Plant Manager for the Newhurst site.
- 1.2. A copy of the papers circulated with the agenda is available on the Newhurst ERF website.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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.**

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 Progress was more visible as the cladding and roofing of the building was undertaken and the condensers were now under construction as could be seen. The three storms recently had caused some minor delays, but progress was now on track.
- 4.1.2 Detailed design, procurement and manufacturing are now 98% complete (January 96%) Turbine and stack, as well as condensers are now installed
- 4.1.3 Construction is now 71% complete (January 53%) and on time.
- 4.1.4 The Boiler pressure tests were completed in February and were satisfactorily passed. In response to a question from **Mr. King**, **Mr Burdis** reported that the Boiler was designed to operate at a pressure of 85Bar but had been tested to 145Bar and that there were emergency by-passes if the pressure exceeded design limits. **Mr Newborough** asked about the monitoring of corrosion rates in the boiler, turbine, and pipework. **Mr Thompson** stressed that this monitoring was part of the routine maintenance and related activities in the plant and that if needed the boiler and turbine could be taken offline without difficulty if needed.
- 4.1.5 Approximately 600 operatives are now working on site, and this is likely to be the peak number of operatives expected to be on site at any one time. Some 100 contractors were now at work on the electrical and related installation work. The numbers would begin to reduce slowly as work packages begin to be completed
- 4.1.6 The next major milestones will be the start of cold commissioning which is scheduled to begin around July 2022. Work on cladding and related external works is continuing.
- 4.1.7 The progress made can be seen in the photographs included in the Construction update deck of slides that is available via the website Community Engagement pages.
- 4.1.8 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.

#### 4.1.9 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.
- Electrical and Piping subcontractors will continue with installation.
- Installation of the Turbine Generator to continue.
- Energisation of the 132kV grid connection.
- Recruitment of O&M staff ongoing.

4.1.10 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 In relation to previous questions on the scale of the plant in relation to the design, photo montages are included in the construction update deck and show that the plant is built as designed.

4.2.2 **Mr Cunnington enquired if the architects were the same as those employed elsewhere.** They were and the plant was similar in design to others. **Mr Burdis** commented that the design was in his view rather better than some others that he was familiar with.

4.2.3 **Mr Grainger asked if all systems were duplicated for safety.** **Mr Burdis** explained that there were no single points of failure, but that since the plant was a single line operation with one boiler and one turbine, the plant was designed such that either or both could be taken offline as needed without detriment to the safe operation of the plant.

4.2.4 **Councillor Lennie asked if the heat export was agreed (See also planning update below).** **Mr Orchard** explained that a feasibility study had just been completed but was not yet published into the potential customers for heat and how this might be provided. Since it was a condition of the permission to develop the site that a route for heat offtake should be provided, this topic was under active development. As recorded in the notes of the January meeting, 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.

4.2.5 **Mr. Newborough** asked if there would be remote monitoring of the plant operation and specifically the turbine. **Mr Thompson** explained that the control centre of the Plant would be equipped to monitor all systems on site and that it would be possible to see this facility once the cold commissioning was complete.

4.2.6 **Mr King** asked if there were any areas of the plant which represented an Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) risk. **Mr Thompson** explained that there were reference studies which classified EMR risk from such plants and that any areas of Newhurst which presented such a risk, which was expected to be very low, would be clearly delineated.

### **4.3 Environmental Permit Pre-Commissioning Conditions**

4.3.1 **Mr Burdis** reported on the Environmental permit pre-commissioning conditions which are detailed in the update deck with the status and responsibility against each one. Members of the Committee are encouraged to review these and forward any questions to **David Best**.

### **4.4 Recruitment update.**

4.4.1 **Mr Thompson** described the organisation structure of the Newhurst operation of which he is now the manager. **Ms. Laura Curtis** had been recruited as operations Manager, and was the first female Operations Manager in the UK, and had been promoted from her role at the Rookery South plant. **Mr Dwight Lewis** had been appointed as Maintenance Manager.

4.4.2 There is a team of 28 Operations staff under Laura Curtis. In the operations areas, 6 shift managers and a day supervisor will oversee the 28 operations staff. Dwight Lewis will manage a team of 12 Maintenance staff, organised in Electrical and Mechanical sections, plus a Planner and an Inventory Controller. There are also a Site Administration, Health and Safety, HR and Environmental Management supported in all by a team of four staff. **Mr Burdis** commented that Mr Thompson would, over time, replace him as the point of contact for the Committee, as construction came to a close and operations began

4.4.3 Members of the teams were being recruited by **Jim, Laura, and Dwight** with HR support, so that by September some 90% of the staff would have been recruited. At present shift Managers are being recruited and in May all six would be in place. The focus was on building a diverse workforce in terms of new starters, more experienced staff, and wherever possible recruits from the immediate area of the plant where the skills or new entrants to the industry could be found. So far recruits had been found from Shepshed, and Loughborough and some interest had been expressed from other sites in the area such as Ratcliffe on Soar power station.

4.4.4 Significant classroom and hands on training periods were planned for new staff, and the shift patterns were being worked on for the operations and Maintenance areas. Out of hours, and on Sunday, the plant would be staffed by three operators but with full staffing from Monday to Saturday during the working day.

## **5. Planning update**

5.1.1 A site visit had been arranged for Ms Becky Knighton who had taken over from Daniel Galpin of Leics. CC Planning department. This took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, David Best also attended.

5.1.2 The planning update was presented by Mr Spencer in Mrs Tappenden' s absence. The report is on the web site [here](#).

The status of the heat offtake (referred to earlier in the meeting is noted below, a submission was made to LCC on 16th March 2022 to address Condition 29 of the planning permission. Condition 29 states:

29. The development shall not begin operating unless and until a route to the boundary of the site capable of accommodating pipework for heat off-take purposes has been identified and has been approved in writing by the Waste Planning Authority. The route shall thereafter be reserved for this purpose.

The route identified is from the plant to the site entrance. The submission can be viewed at the following link: [Planning application 2020/0072/02/CS/29 | Leicestershire County Council \(planning-register.co.uk\)](https://planning-register.co.uk/planning-application/2020/0072/02/CS/29)

As noted above a feasibility study into the interested parties, and the feasibility of supplying heat had been completed and was being reviewed. This work was continuing. **Councillor Hunt** requested that a standing item on this work should be included on the agenda until the route, and any agreement on heat offtake, was determined.

5.1.3 It had been discovered that the superficial layers of the site were mildly alkaline not acid as had been assumed. This being the case the landscaping scheme for part of the site was being revisited to ensure that the planting scheme was adjusted to take account of this difference in soil pH. **Mr Wood** asked if the whole area of the site including the original Hanson Quarry would be included and landscaped as one. **Mr Orchard** explained that the Scheme under the planning permission required the entire site to be dealt with not just the areas of the Newhurst developed site. There are two separate landscaping schemes that have to be approved under the planning permission; one for the Energy from the Waste (EFW) area and a second for the wider quarry area. The area of the old quarry is outside the EFW area and is the responsibility of Biffa, a different entity from the developer of the Newhurst facility. However, both schemes would be subject to aftercare requirements and would effectively be treated as a single landscape.

The scheme for this work, would be completed and agreed in time to meet the deadline set in the planning consent.

5.1.4 Discussion took place about the trespass occurring on the site especially in the lagoon and quarry area to the east of the M1. It was stressed that although this was a recurrent problem as much as could reasonably be done to deter trespassers was being done. The situation was being kept under review.

## **6. Questions received previously**

No questions had been received.

## **5. Any other business**

**Mr Burdis** reported that a contract had been agreed for the removal and use of the Air Pollution Control Residue (APC). This dry deposit would now be collected from the site to a facility to be converted into a building material, which meant that close to 100% of the waste and by product would be fully recycled.

## **6. Date of the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on **July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1700, 2022**. The format of the meeting would be agreed closer to the date.

**Postscript** Subsequent to the meeting Mr Burdis conducted a tour of the site for some members of the Committee. This tour was agreed to be extremely useful in informing the members of the layout and potential operation of the site.