

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES

MEETING HELD 5TH JULY 2021, 1500- 1700HRS (VIA ZOOM)

In attendance:

Cllr Christine Radford (CR)	LCC County Councillor, Shepshed
Cllr Jane Lennie (JL)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Peter Grainger (PG)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Joan Tassell (JT)	Charnwood Borough Council Shepshed West
Julia Howard (JH)	Local Resident
Peter Wood (PW)	Local Resident
Peter Cunnington (PC)	Local Resident
Ms Landy Yang	Local Resident
Mr Mark Needham	Local Resident
Daniel Galpin (DG)	LCC Planning Officer
Mark Revill (MR)	Environment Agency (EA)
Ann Green (AG)	CBC Environmental Protection
David Spencer (DS)	Covanta
Craig Burdis (CB)	Covanta
John Orchard (JO)	Biffa
Mary Tappenden (MT)	Biffa
Dr David Best (DPB)	Independent Facilitator

Apologies for absence: Alan Twells (CBC), Mr King, Ms Hammersley, Coun. Savage, Coun. Hunt.

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.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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. Introductions of new Members.

DPB welcomed Mr Mark Needham and Ms. Landy Yang to the Committee.

- 2.1 Mr Markham had been resident in the area most of his life. For about 8 years now he was a governor at Holywell Primary School and was for 6

of those years Chair of Governors. He has also been a member of the board of the Odyssey Collaborative Trust group of primary schools in Derby. He is an enthusiastic and accomplished amateur brass musician and has played with a number of organizations such as Hathern Band, Loughborough and Charnwood Orchestras. He has a keen interest in environmental matters and is looking forward to contributing to the work of the Committee.

2.2 Ms Yang is a senior lecturer in Business and Management and the faculty China Country Lead of Business and Law faculty at De Montfort University. Sustainable development is a focus of teaching and learning and extra curricula activities to encourage students to make their life and community's difference.

She is passionate about helping to raise awareness of sustainable way of living to the public. and is looking forward to contributing.

2.3 Note: Covanta/Biffa colleagues introduced themselves subsequently under item 4.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising not on the Agenda.

4.1 Ms Howard raised the question of community funding and whether this had progressed since the last meeting. Mr Spencer replied on behalf of Covanta that a Community Trust had been discussed and agreed in principle by the project's Board, and that such funding was customarily provisioned much closer to the start of operations.

5. 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](#):

The key points were:

5.1 Detailed design is now 82% complete and procurement & manufacturing are 65% complete. Progress is on time and the manufacturing of main components is also progressing on time, with deliveries of Boiler elements arriving on site. It was very satisfactory to see these major elements of the plant arriving on site as a tangible sign of progress.

5.2 Construction is now 38% complete and on time. In addition, the main civil works are now complete. The mechanical erection contractors have arrived on site and have started erection of combustion equipment, and building

steelwork is continuing. Cladding of the building envelope has commenced. The development has achieved a score of 41/50 in an audit by the Considerate Constructors Scheme, gaining 'Excellent' in every category.

5.3 Covid Plan and actions

The Covid action plan remains in place and precautions and management are as reported at the previous meeting. The controls in place are:

- All persons arriving at site are subject to temperature screening.
- Workforce start, finish and break times are staggered to avoid large groups.
- Site Welfare and Offices have been designed to be large enough to enable social distancing.
- Additional handwashing facilities and sanitiser.
- Expanded the site cleaning team to ensure areas are cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Masks are being worn when moving around offices.
- Site support staff working from home where possible.
- Full-time Medic on site with Covid-testing capability, should it be required.
- On site misting' tunnels in operation to disinfect clothing.

5.4 Next three months planned activities.

- Erection of the Building Envelope will continue including steelwork and cladding.
- Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) Contractors will continue with installation of the Combustion equipment.
- Delivery of the Waste Cranes expected in July 2021.
- Factory inspections to check on manufacturing progress will continue (remotely due to Covid-restrictions).
- Non-construction related visits will hopefully be able to commence soon – subject to Government and Construction Leaderships Council advice.

The next major project milestone will be the pressure test of the boiler, scheduled for December 2021.

5.5 Questions on Construction Update.

Mr. Peter Wood commented that the top of the site seemed much higher than many people had imagined from the plans. Would it not have been possible to place the site closer to the line of the motorway where the ground is lower, and the top of the building would therefore also have been lower? He stressed that he was not questioning that the development was where the plans show, simply that was it possible that it could have been placed closer to the M1?

Mrs. Tappenden explained the site constraints with an embankment closer to the motorway with many trees which were subject to Tree Preservation

Orders, as well as a major water main. To the other direction, there is a large lagoon. Given the footprint of the site it would not have been possible to site it other than where it is.

Mr. Cunnington observed that it was as well the development was not closer to the M1 since it would have been at the expense of many trees.

Mrs. Howard commented on the high white wall shown in the photographs.

Mr. Burdis explained that this was a fire wall, between the boiler hall and the administration facility and that this would not be visible once enclosed within the finished development.

Mrs. Tappenden explained that the colours of the roof and external walls adjoining the roof and visible from the Charley Road would in fact be a sandy buff colour, and not white, and therefore less conspicuous.

(Councillor Jane Lennie joined the meeting having been in the waiting room)

6. Report on Site meetings

6.1 Mr Spencer reported that Jane Hunt, the Member of Parliament for Loughborough, and her communications advisor had visited the site. The weather did not allow a site tour, but the briefing took place in the construction Village.

This visit followed an open invitation from Covanta/Biffa to her and many other senior stakeholders when construction started. She visited on a Friday which is her constituency day. The meeting involved Craig Burdis and a number of the team and was a good opportunity to brief Ms. Hunt MP on the plant and on-site progress. Also, to explain what the plant was and, more importantly, what it was not, so as to provide a full explanation of the development.

This included:

- The nature of the plant
- The volumes of waste and how they would be handled.
- The energy produced, how it would/could be used and a number of other issues including the Environmental Permit requirements, continuous emissions controls and monitoring.

6.2 Support to local Resident's Association- Litter Picking.

Mr. Spencer reported that the developers had been approached by a local residents' association from Dishley for help with equipment to help litter picking. They were able to be supplied with litter picking claws, hi-vis PPE and other litter picking equipment.

Mr. Wood commented that there was a similar group in Shepshed, Mr. Spencer offered similar support to that group and to others. Mr. Wood was asked to supply contact details to **Mr. Spencer**.

Addendum note: Since the Newhurst LLC met, the coordinator for the Shepshed Litter Pickers has contacted Mr Spencer. A further update will be provided to LLC members at the next meeting.

6.3 Abnormal Loads

It was reported that now the plant is progressing, and major elements of the plant are being built, a number of abnormal loads are arriving on site. Advance notification of the arrival of these loads was being circulated to the Committee by the Chair, although sometimes the notice period was very short as a result of supplier and haulier advice or escort guidance from the Police.

7. Planning update

- 7.1 Mrs Tappenden of Biffa advised the Committee that following the advanced information at the last meeting about some minor changes to the design, and following discussions with the county council, the mechanism for these changes to be submitted and considered had been agreed and was via Section 96. A of the town and Country Planning Act, which is an application for a non-material amendment. This application is ready to be submitted subject to the provision of an updated noise assessment from SLR. The application, when submitted, will be available to the public via the council's website where comments can be submitted. In response to a question from Mrs Howard about the route of the electricity cables and the issues of energy take off, Mrs Tappenden replied that neither of these aspects had been determined yet but that after agreements on the minor design changes, these two elements would be further detailed, and applications made for agreement in good time.

8. Questions from members of the committee

- 8.1 **Mr Wood** asked about the figure of 92% given as the proportion of traffic originating from the M1 as opposed to travelling to the site along the A512, and whether the M1 route could be mandated. This figure had been quoted throughout the development of the project. **Mrs Tappenden** responded that the question was fair in that this was an estimate, believed to be valid based on the main sources of waste but that it was not possible to guarantee or legislate for traffic to come only using one route. However, as waste contracts were agreed once operations had begun these contracts may contain conditions on site access. **Mr Wood** asked if this figure would not change over time as further developments occurred to the West necessitating travel along the A512 especially with increasing residential development in those areas. He

pointed out that the improvement to the access to the plant were of little help to those whose homes were adjacent to the road.

Mr Spencer added that in the sister plant to Newhurst (at the Rookery South development in Bedfordshire) it was found that at the point of plant commissioning was when these issues could be firmed up.

Councillor Tassell added that with 2000 new homes being developed on the west side of Loughborough and the existing levels of congestion, perhaps a further traffic survey could be considered. This was noted by Covanta/Biffa.

8.2 Questions from Ms Howard to the Environment Agency re monitoring.

Ms Howard reprised her questions which were on the monitoring of particulates below the 2.5micron level. How would this be done and how would the overall levels contributed to by the plant be assessed?

Mr Revill of the EA replied (answer previously provided to the members) that the emissions from the plant were measured at the plant and by the sensors in the Stack.

Ambient air quality was the responsibility of the local authority. HE took the view that the addition of particulates from the plant would have only a very marginal impact on ambient quality, and in fact may not be measurable as a variation in ambient quality. It would also be difficult to prove that any variation was due to the plant. Any breach of permissions would be measured in the plant as part of the facility's Environmental Permit responsibilities.

Ms. Green reminded the Committee that the council had had a good deal of correspondence on this and that they were acutely aware of their responsibility to monitor air quality. They were investing in further equipment to enable additional monitoring.

In further discussion it was noted that the bag filters of the type to be implemented frequently perform significantly better than the standard. Proposals are being developed for post implementation monitoring. Any proposals to the EA would in time be publicly available.

8.3 **Councillor Hunt** had asked a question on fire regulations and precautions.

This would be held over to the next meeting when he was present. **Mr. Burdis** would provide a presentation.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date of the next meeting.

This would be at 1500 on the 4th of October and the format and location of the meeting would be announced in due course, with the hope that a face to face or hybrid meeting could be held.