

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES

MEETING HELD 4TH OCTOBER 2021, 18.00 TO 20.00 (IN PERSON AT THE NEWHURST SITE AND BY ZOOM)

In attendance:

Cllr Jane Lennie (JL)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Peter Grainger (PG)	Shepshed Town Council
Julia Howard (JH)	Local Resident
Peter Cunnington (PC)	Local Resident
Ms Landy Yang	Local Resident
Mr Mark Needham	Local Resident
Mr K King	Local Resident
Daniel Galpin (DG)	LCC Planning Officer
Mr Alan Twells	Charnwood District
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: Councillor Radford, Mr Peter Wood, Ms Hammersley, Coun. Savage, Ms Yang, Mark Revill

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. Messrs King, Burdis, Hammersley, Best, Galpin and Grainger were present in person, other attendees were present on Zoom.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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.

3.1 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.

3.1 Ms Howard noted that new WHO guidelines had come into effect on the 22nd September affecting particulate emissions. This was noted for the record.

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](#):

The key points were:

4.1 Detailed design is now 93% complete (July 82%) and procurement & manufacturing are 87% complete (July 65%). Progress is on time and the manufacturing of main components is also progressing on time, with deliveries of the Boiler, Flue Gas Treatment and Water Steam Cycle components arriving on site. A number of abnormal loads arriving on site has heralded these deliveries.

4.2 Construction is now 43% complete (July 38%) and on time. In addition, the main civil works are now complete. Erection of combustion equipment is well advanced including the grate and the boiler. Waste Cranes have been installed. Building steelwork and cladding of the building envelope is continuing. Approximately 300 operatives are now working on site.

4.3 The Covid 19 Action plan remains in place and is working effectively to prevent and manage incidence of the virus.

4.4 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, Flue Gas treatment and Water Steam Cycle equipment.
- Delivery of Turbine Generator and Stack are expected in November 2021.
- Factory inspections to check on manufacturing progress will continue (remotely due to Covid-restrictions).
- 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.
- The next major project milestone will be the pressure test of the boiler, scheduled for December 2021. Once this has been completed it can be

released to the next contractors. This will allow some 10 months before hot commissioning begins in Q4 2022.

4.5 Questions on Construction Update.

Mr King asked about the operating temperature and pressure in the boiler. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr Burdis confirmed that these parameters were:

Pressure 80 Bar

Operating Temperature 450 degrees Celsius.

Had there been any lost time incidents? **Mr Burdis** reported that one subcontract employee had had a fall, through not following the safety procedures. Eventually, the sub-contract company involved had been excluded from site and replaced due to poor attitude towards safety.

Councillor Lennie asked: Could photos of the site be shared on Social media? Mr. Spencer explained that photos should be cleared by him or Mr. Burdis's office in order to ensure that any staff visible in the picture were happy to have their image published.

5. Fire Regulations

In response to a question previously raised formally by **Councillor Hunt**, Mr Burdis addressed the issues of Fire Regulation and the Site Strategy using a presentation which can be [found here](#)

The key documents of the Fire Strategy are:

- a Fire Prevention Plan (part of Environmental Permit)
- Fire Strategy Report, used to support application for Building Regulations approval.
- Forms part of the O&M documentation (considered a live document which would require ongoing reviews, if and when changes are made to the building).

The Purpose is to identify solutions for risks posed by fire hazards. It describes the design principles and mitigation measures adequate in the unlikely event of a fire to:

- Ensure an adequate level of life safety for all occupants.
- Ensure that the property is protected as far as reasonably practical;
- Minimise the impact on business operation due to a potential fire; and
- Reduce the potential for pollution impact on the environment.

It was explained that the Fire Prevention Strategy is an essential part of the application and the consequent Environmental Permit and is constantly reviewed. The various "watches" making up the local Fire Brigade were visiting the site in rotation to ensure that they were familiar with the structure and its layout, in the unlikely event that they were required to attend the site.

In discussion, Mr Burdis confirmed that the plant falls under the jurisdiction of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Coun. Hunt enquired where the environmental permit and the fire strategy could be accessed. It is in the publicly available documentation relating to the permitted development.



Newhurst
ERF_LLC_FIRE STRAT

The document can be accessed here:

6. Questions received previously

6.1 A question had been received from **Ms Howard** regarding submissions in relation to permit improvement conditions. **Mr Revill** of the Environment Agency had provided responses to this.

In brief, Submissions to pre-operational or improvement conditions would be placed on the public register subject to any commercial or confidentiality requirements. This register is not currently available online.

6.2 **Councillor Hunt** asked if immediate access to emissions monitoring would be available in the event that one of his constituents asked about for example a “funny smell” or fumes etc in the vicinity of the plant. **Mr Revill** again provided a response to this question that monitoring reports would be lodged on the public register within one month of the quarter end. **Coun Lennie** observed that this might be regarded in some areas as not very accountable, and questioned if a timely response would be forthcoming.

Mr Spencer observed that monitoring data might be made available on a more frequent basis, but that this would be entirely in line with all statutory and regulatory requirements. Such data might include for example the furnace temperature or a live data feed on-line, but again it was not possible to commit to specifics at this time. **Mr Revill** also pointed out that there was no legislative driver for such a data provision at this time.

Ms Howard observed that live data was provided from a site in the Republic of Ireland. **Mr Spencer** pointed out that the legislative environment was very different there and any reporting obligations may have been separately stipulated by authorities in Dublin.

6.3 **Councillor Hunt** had also lodged a late question regarding footpath K62; this was noted and a request for a response carried forward to the next meeting.

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, these had been agreed by the Council.

In discussion of the range of operating conditions that would be developed, a point was made as to whether the agreed operating conditions could be mailed to the committee. This would be kept in mind as the time for their agreement came nearer so that a view could be taken as to when and how to inform the committee of them. It was noted that some of these documents might be large and emailing may present some challenges, as might ensuring that the documents were the latest and most up to date versions.

7.2. Waste supply contracts

It was asked if Biffa has as yet a contract for waste to be provided to the plant. **Mr Spencer** noted that there was a Fuel (waste) Supply Agreement in place between ProjectCo (the developer made up of Biffa, Covanta and Green Investment Group). Biffa would source the waste from their existing markets and potentially new markets. At present, it is still too premature to confirm fuel supply agreements and the sources of residual waste. This will occur in the third and final year of the construction phase when the plant is closer to being fully operational

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of the next meeting.

This would be at a time to be agreed on **Monday 10th January** again in a hybrid format.

NOTE Following the meeting Mr Burdis provided a Travel Guide for access to



Newhurst Travel
Guide_Rev 1.5.pdf

the site, which can be found here