



**Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility
Local Liaison Committee (LLC) Meeting
Monday 27th July 2020**

Agenda for the video conference meeting:

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. LLC Terms of Reference, *Mary Tappenden***
- 4. Newhurst Project Update** (Planning, Permitting and Financial Close), *Mary Tappenden, Biffa.*
- 5. Newhurst Construction update** (Project Developers, Introducing HZI, Site Mobilisation and Construction updates), *Craig Burdis and David Spencer, Covanta*
- 6. Other Project Activities, David Spencer, Covanta**
- 7. Update from Planning officers, EHOs and the Environment Agency** (if appropriate)
- 8. Question from LLC members, *All***
- 9. Consideration for the role of Chair for future meetings, *All***
- 10. AOB, next LLC meeting date and agenda items, (provisionally Monday, October 19th 2020 to avoid half-term), *All***

Please note:

Due to Covid-19 social distancing requirements, this will be a virtual meeting using Zoom.

Dial in details will be sent out to all LLC members in advance of the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Tappenden (mary.tappenden@biffa.co.uk) or David Spencer (dspencer@covanta.com).

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES

MEETING HELD 27TH JULY 2020, 1830-2000HRS (VIA ZOOM)

In attendance:

Cllr Christine Radford (CR)	LCC County Councillor, Shepshed
Cllr Max Hunt (MH)	LCC County Councillor,
Cllr Jane Lennie (JL)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Peter Grainger (PG)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr William Bebbington (WB)	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Maureen Havers (MH)	Charley Parish Council
Cllr Joan Tassell (JT)	Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr John Savage (JS)	Charnwood Borough Council
Julia Howard (JH)	Local Resident
Peter Wood (PW)	Local Resident
Peter Cunnington (PC)	Local Resident
Daniel Galpin (DG)	LCC Planning Officer
Mark Revill (MR)	Environment Agency
Helen Powers (HP)	Environment Agency
Ann Green (AG)	CBC Environmental Health
Alan Twells (AT)	CBC environmental Health
David Spencer (DS)	Covanta
Craig Burdis (CB)	Covanta
John Orchard (JO)	Biffa
Mary Tappenden (MT)	Biffa

Apologies for absence: Lynn Hobson, Pat Bailey, Garry Newborough

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.

The Terms of Reference for the Newhurst Local Liaison Committee as approved in September 2008 can be found on the facility's website (info.covanta.com/newhurst).

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1 MT introduced everyone present at the meeting. It was agreed that MT would chair the meeting on this occasion with the position of Chair a point for discussion later on the agenda.
- 1.2 A copy of the slides that were used during the meeting are available on the Newhurst ERF web site using the link:

<https://info.covanta.com/newhurst#communityengagement>

2. Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Pat Bailey and Garry Newborough. Lynn Hobson had informed MT that she did not wish to continue as a member of the Committee.

3. Terms of Reference for the Committee

- 3.1 MT explained that the original terms of reference (ToR) were agreed in 2008 when the liaison committee was first set up after Biffa had submitted the planning application for landfill at the site. The ToR define the composition of the committee and its role. The Committee has no decision-making ability but is a format for exchanging information about the project.
- 3.2 The ToR were included in an abridged version in the s106 Agreement that accompanied the 2011 planning permission for the ERF. This includes the same composition for the committee as was in the original ToR. The ToR have been carried through the subsequent two planning permissions (2015 and 2019) unaltered.
- 3.3 *Q: JH asked whether it is possible to have a couple of stakeholders included, specifically the University and the Golf Club. Graham Howard, the Facilities Manager at the University has particularly expressed an interest. A: MH thought it would be useful to have someone from the University but that would open it up to all comers. CR was concerned the liaison committee will get too big. We already have too many members from Charnwood BC and Shepshed TC. MT said she would take that up with both organisations.*
- 3.4 MT asked JH to send some info about the suggested Loughborough University representative. She also commented that we already have direct contact with the Golf Course. As the meeting notes will be included on the project's website (see point 6.2), the Golf Course will be able to see the discussions and answers to any questions raised in the minutes.
- 3.5 With the resignation of Lynn Hobson, there is a Local Resident vacancy on the committee which is available to be filled. It was agreed that this should be done in a democratic way. MT will email all members to request they send details of anyone that they think may be interested in taking up the position. If there are a number of applicants, this will be discussed at the next meeting and LLC members will be able to vote for the Local Resident they would like to join the committee

4. Planning, Permitting and Financial Close

- 4.1 MT ran through the planning and permitting history of the site. The site now has all necessary planning and permit approvals and is under construction. Financial close on the project was reached on 11th February 2020 and construction commenced in June 2020.

5. Newhurst Construction Update

- 5.1 CB presented slides of the construction update (see website).

- 5.2 CB is the project manager for Covanta. Project reached financial close in February 2020. Contracts signed with Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) as the principal Engineering, Procurement and Contractor (EPC). HZI are European leaders in Energy from Waste engineering, procurement, and construction. HZI have been carrying out the detailed design the plant.
- 5.3 Ecological mitigation measures have been put in place including translocation of a small population of Great Crested Newts. Site construction activities commenced 15th June 2020. 85 people are on site now in a temporary compound. A more permanent compound will be constructed later in the year.
- 5.4 Excavation of the waste bunker is now underway.
- 5.5 Generally, the first year comprises civil works, the second year is mechanical erection and the third year is commissioning. It is anticipated that Covanta will take over the plant in May 2023.
- 5.6 CB presented a slide that presents the relationship between all the parties. Newhurst ERF Ltd is a 50/50 partnership with Biffa owning 50% and Covanta/Green Investment Group owning the other 50%. There are also two management service agreements, with Covanta as the project manager through an Operation & Maintenance agreement, and Biffa as fuel supplier.
- 5.7 CB showed the general arrangement of the site and a slide showing what it would look like once it has been built. **Q:** *JT asked if any fly ash would be stored on site or taken away daily in sealed containers.* **A:** *MT answered a small amount will be stored on site in silos, but it will be safely handled and will be taken off site regularly in sealed tankers with no external storage or loading.*
- 5.8 Finally, CB presented some up to date photos to show how the construction is progressing on site. The site has a Covid-19 action plan and that is what is being worked to. Site staff are taking full account of all the UK government and Public Health England guidance and this is regularly reviewed, and changes made, as necessary.
- 5.9 **Q:** *JH asked if the design includes the new BAT air emission limits (AELs) that are coming down the track and come into force 6 months after Covanta take control of the keys.* **A:** *MR for the EA said that the new BAT (ael's) were signed off in December 2019. Existing plant has a 4 years grace period to implement the new limits. Any new plant operational after the end of 2023 will have to meet the new AELs. Although Newhurst does not have to comply until December 2023 it is likely the plant will comply upon commissioning. CB said he was sure this would happen. WB commented it is much better and more cost effective to include a change that you know is coming along in at the design stage than trying to retrofit.*
- 5.10 Cllr Jane Lennie commented was also concerned about the BAT regulations. Saying "I'm sure that will happen" is not enough really. **Q:** *Please can we have in it in writing to say you will actually be doing this.* **A:** *DS said we will address this in more detail as part of the range of questions to be addressed before the next meeting.*
- 5.11 **Q:** *JH said she spoke with MH of the EA about noise limits and asked for clarification on the limits that the plant will operate to. The planning only has 18-month noise monitoring and the assessment that went in the permit application says there is an adverse impact at night identified through the permit.* **A:** *MT said that two things are being mixed up here. The 18 months monitoring referred to through the planning is air*

quality, not noise. We are required to do 6 months pre-construction air quality monitoring (we have completed approximately 18 months pre-construction monitoring), 6 months construction monitoring and 6 months operational monitoring. On noise, the planning permission sets noise limits of 55dBA at noise sensitive properties during the day and 42dBA at night. We have to achieve these limits at all times throughout the life of the plant. A fuller response will be provided in advance of the next meeting.

- 5.12 CR asked that Biffa send out the answers to the questions to everyone present.
- 5.13 MH said if any other questions crop up after they leave the meeting then please put them to him. The EA left the meeting at 19.30.

6. Other Project Activities

- 6.1 DS gave some background on Covanta. Many years of experience with EfW, predominantly in the USA. The UK government is encouraging us to move away from landfill. One of the most prudent solutions is energy from waste. Covanta has many years of experience of partnering up with others in the EU to treat residual waste that cannot be recycled or composted. Building at Newhurst, Rookery South etc.
- 6.2 DS said there is now a project website. This gives an introductory overview of the project at the moment, but we will be adding more content to it as the construction phase progresses. In particular we will be introducing an FAQ section. We are also using time lapse and drone cameras to produce quarterly films so you can see what is happening on site. We will also be producing a community newsletter. Initially it will be a print edition, but it will move to an e-format to reduce carbon footprint.
- 6.3 We also want to encourage people to come to the site, but at the moment we are constrained by Covid-19. We are going to progress some branding work for the project so it has an identity. In general, because it is under construction we do want to get out and talk to people so that any concerns can be raised. Our aim is to be as open and transparent as possible.
- 6.4 Looking to try and capitalise on the heat off-take from the plant. In the EU some plants export heat to local industrial users. We have been looking for a heat user, potentially the University, but we want to explore all opportunities. It is a sensible thing to do, it makes the plant more efficient and it is good use of a by-product from the process.
- 6.5 MH found this reassuring and put across a very human face of the organisation. The single concern is the emissions from the plant. A lot of papers make all sorts of claims about the emissions. Unfortunately, Covanta or Biffa are not the best people to say how safe the plant is. The people we trust most are the local EHO's. Please can you discuss with them to explain how you control emissions and monitor the plant in language that can be understood.

- 6.6 DS said he has the job of articulating what these plants are, and also what they are not. The regulations in the EU and the UK under which we have to operate are amongst the strictest. There are clear reporting responsibilities on the operator under the permit to give real time data about how the plant is performing against the permit. We will definitely address this and will produce a position statement as well as addressing this in the FAQ along with other issues such as noise, transport etc.
- 6.7 I know people will find a lot of information on the internet and if they do, please send it through and I will be more than willing to try and answer questions in a way that is not overbearing or too scientific. We will use third party information that has been peer reviewed. MH commented that this is very reassuring.
- 6.8 CR said you were going to do away? with the print copy of the newsletter. DS said we will send newsletters out to homes within a particular radius of the site. Print edition will be in September time, then another e-edition approximately 3-4 months after that.
- 6.9 CR do you do any grants to the local area? DS said we don't at the moment on this site. MT confirmed there are no planning conditions that require this to happen. Covanta do have trust funds that can be applied for, for local projects. DS said the team would need to speak to see how this might be taken forward.
- 6.10 CR you are talking to the University about heat, but we have in Loughborough, Rainbows for children at end of life. If possible, could free electricity or heat should go to them rather than the University. DS said EfW's generate electricity that goes directly to the national grid which is distributed in the normal way to homes and businesses. There are plants in the UK that distribute heat locally. We are going out early on this to see what inward investment might arise from the use of the heat. MT commented that the heat would not be given gratis to the University.
- 6.11 Bob Bebbington commented that in order to use the heat, you need a user very close to the plant for efficiency. The University is an obvious choice as they are very close to the site. The fact remains that the shorter the distance the more efficient it is.
- 6.12 PW asked about traffic routing. Now the M1 improvements have been put in place, traffic coming off the M1 is not an issue, but the traffic travelling along the A512 to the west is still an issue, particularly at peak times. PW suggests we might want to consider requiring drivers to go via the A42/M1 rather than the A512. It adds about 5 miles but most of this is at 56mph rather than 30mph. We will put the question in and will consider it.
- 6.13 CB has had communication from Gavin Fletcher at Nottingham City Council who is the Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer for the Midlands Energy Hub. CB will be setting up a meeting with him.
- 6.14 DS said the UK Government recognises the importance of EfW's and there was a Policy Connect paper released recently on this point. One thing that came out is paper is that the Government is very keen to support heat use to maximise the efficiencies of plants and to lower the carbon footprints of other developments that may be nearby.

7. Consideration of the Role of Chair

- 7.1 Liaison groups are facilitated by developers but very much guided by the members. Peter Wood has chaired the meetings up to 2014, but we now want to ask if we should

consider an independent facilitator? They would chair and would produce notes from the meeting. They form a conduit between you as members and us as the developers. Do people think this is a sensible idea?

- 7.2 DS gave an example from the Rookery South project, where Covanta went to the UK's Association of Facilitators, as we wanted to get someone with the skills and background to chair the meetings and make sure it runs in an efficient way. Covanta interviewed four candidates who were local to the site, but also had the professional background as an independent facilitator. If members agree we could plan to do the same here, by identify candidates and interviewing them.
- 7.3 CR – we have this quite often with meetings at the County and it works well. MH agreed. It is such an onerous job and it would take a lot of pressure off us and make sure we are all heard in the right way. CR – going into a significant period for the site and we need to make sure everything is alright. As you know, I opposed this, but it has approval and we now need to work with it and get the best that we can so we do need someone who is good at Chairing, as it keeps us all under control. Quite happy for this to happen but I do want someone local.
- 7.4 It was agreed by the meeting that we should seek out an independent facilitator. Alan Twells suggested that one of the residents be one of the selection group, so it is truly independent. JH said she would be happy to do it. MT said she would invite a member of the LLC to support the interview process.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 CR asked that the first community newsletter be given to all member of the LLC, some to Charley PC, some to the Town Council and some to be put in public areas.
- 8.2 JH said Woodhouse Eaves should get it too. DS said that when it is produced, it will be in an electronic format, as well as printed edition for the first time and it will be sent out to all members of the LLC before it goes on general release. It will also be offered to other parish councils outside of the sphere of the distribution area. Equally if there are any major milestones on the project, or a larger delivery of equipment that may impact on the local road network, then we will share any press releases etc. with the group.
- 8.3 JH – the questions that I sent you, will they come out with the minutes or the question and answer thing. DS – we will produce a set of minutes. Over the next 24 hours if you have any more questions, then email himself or Mary, and we will add these questions to the end of the meeting notes so you can see what we are going to respond to before the next liaison meeting. When the agenda is sent out, we will have the questions and the answers too, so if you want to discuss it at the next meeting then we will be able to do so in greater detail.

9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as **12th October 2020**. Format to be advised closer to the date.

An architectural rendering of the Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility. The building is a large, modern structure with a curved, reddish-brown roof and a facade of light-colored panels and dark horizontal slats. A tall, thin chimney stack is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there is a paved parking area with several cars (silver, white, red, blue) and a few stylized human figures. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. In the top left corner, there are green tree branches. The overall scene is presented in a clean, digital style.

Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility

Local Liaison Committee – Virtual Meeting

Monday 27th July 2020

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Committee Terms of Reference
4. Planning, Permitting & Financial Close update
5. Newhurst Construction update
6. Other Project Activities
7. Update from Planning officers, EHOs and the Environment Agency
8. Questions from LLC members
9. Consideration for the role of Chair for future meetings
10. AOB (next LLC meeting date and agenda items)



Newhurst Local Liaison Committee

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background:

- Originally agreed in 2008
- Sets out the make up and purpose of the committee
- Also included in the S106 Agreement
- To comprise up to:
 - 6 x attending residents,
 - 2 x Cllrs from the County, Borough and Town Councils
 - 2 officers from the County and Borough Councils
 - 1 x EA officer
 - Representatives from Biffa and Covanta
- ToR and attendee list to be reviewed



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Newhurst Local Liaison Committee

History of the Newhurst site:

- The site has been quarried since the 1800s
- Part of the Charnwood Quarry complex - Newhurst and Longcliffe
- Both quarries are now dormant and flooded
- Long planning history including minerals, landfill and now energy recovery
- Directly east of the site is the M1 with Loughborough beyond and Shepshed located to the north and west
- Located on edge of Charnwood Forest and within National Forest; and
- The whole site is 39 hectares (96 acres). The ERF will occupy 15.5 hectares (38 acres)



Newhurst Local Liaison Committee

Planning and Permitting to Financial Close update

- Original ERF permission (300Ktpa) - issued 28th June 2012
- Planning permission (350Ktpa) - issued 26th March 2015
- All pre-commencement conditions addressed, and permission implemented on site by 28th June 2015
- Original Environmental Permit (300Ktpa) - issued on 8th June 2011
- Amended permit (350Ktpa) - issued 17th May 2019
- Further minor amendments approved by LCC on 21st May 2020
- All necessary planning and permit approvals now in place.



Newhurst Local Liaison Committee

From Planning and Permitting to Financial Close



Site layout



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Newhurst Construction Update

Local Liaison Committee (27th July 2020)

Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility

	Newhurst
Location	Leicestershire, England
Capacity (gross)	350 ktpy; ~42 MW
Financial Close	February 11, 2020
Engineer, Procure, Construct (EPC)	Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI)
Operator	Covanta
Scheduled Completion Date	May 2023
Project CAPEX	\$353M / £270M



Financial close reached in
February 2020

Design and Procurement efforts started

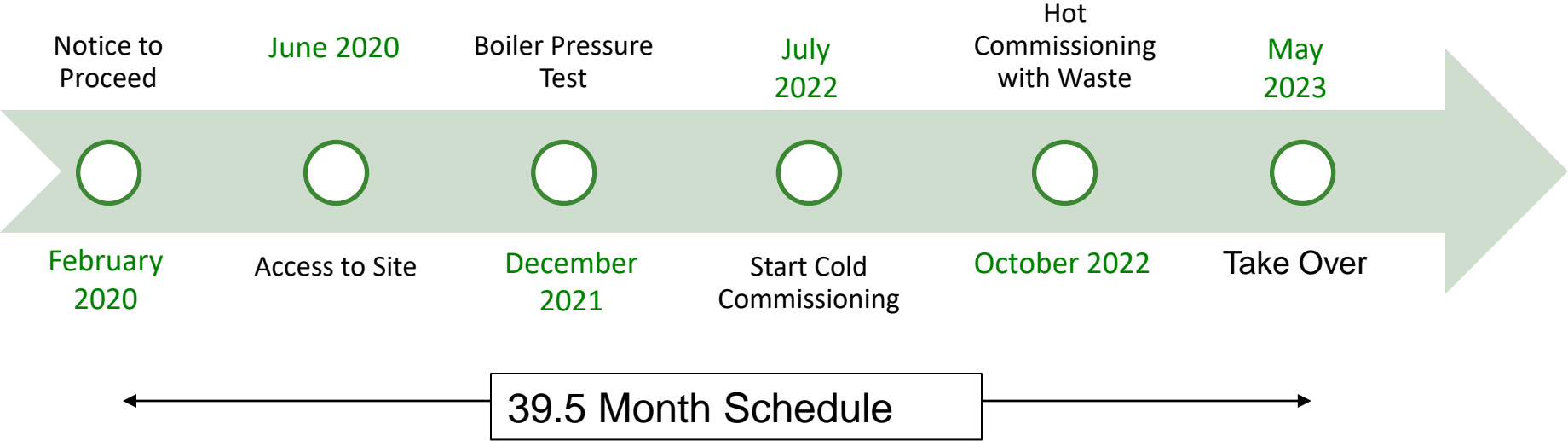
Ecological mitigation measures in place

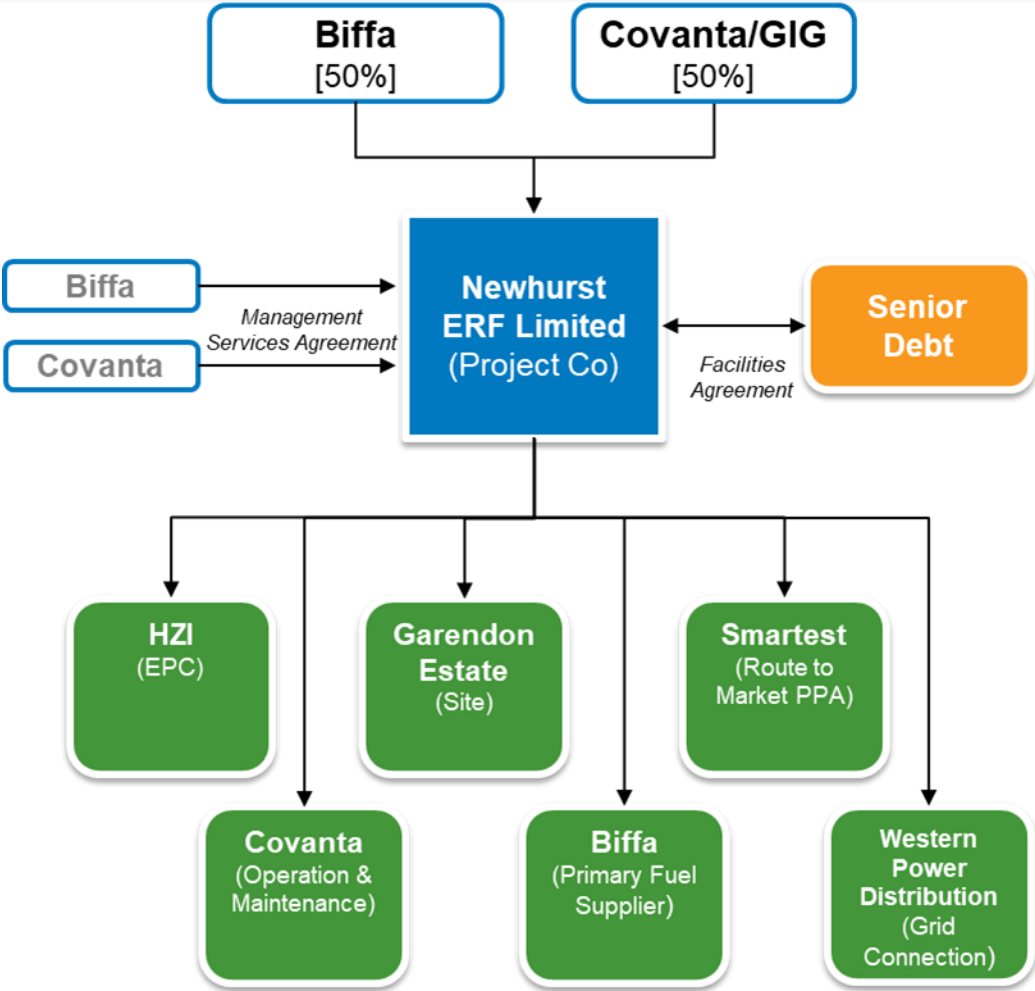
Site activities commenced in June 2020

Temporary site compound established

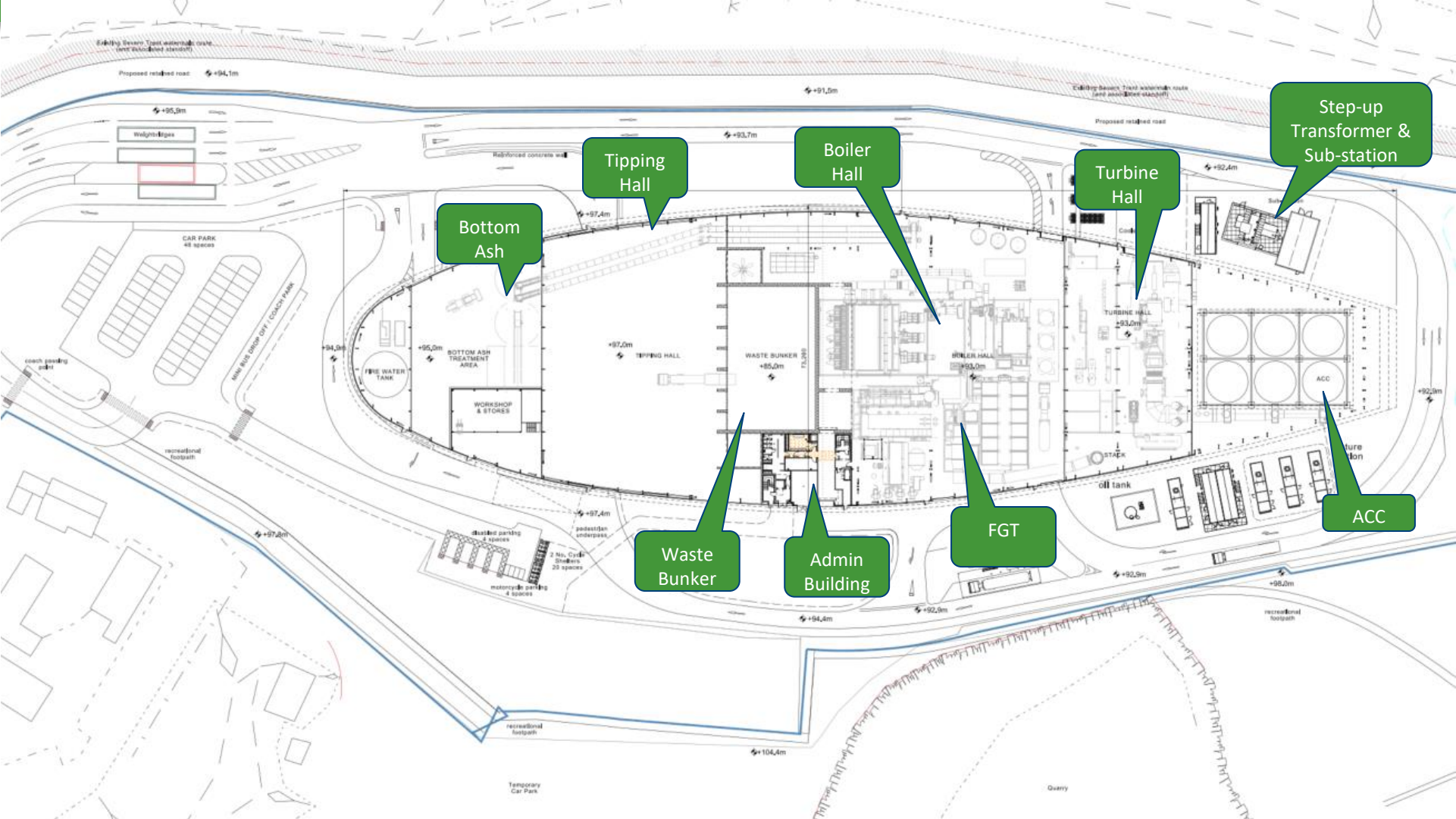
Commenced excavation of Waste Bunker

Project Timeline



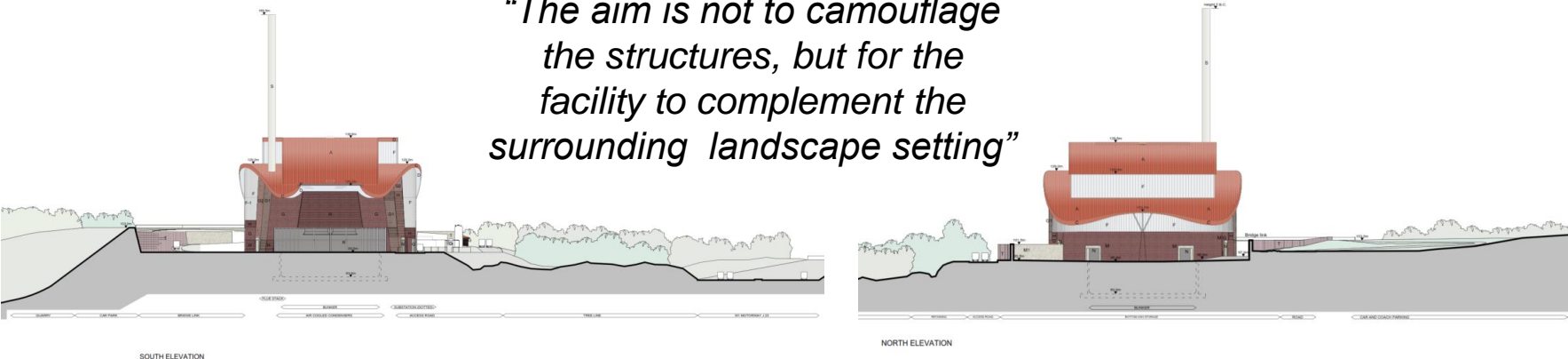


General Arrangement

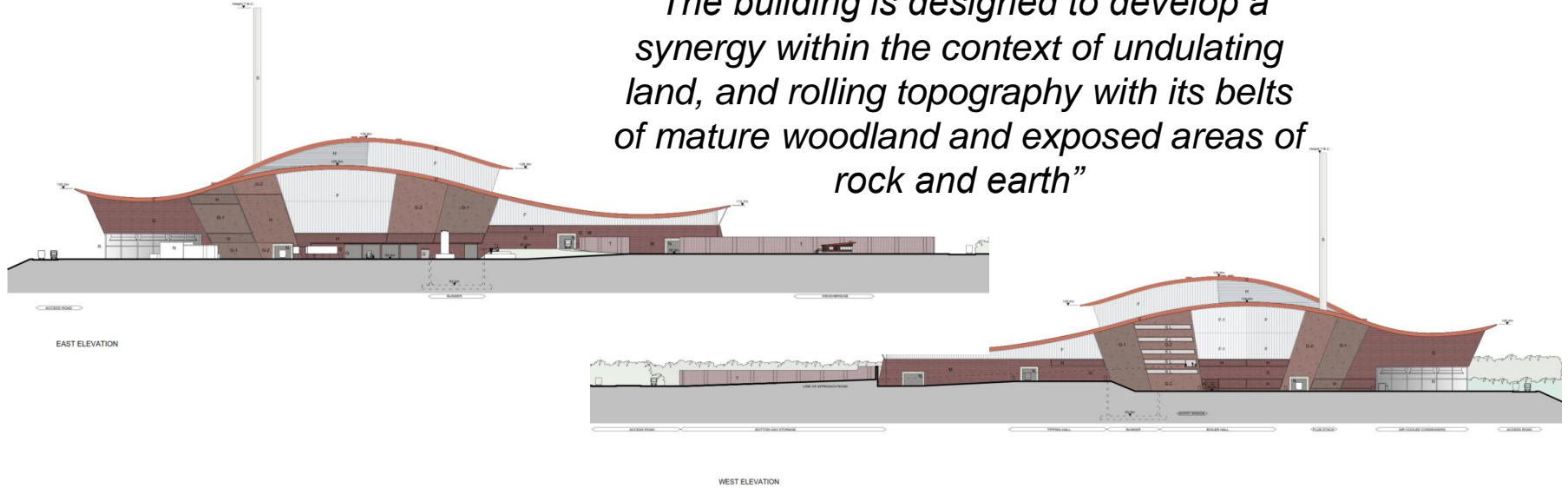


Elevations

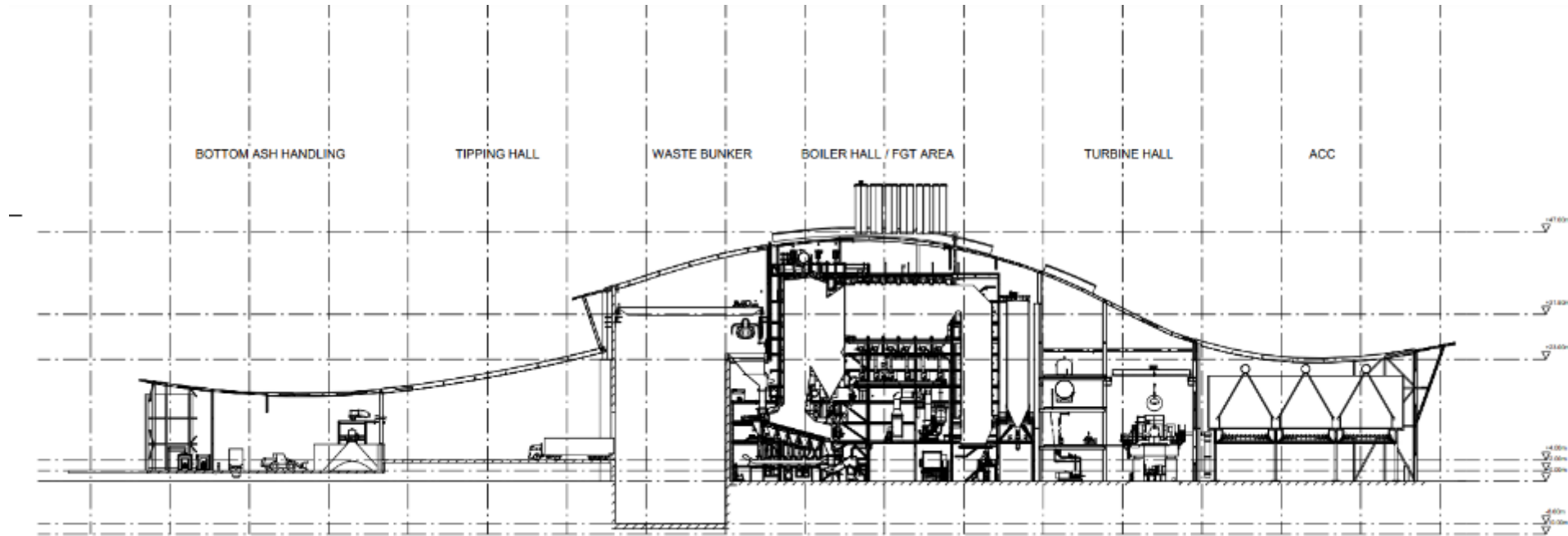
“The aim is not to camouflage the structures, but for the facility to complement the surrounding landscape setting”



“The building is designed to develop a synergy within the context of undulating land, and rolling topography with its belts of mature woodland and exposed areas of rock and earth”



Section



- The overall technical solution and key process technologies are robust and commercially proven
- Moving grate combustion technology

May 2020 – prior to construction commencing











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Newhurst Local Liaison Committee

Other Project Activities

- New project website is now live - <https://info.covanta.com/newhurst>
- Site filming is underway
- Community newsletters will start in September
- Site visits when Covid-19 restrictions ease
- Project branding work will be progressed
- Engagement with local stakeholders and near neighbours
- Heat off-take studies will be conducted



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An architectural rendering of the Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility. The building is a large, modern structure with a curved, reddish-brown roof and a facade of light-colored panels and dark horizontal bands. A tall, thin chimney stack is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there is a paved parking lot with several cars (silver, white, red, blue) and a few small trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility" is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility

Local Liaison Committee – Virtual Meeting

Monday 27th July 2020



Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility

Local Liaison Committee (LLC): Questions raised by LLC Members during and after the 29th July 2020 meeting

Questions from local resident Julia Howard on the committee's membership and Terms of Reference:

Q1. Does the committee have any terms of reference?

The terms of reference were agreed by the committee at its outset in 2008. These are to be reviewed as agreed at the last Liaison Meeting. As members will note, this is now an Item on the 12th October meeting agenda.

Q2. How did I get involved originally?

We have a record of Julia being one of the first two local residents to sign up for the committee (alongside Lynn Hobson). Julia was at the first meeting of the committee on 13th November 2008, just after the original planning permission for landfill and front-end treatment was approved. After the first meeting, we put an advert in the local paper to get some further interest and to extend the number of local residents on the committee to 6.

Q3. What exactly is my role?

The role of all LLC members is to represent the views of local residents in your area and to feed information back and forth as best you can. Clearly, we will also be disseminating information. Now that the site has planning permission and an Environmental Permit and is under construction, we want to hear and respond to any questions or concerns that residents may have about the construction and operation of the plant. As an operator in the local area we also want to hear about and discuss with you any local issues that are relevant

Q4. Has the university or Longcliffe Golf Club or Lubcloud got any representation on the committee, and should these be for example my focal liaison points?

None of the groups mentioned has individual membership on the committee. The makeup of the committee is included in the Terms of Reference and also in the Unilateral Undertaking. We do have contact with the University and the Golf Club separately, and we do speak to them on issues that affect both them and us.

Q5. Who else sits in the same capacity as myself, i.e. not a local authority or agency member?

There are 6 local resident places on the Committee. Names were provided via email to Julia Howard.

Q6. Which parish councils are involved, i.e. Charley?

Shepshed Town Council has two representatives on the committee. Charley Parish Council was also invited to attend originally, although they have never done so. We have always kept them as a corresponding LCC members and continue to send them minutes and information about the committee and meetings. They attended the meeting on 27th July 2020 and will continue to be invited going forward.

Further questions from resident Julia Howard on Technical Issues:

Q7. Mark Revill from the EA has confirmed that Biffa has until 4 December 2023 to comply with the new air emissions in the new BATS requirements as it received its permit prior to the BREF review. It does not have to meet them at an earlier date. Please can Covanta and Biffa confirm that the design of the waste to energy plant will ensure compliance from the start with the new emission BAT standards .

MR for the EA said at the 27th July meeting that the new BAT air emission limits (AELs) were signed off in December 2019. Existing plant has a 4 years grace period to implement the new limits i.e. until 23rd December 2023. Any new plant operational after the end of 2023 will have to meet the new AELs. Although Newhurst does not have to comply until December 2023 we can confirm that the plant will comply upon commissioning. WB commented it is much better and more cost effective to include a change that you know is coming along in at the design stage than trying to retrofit.

Q8: In the Decision Document to the permit issued by the EA, it refers to significant adverse impact in relation to the sensitive receptors at night with particular regard to the tipping hall louvre. Indeed, there is a precondition. My question is, the planning permission at condition 25 (2014 permission) States the noise level should not be above 55dBA and Mark Revill has referred to a different approach they will take in accordance with BS 4142, will there be two different noise levels to be monitored? And who will take responsibility for what, and for what period. Daniel Galpin from the LCC planning department referred to an 18-month monitoring period only for noise, is this to be inserted into the new permission not yet issued? And why is there a time limit now as there is no time limit in the 2014 planning permission.

The 18 months monitoring referred to through the planning is for background air quality, not noise. We are required to do 6 months pre-construction air quality monitoring (we have completed approximately 18 months pre-construction monitoring), six months construction background monitoring and 6 months operational background monitoring.

On noise, the planning permission sets noise limits of 55dBA at noise sensitive properties during the day and 42dBA at night. We have to achieve these limits at all times throughout the life of the plant. We will be required to comply with whatever conditions are in the planning permission and the permit. If these differ and one condition is more stringent than the other, then we will be required to comply with the more stringent condition.

Q9. Please can a statement be made by the planning department on the planning status of Longcliffe quarry. This was granted planning permission as was Newhurst quarry for landfill in 2007. What planning permissions currently relate to this area which is outside the waste to energy application site, but still owned by Biffa, in particular does the legal agreement entered into by the LCC which makes landfill extant (as confirmed by Mary) in relation to the Newhurst quarry apply also to Longcliffe. Steve Marriott was dealing with this following the last meeting in 2010/2011. And I believe the minutes recorded this as a live issue.

- *Longcliffe quarry was included in the original landfill permission dated 2009 because as part of the development of the Newhurst site for landfill, Biffa needed the space offered in Longcliffe for stone storage. At no point has Longcliffe had planning permission for landfill. There was no legal agreement with 2009 permission.*
- *The legal agreement came into play in 2011 with the first planning permission for the ERF. The red line planning and legal agreement boundary for the ERF does not include Longcliffe, however, because Longcliffe is included in the 2009 landfill permission, it is indirectly referred to in the legal agreement at clause 4.6.1 "obligations of the applicant" which states "not without the prior consent of the Council to carry out any further development and/operations associated with the 2009 Planning Permission and operations associated with the Mineral Planning Permissions other than restoration works".*
- *We therefore have no rights to carry out any development under the 2009 landfill permission in either Newhurst or Longcliffe i.e. we cannot landfill Newhurst and we cannot use Longcliffe for stone storage. All we are allowed to do is carry out restoration works. In the case of Longcliffe, this means allowing the site to naturally regenerate.*
- *Julia is right that Biffa has control over Longcliffe, and it will remain, as the legal agreement suggests, in its current state under restoration by natural regeneration. Any future use of the site would be outside the remit of this committee.*

Q10. Please can Charnwood release their latest air quality report which is required to be undertaken by Sec 82 of the Environmental act 1995 and confirm whether the present and future AQAL's are being achieved.

Link to ASR: <https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/airpollution>

This shows no exceedance of the Air Quality Objectives in Shepshed.

Questions from Steve Cuff LAQPG (provided to Julia Howard)

Q11. Given that Biffa have recently been fined £350,000 for attempting to ship contaminated waste; what assurances can be given by the operator and the EA that no hazardous waste will be permitted to enter the Newhurst site?

This was a decision of the courts and the decision document is available publicly. Biffa will not be making any further comment at this stage and is currently considering its position.

For clarity, the Newhurst facility will only process residual waste. The Energy Recovery Facility is not permitted to treat hazardous waste.

- Q12. As we understand the purpose of the incinerator, it is to process residual waste; how will the operator ensure that no article made from a recyclable material enters the Newhurst site?

Where household waste is concerned, Local Authorities such as Charnwood Borough Council and North West Leicestershire Council are the waste collection authorities. They have waste reduction, composting and, of course, recycling initiatives in place. These initiatives are designed to make recycling easier and more widespread to minimise the quantity of recyclable waste in the residual (black bag) waste streams that could end up in landfill or being treated at an energy recovery facility.

Where commercial and industrial waste is concerned, the responsibility for removing recyclates is on the producer. The costs of landfill or energy from waste are significantly higher than the costs of recycling and so removing recyclable material from the waste stream in these circumstances makes both good sense commercially and environmentally. Biffa will be the fuel supplier for the plant, delivering commercial and industrial wastes from its customer base. Biffa provides a fully integrated service to its customers including recycling, composting, and residual waste disposal.

It should also be highlighted that the energy recovery process allows ferrous metals, such as iron and steel, together with non-ferrous metals, such as copper and aluminium, to be removed from the ash residue and sent to recycling facilities thus contributing to recycling rates. In the UK, the ash residue can be used as an aggregate by the construction industry.

- Q13. As we understand the relationship between Biffa and Covanta, the latter will actually operate incinerator: what is the legal process by which the Environmental Permit can be transferred from Biffa to Covanta?

This will be done via the standard permit transfer process through the EA. We are well versed with this process and have done it on numerous occasions e.g. when acquiring businesses and selling surplus land/sites

- Q14. It is predicted that within the operating life of the Newhurst incinerator, CO₂ emissions from EfW could be 10 times the average carbon intensity of the UK electricity grid; this is a significant barrier to decarbonisation of the electricity supply; would the operator like to comment?

Where is this prediction made? In order to comment fully we would need to see the analysis so we can review it. However, our initial response is that this is missing the point. The EfW process is carbon saving, not creating, because it will divert residual waste from landfill and methane (CH₄) from landfill emissions.

Importantly, the latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that methane is 84 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20-year span, hence landfill will have a much greater carbon/GHG impact. The following report from Policy Connect supporting EfW, also Minister Rebecca Pow's support may be of interest:

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/policy-connect-backs-efw-as-best-available/>

- Q15. If the incinerator fails to operate at the required temperature of 850 degrees for a period exceeding 2 seconds, what is the operator required to do other than report to the EA. At what point should the incinerator cease to operate under these circumstances. There is growing support in Government circles and elsewhere for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to be a requirement for all new waste incineration plants in the UK, probably as a BAT.

For clarity's sake, all EfW plants in the UK must reach 850 degrees centigrade for two seconds or more before waste can be introduced for treatment. This is not only an Environmental Permit requirement; it is also a regulation under the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive.

Under normal plant operating conditions and to comply with the Environmental Permit requirements, an infra-red Pyrometer is installed in the furnace first pass area to provide a direct measurement of the 850°C / 2-second criteria. The auxiliary burners (also situated in the furnace area) are equipped with start-up devices, so that they will automatically go into operation to prevent the flue gas temperatures in the furnace falling below 850°C (the set-point is higher than this to act as a buffer)

- Q16. There is growing support in Government circles and elsewhere for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to be a requirement for all new waste incineration plants in the UK, probably as a BAT. What is the Biffa view of this? Presumably, Biffa wants to be part of decarbonising the UK.

Both Biffa and Covanta support initiatives that will decarbonise our economy and society - principally because climate change is widely recognised as the single biggest challenge facing the world today.

As referenced in a previous response, the EfW process is carbon saving, not creating, because it diverts residual waste away from landfill where waste degrades and rots. This then produces methane (CH₄) from landfill emissions. As referenced in a response above, the latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that methane is 84 times more potent than CO₂ over 20-year span, hence landfill will have a much greater carbon/GHG impact.

Alongside waste reduction, re-use and recycling, we can all increase our efforts to minimise the amount of residual waste the UK produces, and which then requires treatment, landfilling or overseas export to European EfW facilities. A number of heavy industries (including power generation and electricity intensive manufacturers) are, or planning to introduce, carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. Looking ahead, energy from waste facilities will play a critical role as the UK transitions to the electrification of cars and other forms of transport.

However, the reality is that no UK EfW plants employ CCS technology. Indeed, until very recently, there weren't any CCS technologies on the market to install or retrofit to EfW facilities. That said, both Biffa and Covanta will be closely watching a CCS pilot project at an operation plant in the Netherland to assess its effectiveness. (Further information can be found here - <https://www.energylivenews.com/2020/10/05/uks-carbon8-to-deploy-carbon-capture-tech-at-dutch-waste-to-energy-plant/>)

Q17. Will CCS now be added to the design for Newhurst, or will CSS be retro-fitted at an industry-estimated cost of £100 million?

As stated above, new CCS technology for EfW facilities is in its infancy, and is set to be trialled at a pilot project at an operation plant in the Netherland. Until the results of this pilot project are known, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage.

Q18. Has a feasibility study been undertaken yet? If not, what are the plans for this?

No, for the reasons stated above. CCS in the EfW is currently in a trial phase and is not available at present as standard BAT technology.

Additional Questions asked during the Liaison Meeting:

Q19. JH asked whether it is possible to have a couple of stakeholders included, specifically the University and the Golf Club. Graham Howard, the Facilities Manager at the University has particularly expressed an interest.

MH thought it would be useful to have someone from the University but that would open it up to all comers. CR was concerned the liaison committee will get too big. We already have too many members from Charnwood BC and Shepshed TC. MT said she would take that up with both organisations. (this has since been resolved). The terms of reference set out the agreed membership.

Q20. JT asked if any fly ash would be stored on site or taken away daily in sealed containers.

MT answered a small amount will be stored on site in silos, but it is taken off site regularly in tankers via a sealed pipe.

Q21. JL asked if the committee can have, in writing, that the new BAT ael's will be achieved from the start of operations rather than waiting until December 2023.

Please see response to question 7 where written confirmation is provided.

Q22: MH said the single concern is the emissions from the plant. A lot of papers make all sorts of claims about the emissions. Unfortunately, Covanta or Biffa are not the best people to say how safe the plant is. The people we trust most are the local EHO's. Please can you discuss with them to explain how you control emissions and monitor the plant in language that can be understood.

Modern EfW plants in England can only operate with an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency (EA) under the Pollution Prevention and Control regulations. Other parts of the UK have their own respective agencies with similar powers. Operators must continuously monitor in real time and report emissions from the plant.

The EA inspect facilities regularly and tightly enforces regulations. Importantly, Public Health England reviewed the latest scientific evidence on the health effects of modern

incinerators and concluded in its position paper (3rd September 2009), that any potential damage from modern, well run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable.

To put this into perspective, the UK's Environmental Services Association (ESA) puts EfW emissions into context, *stating 'in 2015 home wood burners generated 785 times more particulate matter, while road traffic emitted 45 times more NOx, and Bonfire Night alone produced 10 times more dioxins than EfW across the whole year.'*

We recognise that EfW operations and emission control procedures are important subjects for LLC members and wider communities. As such, Biffa and Covanta would be happy to arrange dedicated presentations on this subject at future LLC meetings. In addition, we will also invite the Environment Agency and Environmental Health Officers to contribute to this to provide greater insight from the regulatory and enforcement perspectives.

Q23. CR asked if Covanta would offer any grants to the local area?

MT confirmed there are no planning conditions that require this to happen. However, DS is raising this topic with the project's Board to assess if a community funding scheme could be established once the facility has commenced commercial operations.

Q24: CR said, rather than talking to the University about heat offtake, there is in Loughborough, Rainbows Charity for children at end of life. If possible free electricity or heat should go to them rather than the University.

DS clarified that EfW facilities generate electricity that goes directly to the national grid which is distributed in the normal way. There are plants in the UK that distribute heat locally. We are going out early on this to see what inward investment might arise from the use of the heat. MT commented that the heat would not be given gratis to the University and Bob Bebbington commented that in order to use the heat, you need a user very close to the plant for efficiency. The University is an obvious choice as they are very close to the site. The fact remains that the shorter the distance the more efficient it is.

Q25: PW asked about traffic routing. Now the M1 improvements have been put in place, traffic coming off the M1 is not an issue but the traffic travelling along the A512 to the west is still an issue, particularly at peak times. PW suggests we might want to consider requiring drivers to go via the A42/M1 rather than the A512. It adds about 5 miles but most of this is at 56mph rather than 30mph.

Paragraph 8.124 of the approved traffic assessment states:

"The distribution and assignment of HGVs has been undertaken with reference to the sources of waste, as indicated by the applicant's own waste model, assuming the quickest route. This results in 92% of HGV's arriving from the M1 Motorway J23 and just 8% from the west via the A512. Staff vehicles have been assumed to arrive on a 50:50 distribution."

In real terms that equates to approximately 20 HGV movements (10 vehicles) on the A512 route each day with not all of these occurring during the peak hours. That is not to say that we couldn't reduce this further as suggested and we will keep this under review. The plant will not commence receipt of waste until at least 2022.

Questions/Requests for Information received after the Liaison Meeting

Q26. Email from Max Hunt 26/08/20: *"I'm sure you and David have seen this article: Legal challenge over UK's exclusion of incinerators from emissions target <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/25/legal-challenge-uk-exclusion-waste-incinerators-emissions-trading-scheme> published yesterday. I am sure your EfW plant will be within any operating legal limit on carbon emissions and as we know it's rather less damaging than landfilling residual waste.*

However, so that we are fully briefed would it be possible for Biffa or Covanta to present the information available on Carbon emissions from the proposed plant at the October meeting, please?

You will appreciate that some of us are regularly asked about climate change targets and carbon reduction and your project is no exception."

As the Guardian article states, a challenge is being independently brought forward against the Government department, BEIS. At present, the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which was created during in 2005, will commence in January 2021, with 'installations for the incineration of hazardous and municipal waste' being exempt from the ETS.

It would not be appropriate for operators and developers of energy from waste facilities to comment or speculate further on this challenge until the legal proceedings have run their course.

When calculating carbon footprints of any energy-from-waste facility (EfW), the full life cycle of a given development must be considered and accounted for. Taking carbon footprints at each phase of development in isolation is not only inaccurate, it can also lead to unfounded conclusions.

In general, the carbon footprint of the construction phase of solid waste management facilities is considered insignificant, when compared to the emissions associated with the waste management processes themselves, especially in light of the long-term viability of EfW facilities.

On a broader scale, energy-from-waste facilities are widely recognized throughout the world as a tool to reduce greenhouse gases. In fact, the [International Panel on Climate Change](#) called EfW a "key greenhouse gas mitigation technology" and the [World Economic Forum](#) identified EfW as "one of eight technologies likely to make a meaningful contribution to a future low-carbon energy system.

For more information, visit <http://covanta-csr.com/environment/addressing-climate-change/>.

Further information: Drivers for EfW and EU Directives

EfW is an important part of an overall integrated waste management approach, recognized in the European Union waste management hierarchy as preferable to landfilling for those materials remaining after waste reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts have been exhausted. After recycling takes place, EfW facilities recover energy from remaining waste materials in an environmentally sound manner. While doing so, EfW facilities reduce the need for fossil-based energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions relative to landfilling.

EfW is a sustainable solution and plays a part in the circular economy by generating energy and recovering metals and aggregates for recycling; burying waste in a landfill is not sustainable. When waste is buried in landfills it decomposes and generates methane. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas (GHG), over 30 times more potent than CO₂.

Therefore, with the objective of addressing climate change, the European Union has issued a directive to limit the landfilling of biodegradable municipal solid waste to 35% of the quantity landfilled in 1995. EfW is a net reducer of greenhouse gas emissions because it does not create the methane that landfill produces, in addition to offsetting the need to burn fossil fuels in power plants.