

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES
MEETING HELD 15TH JANUARY 2024, 1700 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)

In attendance:

Mr Mark Revill	Environment Agency
Dr David Best	Independent Facilitator
Mr. Jim Thompson	Plant Manager, Encyclis
Mr P Wood	Local Resident
Mr R Hollidge	Encyclis
Ms Ann Green (part)	Charnwood Borough
Councillor. Jane Lennie (part)	Charnwood Borough
Marie Dickinson	Leicestershire CC
Mr Peter Cunnington	Local Resident
. M Hunt	Leics CC
Coun. P Grainger	Shepshed Town Council
Mr G Newborough	Local Resident

Apologies for absence: Ms Jeanette Quirk, Mr K King, Mrs Mary Tappenden, Cllr Neal Bestwick, Mr N Henderson, Mrs Moira Raiment, Ms Jane Hammersley, Mrs Betty Gamble, Councillor Christine Radford, Councillor P Grainger, Mr G Harvey, Mr G Newbrough, Ms Helen Powers, Dr Landy Yang

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** in the coming days.
- 1.3. **David Best** 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 The transcript would not be published.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.

These had been previously circulated. These were approved and had been posted to the website.

2. **Matters Arising not on the agenda.**

There were none.

3. **Operations and Maintenance update.**

Mr Thompson presented the quarterly update.

3.1 **2023 Performance (post May commercial handover.**

Mr Thompson provided the quarterly update which now covers operations, maintenance and permitting. Since the handover of the plant into operation in May 2023:

- The plant had processed 213717 tonnes of waste.
- Produced 181,319 MWh of Electricity exported to the grid.
- and had had an availability (operating time) of 95.6% of the possible time.

3.2 **Planned Major outage on the 17th of April 2024.**

Mr Thompson reported that the plant will shut down to undertake essential inspections and maintenance of the facility in conjunction with HZI, who will rectify any defects identified during the warranty period. This will require approximately weeks of closure during which all activities will be completed.

3.3 **Permit Variation.**

The EA have now approved the permit variation application to increase throughput from 350kta to 455kt/a. In response to a question from **Mr Wood**, that it had been stated that there would be no increase in the number of vehicle movements in relation to the increased throughput, and was this the case? **Mr Thompson** replied that this was still the case. The permitted level of movements was 121 per day, and this limit remained in place.

Mr Wood pointed out that there had been queuing for access to the site around Christmas, and asked if this would be the case with the increased throughput? **Mr Hollidge** replied that this had been the case and that the first Christmas of operation had provided a number of useful learning points which would be applied in further to minimise the recurrence of queues. The experience of the hauliers, and discussions with Leicestershire CC would also help to minimise the recurrence of this situation.

Mr Newborough asked if changes to the available hard standing in the site might ease this situation. **Mr Hollidge** replied that this had been considered but would be kept under review. Whether a booking system

would be of assistance was also discussed with a conclusion that it would not.

3.4 Emissions standards.

On the 1st of December 2023, the EA reduced Emission Limit Values (ELV) limits across the industry. The daily ELV's of Nitrogen Oxide & Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x) and Hydrogen Chlorides (HCl) were reduced by 10% which Newhurst is now operating within comfortably.

3.5 Standards certification.

Following external audit by Lloyds Registered Quality Assurance (LRQA), Newhurst had successfully achieved the standard required to meet ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001 certifications.

These standards cover the following functional competences:

- 9001 Demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements;
- 14001 is the international standard for Environmental Management Systems;
- 45001 is the international standard for managing Health & Safety at work.

4. Environmental Compliance

The telephone number for reporting issues with the plant is.

03331 887802

Or

NewhurstEnquiries@encyclis.com

5. Reports of incidents

Two odour complaints had been received both by Newhurst and via the EA.

Investigations were carried out and no issues, or emissions had been detected from the facility. At the time of the complaint, the weather instrumentation confirmed the wind was blowing towards Newhurst, and away from the source of the complaint.

In 2023, reports of burning plastic type odours have been detected in the local area by Encyclis employees and smoke has been observed drifting across Newhurst however, we were unable to identify the culprit.

References to smoke emitting from stack are an inaccurate observation, since as has been mentioned in previous meetings the emission from the stack is steam vapour, not smoke.

The data on complaints in 2023 was as follows:

0 Schedule 5 notifications to the EA

0 Non compliance from CAR Forms

However, 24 public odour complaints had been received since May 2023, one between November and January 2023.

In relation to these data and the questions previously submitted by Councillor Hunt a significant discussion ensued.

The following points were noted.

- It is preferable for members of the public to be encouraged to make their complaints direct to the EA number. Members of the public can also contact Charnwood Borough Council's pollution team at the time of any abnormal incident on 01509 634636 or email at env.health@charnwood.gov.uk. Incidents reported at the time of occurrence provides officers with the opportunity to visit to substantiate reports received and/or investigate potential alternative sources.
- The complaints line for the plant is also available for this purpose.
- The data from the investigations to date shows that the plant was compliant with the operating conditions stipulated in the permit (**Mr Thompson and Ms Green**)
- It is however difficult to prove that the plant is not responsible when this belief is in the minds of those complaining, and proactive activity would help to dispel the erroneous beliefs. (**Councillor Hunt**).
- The importance of outreach to local communities, of education of those who complain and general openness of the Newhurst team would significantly help correct understanding of the plant. (**Coun Hunt**)
- **Ms Green** observed that if alerted in a timely way, subject to their availability and/or other commitments her team would endeavour to visit the resident to assess any nuisance and help identify the probable source of the emission. This is not possible if a complaint is made after the event or via an elected representative.
- It was noted that visits and local education had been mentioned in previous meetings and that this activity would aid understanding. **Mr Thompson** explained there is no visitors centre installed at Newhurst unlike the Encyclis facility in Bedfordshire, so visits have to be carefully planned. **It was agreed to progress these plans for action in the spring. The priority would be to organise an initial tour for representatives of the LLC. A visit prior to the next meeting was discussed and would be arranged.**

6. Planning Update

In Mrs. Tappenden's absence Ms Marie Dickinson provided information on the progress of the application for non-material changes, and that this, which affected landscaping, vegetation and minor external features of the plant was now being processed comments were due to be received by the 30th of January. A decision on the application will be made by the 8th of April. Ms Dickinson also reported that she will make an annual site monitoring visit on or around the 30th of January.

7. Discussion on Heat offtake

Mr Hollidge reported that discussions with the University and the partner organisation involved in the Heat Offtake project are continuing.

8. Questions received previously.

Questions had been received from **Councillor Hunt** regarding emissions and odours. These had been previously responded to and dealt with in the discussion under item 4. No further questions had been submitted or were raised at the meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the LLC will be held on **Monday 28th March 2024** at 17.00-1900.

10. Any other business

These was no other business. The meeting closed at 18.15.

NB Following the meeting Mr Thompson noted that Newhurst had entered into an agreement with a third party for odour monitoring, though this was not a permit condition.