

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES
MEETING HELD 25TH JULY 2023, 1730 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)

In attendance:

Mr Mark Revill	Environment Agency
Ms Helen Powers	Environment Agency
Coun. Christine Radford	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Peter Grainger	Shepshed Town Council
Cllr Neal Bestwick	Shepshed Town Council
Coun. Max Hunt	Leics. County Council
Mr. Peter Cunnington	Local Resident
Mrs Mary Tappenden	Biffa
Dr David Best	Independent Facilitator
Mr. G Newborough	Local Resident
Mr. Jim Thompson	Encyclis
Mr Iain Cook	Encyclis/Biffa
Ms Ann Green	Charnwood Borough
Mr Peter Wood	Local Resident
Coun. Jane Lennie	Charnwood Borough
Mr K King	Local Resident
Ms Marie Dickinson	Leics Planning Department
Mr Richard Hollidge	Encyclis

Apologies for absence: Dr Landy Yang, Ms Moira Raiment, Mrs Betty Gamble, Ms Jane Hammersley, Mr N Henderson, Ms H Powers, Councillor Christine Radford, Mr John Orchard.

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 Councillor Neal Bestwick representing Shepshed Town council who was newly elected. Councillor Bestwick introduced himself and expressed his enthusiasm of the work of the Committee.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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:](#)

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

These had been previously circulated. These were approved and will be posted to the website in the usual way. In future notes would be posted to the web site within a month of the meeting.

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

There were none.

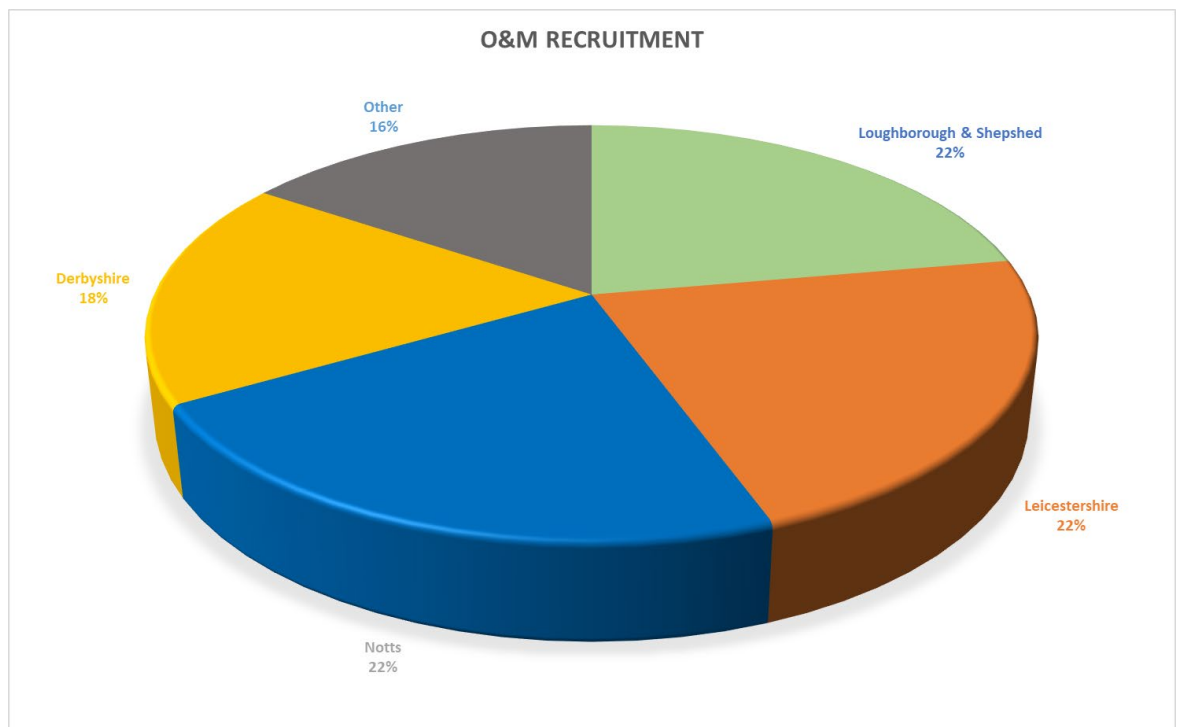
3. **Operations and Maintenance update.**

Mr Thompson thanked **Mr Burdis** for his work and that of the construction team. These thanks were endorsed by the meeting. The plant was now fully operational and had been handed over to the Operations team on the 31st of May 2023. It was **Mr Thompson's** intention to maintain the standard of engagement and information set by Mr Burdis and his team.

3.1 A full suite of performance tests was being undertaken and was scheduled to be completed by 25th July 2023.

3.2 The first planned outage for maintenance was scheduled for 16-23rd September 2023. The bunker levels would be managed so that the Plant could continue to take waste when the burner was offline.

3.3 Recruitment had now been completed and a diverse complement of staff was in place. The geographical distribution of staff is shown in the chart below.



In summary:

- 22% are from Loughborough and Shepshed
- 22% from elsewhere in Leicestershire
- 22% from Nottinghamshire
- 18% from Derbyshire and
- 16% from elsewhere.

Some movement of staff was occurring through promotion and backfilling with one or two leavers and joiners.

In discussion about the gender balance of the staff, **Councillor Hunt** asked if the plant had a diversity and inclusion policy. **Mr Thompson** confirmed that this was in place.

4. Environmental Compliance

4.1 There have been no Schedule 5 notifications to the EA since commercial takeover.

4.2 There had been two odour complaints received in June, via the EA. An investigation had been carried out and no issues, emissions or odours had been detected within the facility. (STL's carry out an odour survey each shift / twice per day). An EA officer had carried out unannounced inspection 4th May 2023 in response to odour complaints which found no odours associated with Newhurst ERF.

4.3 Discussion took place about odours and **Mr Newborough** observed that there were a number of potential sources of odours in the vicinity of the plant, including a parking area for vehicles who may have carried odorous loads, and a pet food manufacturer which on occasion had been known to produce odours. **Mr Reville** of the EA reported on the compliance activities and that there were no causes for concern to date.

4.4 Hot line and front-line response.

A contract for a hot line to enable residents or others to report issues had now been set up.

This number is 0331-887802

This number would be placed prominently at the entrance to the site and on the web site so that it was easy to access.

Noted: A sign at the site entrance would be erected.

Members of the LLC are encouraged to make this number known to their constituents.

A digest of information would be assessed for the feasibility of placing this on the Web site.

Discussion took place on the process for reporting to the EA and to the plant.

Ultimately all reports come to the plant which is responsible for investigation and

action as needed. **It was agreed** that whilst there are a number of different reporting routes (EA, Local representatives, direct to the plant etc) the presence of a single source of reports and information was important. The presence of the “hotline” number would be a further means of facilitating this.

5.5 Information dissemination

David Best reminded the group that one of the roles of the LLC was to disseminate information to the community, on the basis of evidence and data whether this was good or bad.

A request was made to members of the committee to fulfil this obligation.

5. Planning Update

Mrs Tappenden reported that;

- the planning application is submitted for the development of the outage compound as a standing area for the temporary location of cabins for maintenance staff. The first use of this would be for the September outage.
- The revised landscaping proposal and planting scheme is now being discussed.
- An application for permission to put a large, illuminated sign on the side of the Administration building.
- There is also a final series of non-material changes to bring the as built into alignment with the planned building.

6. Permitting update.

6.1 Application to increase the tonnage throughput. Mr Revill recorded that the application has been received by the EA. A case officer has now been allocated to deal with this application.

6.2 Mr Cook reported in the consultation process. A newsletter had been produced and would be circulate to the residents’ communities, copies of this were circulated at the meeting for members of the Committee to make available.

A mail address for follow up questions to be asked and answered was provided on the Newsletter.

In discussion it was reported that the circulation would be the same as the previous circulation of around 16,000 households.

Mr Revill stated that the EA would be carrying out their own consultation and that in view of the significance of the Plant, the period for this was likely to be extended beyond the statutory minimum.

In discussion it was noted that the application to increase the throughput of the plant did not imply an increase in the volume of traffic, which itself was regulated by the site permits/licenses.

- 6.3 An interactive meeting with staff** in a safe venue with a video or other demonstration of the operation of the plant would be very welcome. **Ms Hammersley** and **Councillor Radford** proposed this. **Mrs Raiment** also raised the issue of School visits as being a very good channel. **Mr Cook** took these suggestions away for further consideration and how these could be responded to, especially the opportunity to demonstrate the science of the plant and the interest that young people might be able to understand and see. Perhaps as a video. **Mr Wood** raised the possibility of a demonstration and exhibition of the plant in Shepshed, at an appropriate venue.

7. Discussion on Heat offtake

- 7.1 Mr Cook** reported that following the research and feasibility of heat take-off, an organisation had now been appointed to find customers for the heat and also to implement the infrastructure. Vital Energy had been identified as the partner. Discussions with Loughborough University were in progress.
- 7.2 Councillor Lennie** reiterated that local businesses would be beneficiaries of this scheme. **Mr Cook** responded that it was intended to make the resource available as widely as possible but that the first major customer was needed to absorb the considerable cost of implementing the required infrastructure. Once this had been done then further users would be sought.

8. Questions received previously

Questions had been received from a resident via Councillor Lennie. These and the response are reproduced here: Questions are in **bold type** and the responses *in italic* below.

1. **Hardly any vehicles being seen so where are they?**
 - a. *Newhurst ERF was privately funded, there was no investment required from public funds (taxpayers)*
 - b. *The ERF received its first waste deliveries on 12th October 2022, and the facility achieved first fire on 9th November 2022. Since then, 7460 vehicles have delivered a total of 162,751.51t of waste. Therefore, it is pleasing to hear that vehicles are not noticeable by the observer.*

2. **They now have 2 chimneys so what are they burning?**
 - a. *Newhurst was originally designed and constructed with a single stack, due to it being a single line facility. The single stack remains operational.*
 - b. *The facility is processing mixed municipal residual waste as per design.*

- c. *A Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS) monitors the flue gas properties, detects the composition in the flue gas and complies with the regulatory requirements of the Environment Agency (EA) site permit and the applicable directives for installation and quality assurance.
The CEMS system (CEMS) is stringently checked to confirm accuracy using weekly calibrations (QAL3), along with periodic testing which is carried by an independent specialist (QAL2).
Test reports are submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) and all emissions to air from this process are falling well within the emission limits set by the Environment Agency.*

3. **Plus, the air quality: only one CBC test tube to cover all of Shepshed. If it is operating what now are the readings say compared to 4 years ago?**

Response from Charnwood Borough Council

“There are 3 Diffusion Tubes covering the Shepshed Area (DT17- Cow Hill Lodge, DT27- Ashby Road Central & DT46- Hathern Road) all of which have shown a gradual reduction in NO2 over the last 4 years. The results can be seen in Appendix A at the end of our Annual Status Report (ASR) which is available on our website (see Table A4)

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

Since 2021 we also have a “Zephyr analyser unit” which monitors NO2, PM10 & PM2.5 and which has recorded levels of NO2 at 11.8 over the last year (Table A.3- of the ASR).

We are continuing to monitor and review air quality in the Shepshed area but to date the monitors have not shown any significant difference in levels since the ERF at Newhurst Quarry came on-line”.

4. **The minutes show some serious operational issues.**

- a. *During commissioning it is perfectly normal for the plant to be taken offline for inspections and optimisation by the construction and commissioning contractor HZI. Both the commissioning period and subsequent operations campaign have been very successful with the ERF delivered on time, and the ERF continues to be operated at full capacity by a highly skilled and fully trained operations team.*

In discussion questions were asked about the precise location of the testing and monitoring equipment. Ms Green explained that it was not the policy of the council to disclose the precise location of this equipment. Conversations could be held with her offline if needed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the LLC will be held on **Monday the 16th of October 2023** at 17.30- 1900.

10. Any other business

The question of a visit to the site for interested parties was raised again following the last meeting. **Mr Cook** agreed to take this away and come back with proposals for events later in the Summer.