

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES
MEETING HELD 16TH OCTOBER 2023, 1700 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)

In attendance:

Mr Mark Revill	Environment Agency
Cllr Neal Bestwick	Shepshed Town Council
Mrs Mary Tappenden	Biffa
Dr David Best	Independent Facilitator
Mr. Jim Thompson	Plant Manager, Encyclis
Mr Iain Cook	Encyclis
Ms Ann Green	Charnwood Borough
Councillor. Jane Lennie	Charnwood Borough
Mr K King	Local Resident
Ms Jeanette Quirk	GM Newhurst, Encyclis
Mr Peter Cunnington	Local Resident
Mrs Moira Raiment	Local Resident
Mrs Betty Gamble	Local Resident
Mr John Orchard	Encyclis
Ms V Webb (deputing for Ms Dickinson)	Leicestershire County Council
Ms Jane Hammersley	Local Resident

Apologies for absence: Mr N Henderson, Ms H Powers, Councillor Christine Radford, Mr P Wood, Councillor M Hunt, Councillor P Grainger, Ms Marie Dickinson, Mr R Hollidge, 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. **Mr Cook** noted that having handed over to **Ms Quirk** this would be his last meeting. **Mr Orchard** also noted that now the plant was fully operational it would also be his last meeting. **Dr Best** conveyed the thanks from the meeting for the excellent support that **Mr Cook** and **Mr Orchard** had provided which had been much appreciated.
- 1.2. No word had been received from **Dr Lang** who had indicated her attendance but was not present. **Ms Powers** had changed her working pattern and was not therefore in attendance, and **Ms Webb** was standing in for **Ms Dickinson**.
- 1.3. A copy of the papers circulated with the agenda will be available on the **Newhurst ERF website** in the coming days.
- 1.4. **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 The transcript would not be published.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 had been posted to the website in the usual way, in accordance with the decision reached at the July meeting.

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

There were none.

3. **Operations and Maintenance update.**

Mr Thompson presented the quarterly update.

3.1 First Scheduled Shutdown

During September, the O&M team shut down the facility to undertake essential inspections and maintenance. A number of defects were resolved and closed out by HZI as well as an internal inspection of the grate mechanisms by specialists from Zurich. Encyclis also used the opportunity to complete internal inspections, electrical and mechanical maintenance, and industrial cleaning.

In total 134 Permits had been issued for work to be undertaken and 242 staff inductions had been completed for the maintenance staff who had carried out the work (in addition to Newhurst ERF staff on site.).

3.2 Issues arising from Maintenance.

Discussion took place around the issues dealt with as part of the maintenance. Between 28th July – 12th September 2023 Newhurst has experienced 5 x explosions within the furnace, resulting in plant trips on each occasion due to volatility of the material suspected to be a type of gas canister. These explosions cause over pressurisation and the safety systems stop the main fans leading to incomplete combustion and elevated Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Encyclis have embarked on a campaign to inform fuel suppliers, local authority, and delivery drivers of the type of waste to look out for and remove from the waste stream. In discussion **Mr Thompson** noted that additional process steps were now being taken to try to avoid these items getting into the furnace.

Members made various suggestions about communication campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of pressurised containers being put into the plant. It was stressed however that the explosion would not have been audible outside the plant building and there was no risk to the public.

4. Environmental Compliance

4.1 Reports of incidents

One odour complaint had been received but the investigation carried out had not revealed any issues, or emissions detected within the facility. The operations team carry out an odour survey every shift and receiving these observations as they happen will greatly assist the team to react immediately, rather than gather facts retrospectively. Reports of burning plastic type odours have been identified by Newhurst personnel, and smoke has been observed drifting across Newhurst from nearby, although the exact source locally had not been identified. The number for reports is:

03331 387802

Members of the LLC were encouraged to circulate this number to their communities so that any enquiries could quickly be responded to.

Ms Green stressed that the reporting to the Environment Agency as quickly as possible by the standard routes would facilitate investigation but noted that on occasions when complaints were made the wind direction was such that the smell was not downwind of the plant and that the plant was not therefore the source.

4.2 Flue Gas Treatment

In response to a question from **Mr King, Mr Thompson** explained that the combustion flue gasses from the process are injected with activated lime and carbon in the flues and that the resulting residue (known as air pollution control residue APCR) is then passed through bag filters which automatically clean using compressed air. The residue, in a solid form is taken away and recycled into a non-waste marketable building and aggregate product. The bottom ash from the grate is similarly treated removed and recycled into a building and construction product.

5. Planning and Permit Update

5.1 Planning update

Mrs Tappenden reported that the outage compound as a standing area for the temporary location of cabins for maintenance staff had been approved and implemented. The first use of this had been for the September outage. The application for a non-material amendment to regularise the changes to the plant is in preparation. This will effectively secure approval for the “as built” development. The revised landscaping proposal and planting scheme is also in preparation.

5.2. Permit Update

Mr Thompson reported that Encyclis had posted a Newsletter to 13,000 households on 4th September and received 6 x enquiries in response. Encyclis have responded to each enquiry, and offered a short tour of the facility to those who would be interested. It was agreed that this would be beneficial and would be planned in the coming months. Separately it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for members of the Liaison committee.

In discussion **Mrs Gamble** noted that she had not received it, and others either confirmed receipt or had not received it. **Mr Thompson** agreed to include the newsletter in the circulated minutes.

Mr Revell reported that the EA would be conducting a standard consultation on the permit application. This is on the basis that the initial consultation exercise had yielded very little public response and it can therefore be considered a normal operational variation.

6. Discussion on Heat offtake

Ms Quirk reported that following the research and feasibility of district heating off-take, and Vital Energy had been appointed as the offtake partner. Encyclis and Vital project teams are exploring commercial options local to the facility. A meeting and tour is scheduled at Newhurst on the 23rd October.

7. Questions received previously

Questions had been received from **Councillor Hunt** regarding the processing of the heavy metals fraction of the combustion products. This had been comprehensively replied to and the document is attached to these notes.

Questions had also been received from Mrs Julia Howard, which had been previously addressed. These questions had also been responded to, and all replies sent to members of the LLC.

Where questions had a common theme they would be added to the FAQ section of the web site.



Emissions metals
HF and dioxins_.pdf

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the LLC will be held on **Monday the 15th January 2024** at 17.00- 1900.

10. Any other business

These was no other business.