



**Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility
Local Liaison Committee (LLC) Meeting
Monday 9th January 2023
from 1730 to 1930 face to face and by Zoom
Agenda**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON
LOCATION NEWHURST ADMIN MEETING ROOM
Directions attached.**

Apologies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Minutes of the previous meeting | All |
| 2. Matters arising not on the agenda | All |
| 3. Construction update | Covanta/Biffa |
| 3.1 Operations and Maintenance update | Convanta/Biffa |
| 4. Planning Update | Covanta/Biffa |
| 5. Monitoring and reporting | Covanta/Biffa/EA |
| 6. Permit update | Covanta/Biffa |
| 7. Progress on heat offtake | Covanta |
| 8. Waste acceptance procedure -update | Covanta |
| 9. Date of next meeting | Chair |
| 10. AoB | ALL |

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES
MEETING HELD 9TH JANUARY 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
Mr. Peter Cunnington	Local Resident
Mrs Mary Tappenden	Biffa
Mr. Craig Burdis	Covanta
Dr David Best	Independent Facilitator
Mr. G Newborough	Local Resident
Mr. John Orchard	Biffa
Mr. Jim Thompson	Covanta
Mr Iain Cook	Covanta/Biffa
Mr Peter Wood	Local Resident
Coun. Max Hunt	Leics County Council

Apologies for absence: Dr Landy Yang, Mr K King, Mr A Twells, Coun. J Lennie, Ms Anne Green, Ms. J Hammersley. No communication has been received from Coun. Williams.

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. 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 The transcript would not be published.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.

These had been previously circulated. These were approved and have been posted to the website in the usual way.

3. Matters Arising not on the agenda.

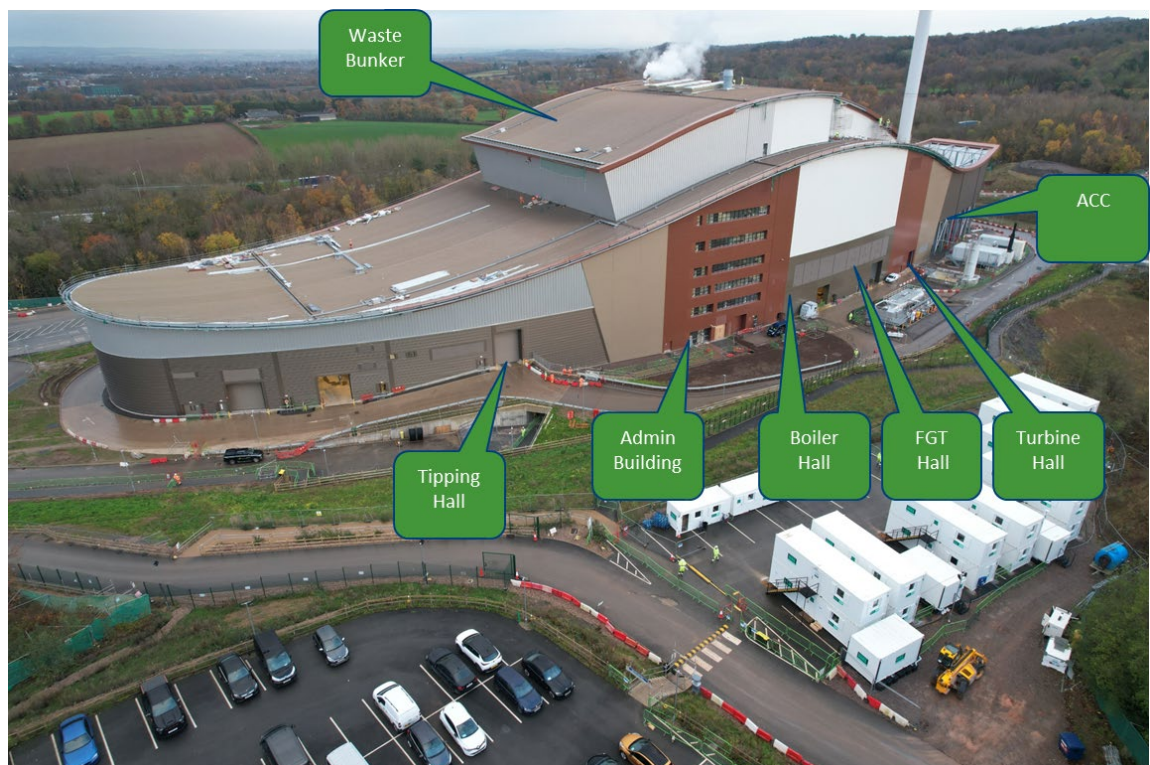
There were none.

4. Construction Update.

Mr. Burdis presented the construction update, using a slide deck which will be available on the web site and the link to which is [here](#)

4.1 Key points:

- 4.1.1 99% of construction is now complete (October 2022 92%) with the project now 98% complete overall and on time. Further significant and visible progress can be seen in the cladding and the build of the elements of the site. Around 250 operatives currently working on site, down from 280 last October, and now over 1.9 million project hours have been committed.
- 4.1.2 The Plant has been running at around 100% MCR (Maximum Continuous Rating) during December with Turbine Synchronisation achieved before Christmas.
- 4.1.3 First waste deliveries were made on schedule in October, and were followed by first fire with waste.
- 4.1.4 A photograph recording progress as at end 2022 is shown below and further photographs are given in the construction update deck on the Community Engagement pages of the Newhurst website.



4.2 Activities undertaken over the previous three months.

- Hot commissioning progressing well with First Fire on Waste in November.
- Steam Turbine-Generator synchronised to the Grid to demonstrate power export capability.
- c. 24,000 tonnes of waste processed so far.
- 12MW exported to the Grid.

4.3 Mr Burdis presented the monitoring results on emissions from the first activity of the facility. The figures are shown below.

Substance	Permit Daily Average Limit (ELV) mg/m ³ <i>Current Commissioning Phase Limits in brackets</i>	Site Daily Average mg/m ³	Site Daily Maximum mg/m ³
Oxides of Nitrogen - NO _x	200 (200)	158.77	183.5
Carbon Monoxide - CO	50 (300)	5.36	8.5
Sulphur Dioxide - SO ₂	50 (300)	10.50	15.9
Hydrogen Chloride - HCl	10 (75)	7.79	11.8
Total organic Carbon - TOC	10 (30)	0.07	0.2
Particulates / Dust	10 (30)	0.11	0.7
Ammonia - NH ₃	10	0.05	0.1
Nitrous Oxide	No limit set	0.96	3.0
Carbon Dioxide - CO ₂	No limit set	10.99%	11.3%

It was noted that these initial readings are in each case well within both the Permit daily average and the Site Daily Maximum.

In discussion **Mr Revill** described the approach that the EA take to the monitoring and control of emissions and any incident affecting these. He noted that there had been an incident notified in November when the Activated Carbon dosing screw, which feeds Activated Carbon to the Bag Filters to enable them to absorb volatile hydrocarbons from the flue gas, had not worked for a period exceeding four hours. The emissions remained within limits even during this event. Mr Revill commented that this provided a good level of confidence that the plant was working as it was intended to do. The incident is described in 4.4.2 below.

4.4. Schedule 5 Incident.

A schedule 5 incident occurred in November; This is an incident which gives rise to a "Requirement to notify any malfunction, breakdown or failure of

equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution.”

What happened? An intermittent failure on the PAC (Powdered Activated Carbon) dosing screw meant there was no dosing of PAC for a period exceeding 4 hours. Once it was discovered that dosing was not operational, the plant was immediately shutdown.

What was the impact? Whilst dosing failure period exceeded 4hrs lack of dosing does not result in immediate breach levels because of the PAC within the system and within the coating levels on the filter bags. There was extended periods of dosing between the dosing system trips / failures building the levels back up on the filter bags and minimising any chance of emissions. No continuously monitored emissions to air were affected.

What has been done to prevent a recurrence? The system identified as causing the fault has been replaced and an additional and more visible alarm has been added to the plant control system to notify the Operator of any fault.

4.6 Takeover Certificate

Following the testing and sign off of all systems and the completion of the thirty day reliability testing a Takeover Certificate could be issued and the plant handed over to the operations team. **Mr Burdis** would shortly after move onto to another project.

4.7. Next three months planned activities:

- Optimisation of all systems.
- Start Take Over Tests.
- Start 30-day Reliability Test

4.8 Discussion

During the discussion following the construction update:

Mr Cook observed that as a non-technical person he would discuss with the project team any ideas for presenting data in a more readily understandable way, for example using everyday images or comparisons for example the emission levels of the M1. More data would be available after handover, and four months later data would be provided on the activities during commissioning. **Mr Revill** stated that data would be presented quarterly and by day with colour coding. **Dr Best** asked if the data provided in these notes would be of interest to councilors' web sites and this was confirmed.

Coun Hunt asked when the volume of traffic movements would reach the normal frequency. Mr Burdis commented that the normal level had already

been reached in December and lorry movements had been below the permitted level.

Mr Cunnington asked about the location of the car park. This is still in its temporary location and by next meeting might have been established adjacent to the entrance to the Administration building.

Mr Burdis summarised:

In December **24k tonnes** of waste had been processed with the generation of some **12Mw of power** had been produced;

The plant is forecasted to be handed over in **May 2023**

Leicestershire and Derbyshire were the main sources of waste.

Lorry movements along the A512. Discussion took place as to the measured volumes of traffic passing to the site via the A512 from the West.

Mr Cook explained that the vehicles may not have been heading for the facility, since many different contracts for waste collection are present, and it is not possible to know which are heading to the plant without registration plates and operator names. **Mr Newborough** confirmed this from his experience and stated that Biffa did not collect from all parts of the catchment area- Veolia for example having contracts locally which were not contracted to provide waste to Newhurst. **Mr Cook** requested that if any vehicle details could be passed to the team, Covanta could assess if the vehicles in question were in fact bringing waste to the site. It is to be noted, however, that vehicles are not restricted from using the A512 to access the Newhurst site from the west.

5 Operations and Maintenance update.

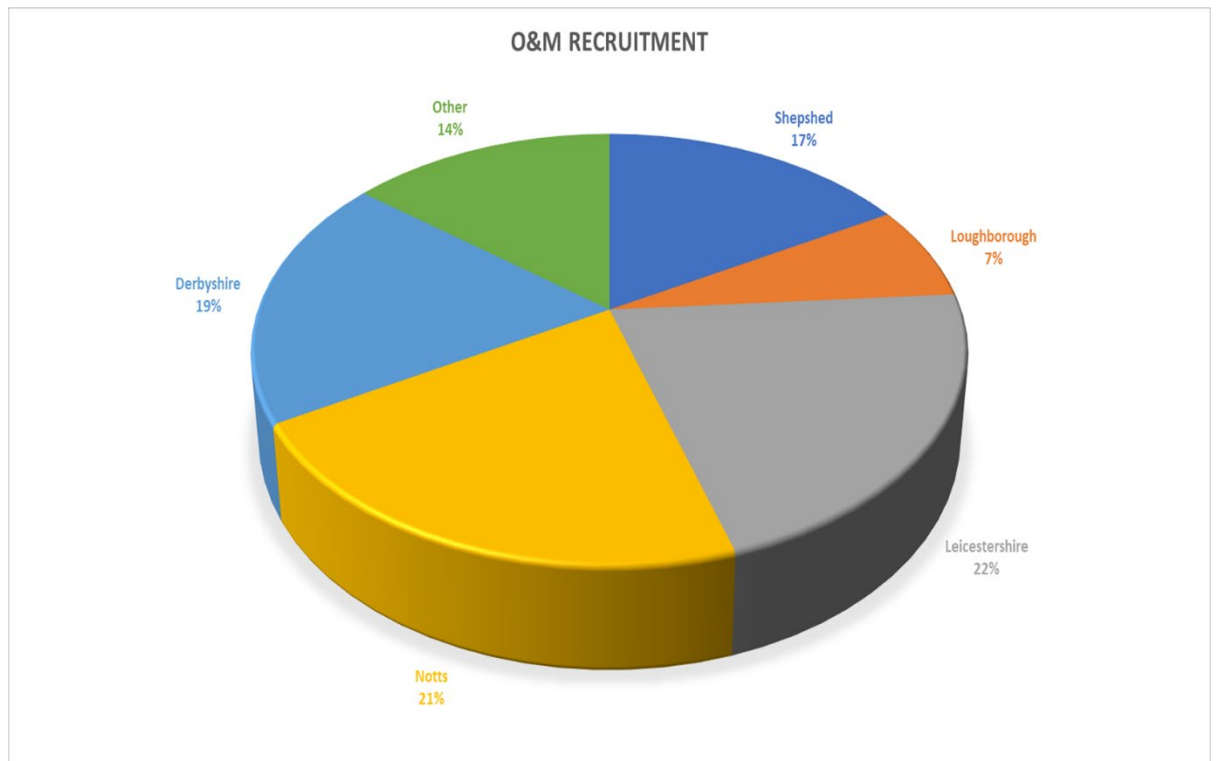
It was noted that post the take over of the plant in May, **Mr Thompson's** update will take over from **Mr Burdis**, who will then have finished his work.

5.1 Mr Thompson reported on progress in these areas.

- First fire from waste has been successfully held, and synchronisation of the power generation to the Grid has also been completed
- **95% of the organisation** has been completed.

5.2 Sources of recruited staff.

The chart below shows where staff originate. Two further electrical staff are being recruited and a new Maintenance Manager has now been appointed. 17% have been recruited from Shepshed.



5.4 Once commissioning of systems has been completed, staff were currently being trained on the various systems and once this training was complete they then took over responsibility for the operation of those systems.

A significant amount of maintenance was being done and may thousands of components to be taken on and staff are progressively taking responsibility for this.

5.5 A new video of the site was now available on YouTube.

6 Planning Update

4.3 Mrs Tappenden reported that the planning application had been submitted for the outage compound a permanent facility for temporary use by contractors employed on maintenance in planned outages.

4.4 An ecological plan is being prepared showing the changed landscaping due to the different soil characteristics.

4.5 A non-material planning application would also be made to take care of any minor changes to the final form of the development.

4.6 Mr Cook added that the offtake of heat or any other further developments will be the subject of separate applications as and when they arise. The LLC would obviously be informed and consulted about these.

4.7 The compound is within the current boundary of the site.

4.8 In a question from **Mr Cunnington** it was made clear that any development would need planning consent.

4.9 Mr Wood asked where the ownership boundary was in relation to the site development. **Mrs Tappenden** noted that the planning application extended outside the boundary of the ownership, in order to gain permission for the changes to the A512 layout at the site entrance. These road improvements were adopted by the county council. It was stressed that the decision to narrow to one lane from the direction of the M1 was taken by the County council not by Covanta.

7 Permitting update.

7.6 **Mr Revill** noted that all be one of the pre-operational conditions had been signed off. The final condition was the temperature test of ensuring that the flue gas was at a steady =>850 degrees C for 2 seconds or more. This was currently being addressed and the methodology to be used for this test is being discussed at present.

4.10 Mr Cook referred to the permit variation which was currently being discussed with the Environment Agency and in particular how best to gather the views of the community about the concerns around the changes. The current permit allows for the plant to process 350k tonnes and they are now asking if the capacity can be increased to 455k tonnes pa without an increase in permitted vehicle movements- the application being to the EA, there is no planning implication since there will be no change in vehicle movements.

4.11 Mr Wood observed that based on his experience in the Quarrying industry face to face meetings were the best approach in order to explain the plans and gain input. It was suggested that "Town Hall" talks might be given and similar talks to local organisations (e.g 41 Club, Lions, round Table etc) **He asked members of the LLC to forward their thoughts about the most effective means of soliciting views. Leaflets, local publications, web sites and social media were immediate reactions to the request. Members were asked to forward such thinking to David Best. It would be included as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.**

7.4 Councillor Radford noted that she was frequently asked for a date when a tour could be arranged. **Mr Cook** noted that safety was paramount and that the facility was not designed for visits. It was stressed by **Mr Newborough** that it was not essential for everyone to go round the plant, but a viewing point and presentation might be sufficient.

8. Discussion on CHP

Mr Cook repro that following the research and feasibility of heat take-off, the decision had been taken to seek expressions of interest from third parties who would take the heat from the Newhurst fence line and provide it to local consumers of the heat. It was a valuable use for the surplus heat. Covanta

however are not in the business of heat supply and multiple customer demands and hence the search for a third party. Local consumers could include Loughborough University. Progress will be reported with a view to having a clear way forward agreed by end of 2023.

9. Questions received previously

Questions had previously been put by Councillor Hunt:

1. Knowing that the plant will go live shortly, could Covanta give us an idea when traffic into the plant will reach a steady state and when that might be. Eg Will it take months to reach capacity or rather more or less time

Commissioning (including optimization and testing) will be ongoing for the next few months, however, for 2 weeks prior to Christmas the plant was operating at around 100% MCR (Maximum Continuous Rating) so there have already been days where the number of vehicles entering the site would be representative of fully operational conditions.

2. Is there a way for the public to register concern or enquire about incidents? A hot line number would be placed at the entrance to the site. In the meantime, the EA could be contacted via their hotline. There is also a 'Contact Us' section on the Newhurst webpage.
3. The issue of a moratorium on ERF facilities. Mr Cook reported that a number of permissions were already in existence, and not all those consented (around 70) would be built as the waste would not necessarily be available, and in the absence of waste then funding for the construction will not be made available.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the LLC will be held on **Monday the 17th April 2023** at 17.30

11. Any other business

Membership. Eight applications had been received and interviews would be planned for the near future.

Postscript

Membership; Following the LLC's decision to seek members interviews of all but one of the candidates (who is on holiday on the date) have been arranged at the Newhurst site for the 30th January. Mr Wood, Mr King and Mr Cunnington had agreed to act as the panel.