

NEWHURST ERF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING NOTES

MEETING HELD 25TH MARCH 2024 (IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM)

(following a site visit)

In attendance:

Mr Mark Revill	Environment Agency
Coun. Christine Radford	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Peter Grainger	Shepshed Town 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 R Hollidge	Encyclis
Ms Jeannette Quirk	Encyclis
Coun. Jane Lennie	Charnwood District
Mr K King	Local Resident
Mr Mark Revill	Environment Agency

Apologies for absence: Ms Anne Green, Ms. J Hammersley, Mr P Wood, Coun M Hunt (attended presentation), Mr Henderson, Ms M Dickinson.

No communication had been received from Ms Gamble, Coun. Harvey, Dr. Lang or Coun. Bestwood.

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** (DPB) welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the Encyclis Team for a very interesting visit.
- 1.2. A copy of the agenda and Mr Thompson's report will be available on the Newhurst ERF website in due course.
- 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 The transcript would not be published.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. **Operations and Maintenance Update.**

Mr Thompson presented the O&M presentation update, using a slide deck which will be available on the web site and the link to which is [XXXX](#)

4.1 **Key points:**

Availability

- Newhurst achieved 100% availability in both January and February.
- During March, the facility needed to be taken offline due to a significant blockage on the ash system. The blockage was successfully removed, however, on return to service large sections of steel beams discovered in the conveyor system caused further blockages and delayed start-up.
- Due to the unplanned shutdown Newhurst was unable to process waste for several days which resulted in long queues at the weighbridge.

In response to questions **Mr Thompson** described the process of inspecting fuel and explained that there was now an investigation on going to discover how the lengths of steel (one of which was some 4m in length) had managed to be loaded as fuel despite the steps taken. The section had had to be cut up into smaller pieces once the furnace had cooled and this overall process had caused about four days down time in total.

Site Visits and Collaboration

- Some 67 x Chemical Engineering students and Senior Lecturers received and presentation and tour of Newhurst to learn more about the ERF and its processes.

This is the beginning of closer collaboration between Newhurst and the university and is part of developing opportunities for graduate secondments and research projects.

Planned Shutdown

- Newhurst will be shutting down for its major annual Maintenance outage to undertake essential inspections and routine maintenance of components and systems.

- Increased numbers of contractors expected therefore contractor welfare cabins will be installed on the top car park. Increased vehicular traffic will be experienced during this period.

The outage duration is expected to be 14 days.

4.2 Monitoring and Reporting

- Between January and March 2024 2 x odour complaints received in 2024 to Newhurst and via the EA. Investigations had been carried out in each case and no issues, odours or emissions were detected from the facility.
- On 21st March outside the facility on Ashby Road there was a very strong acrid odour reported by an employee The odour was also present as they turned left at Ingleberry Road. There were no odours detectable within the ERF.

Independent Odour Monitoring

- Since August 2023, independent odour monitoring surveys have been carried out by Enitial on a fortnightly basis at 7 x locations around Loughborough and Shepshed. The odour survey consists of at two odour survey rounds per day, however Encyclis are not informed exactly when these occur.
- No odours related to the facility have been detected and reports will be uploaded to the Newhurst website. In addition, an internal daily odour check is also completed by the Operations team at three locations across the site boundary. The map showing the location of these monitoring points (shown as yellow dots) is given below.
- Councillor Lennie asked about the locations of the monitoring points. Mr Thompson informed the meeting that they had been placed in the post codes from which the complaints had originated in an attempt to locate the sources.

In discussion, Mrs. Raiment asked where the reports went and could they be put on the Web site. Reports will be collated and placed on the website **Action Mr Thompson**.



Councillor Lennie noted that the prevailing wind was from the SW and that some odours had been detected in the opposite direction. **Mr Thompson** commented that there was a weather station at the site, so that wind direction and other weather conditions were monitored and recorded and could therefore be referenced at the point of any complaint.

**NOTE: The contact details for any reports of incidents are:
Specialist Call Answering & Handling services.
03331 887802
Or email us at
NewhurstEnquiries@encyclis.com**

4.3 Planning Update

Mrs. Tappenden reported that the non-material amendments to the original planning consent, consisting of small changes to bring the planning permit into consistency with the as built plant has now been approved, and that the revised landscaping required by the different from planned soil lithology had also been approved. In discussion is a final iteration of the landscaping plan to match the approval.

4.4 Permit update.

Mr Revill reported that the variation to volumes to be put through the plant had been approved with no changes to the numbers of vehicle movements.

5. Questions

No questions had been received since the January meeting.

6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Newhurst plant on **Monday, 8th July in 1700**

7. Any other Business.

Coun. Radford raised the question as to how the volume of cardboard seen during the tour of the plant could have occurred and whether steps could be taken to mitigate this, since in principle it could have been of a recyclable quality. Mr Thompson replied that there were processes in place designed to ensure that recyclable materials were not imported to the site, but sometime this was not possible. Mr Hollidge reported that he would investigate this incident as he did with all such occurrences. He also commented that he regularly held conversations with suppliers to try to ensure compliance with the policies on acceptable fuel types.

NOTE Subsequent to the meeting an explanation of this particular event was sent my e mail to members.

The meeting closed at approximately 1940.