

Rookery South ERF Community Liaison Panel Meeting 1

25th July 2016, 18.30 – 20.15

Attended and Apologies –See attached

1. Introductions, CLP membership changes, Covanta and Veolia team

Kate Fairweather (KF) welcomed the reconvened Community Liaison Panel (CLP) to the meeting following the announcement of the joint venture between Covanta and Veolia to proceed with the development of the Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility. The aim of this first meeting was for the Covanta and Veolia team to introduce themselves and to provide an outline of the planned development programme and current actions. Covanta and Veolia confirmed their ongoing commitment to the CLP throughout the development and construction process.

Attending from Covanta – Neil Grimstone Head of Operations Europe and Judith Harper UK Project Manager

Attending from Veolia – David Cowan Head of Construction and James Cook Planning Manager

Question

What is the deadline for development to begin before the DCO lapses?

The DCO was made in early 2013 with a five year implementation period, work has to begin within 5 years to activate the DCO, so the deadline is 2018.

2. Agreement of the Community Liaison Panel Terms of Reference

KF referred to the previously agreed CLP Terms of Reference circulated to CLP members before the meeting and asked for approval of these for the ongoing process.

The CLP asked for the Terms of Reference to be revised to include a specific responsibility for Covanta and Veolia to actively respond to concerns raised by the CLP to avoid it being a box ticking exercise.

Action: KF and Covanta and Veolia to review the CLP Terms of Reference and present a revised version to the next meeting Completed Revised CLP Terms of Reference attached for comment, to be discussed at the next meeting

3. Actions from Meeting 18 (15th April 2013)

For response today:

- Ross McIntyre (RM) to check if EA has refused a Permit – RM had been given EA National Permitting Service information from 1st January 2013 to 1st June 2016 and reported there was one instance where a Bespoke Permit (such as the one the ERF will need) had been rejected, this was for a water treatment works where EA requirements for water management were not met by the applicant. On twenty five occasions Permit applications were returned for more information to be provided before they could be considered as ‘duly made’, i.e. a valid application; three initial returns were made after technical evaluation following submission.

To be rescheduled within the new programme when appropriate:

- Covanta/Veolia and EA to present the detailed plans for water discharge pollution controls covered in the Draft Permit
- Sue Marsh (SM) to ask for input to the CLP from the Waterways Trust – SM is seeking to re-engage with the Trust to identify the current contacts
- Covanta/Veolia to provide a quantified statement of the S106 requirements so that CLP members can see the full range of community commitments
- Covanta/Veolia to provide an update on Network Rail developments, and ask Network Rail for an input to the CLP
- Covanta/Veolia to present on the transport routes and enforcement
- Covanta/Veolia to present the public Rights of Way improvement plans

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4. Covanta and Veolia relationship and responsibilities/accountability

Neil Grimstone (NG) Covanta Head of Operations Europe and Judith Harper (JH) UK Project Manager presented the Covanta rationale for the joint development agreement with Veolia. Covanta had withdrawn from the UK in 2013 as, although they had been successful in getting planning permission for facilities, they were unsuccessful in winning waste tenders. At the beginning of 2015 under new senior management the company reviewed its options for the UK market and decided that best strategy would be to partner with existing players. Covanta are successful owners and operators of ERF facilities so it made sense to look for established waste providers in the UK. Covanta bring their expertise from operating 40 ERF plants in the US, which have on average been operating for 20 years and have an average operating capacity of 400,000 tonnes per year, to partner with Veolia's strength in the UK waste management market. Covanta and Veolia are joint partners in the Rookery South Project.

Covanta will provide operations and maintenance. Covanta will also operate the plant for materials recovery from the bottom ash generated.

NG and JH are the Covanta representatives in the UK and report to Tom Koltis in the US. This model allows the resources of the highly experienced US team to be harnessed for the Rookery South project. Covanta have applied this model successfully for the Dublin ERF project which is presently under construction.

David Cowan (DC) Veolia Head of Construction and James Cook (JC) Planning Manager introduced Veolia's extensive portfolio of energy, waste and water treatment facilities in the UK. Veolia is a global operator, is French owned and has a substantial UK operation including water, recycling/waste management and energy. Veolia has been operational in the UK since 1990, provides services to about one third of the UK population and operates over 350 UK sites. Veolia deals with a substantial tonnage of waste materials (from households and businesses), and has 10 Energy Recovery Facilities that generate 1.1 million megawatt hours – equivalent to supplying approx. 320 thousand households. Veolia also has substantial recycling capacity and has 12 material recovery facilities where materials are recycled; 600,000 tonnes of recyclate were processed in 2015. Veolia is also the largest compost producer in the UK, producing 200,000 tonnes a year. Veolia produces refuse derived fuel (RDF) which is exported to Europe and used within the UK.

The Partnership arrangement provides for Veolia to be the primary supplier of business and commercial waste from local depots and transfer stations to the ERF. Veolia have constructed and operate 10 ERF facilities in the UK.

Veolia will manage the construction and the EPC contractor, provide support for energy sales and potentially ash offtake.

Veolia takes its corporate responsibility seriously and has won the 2016 Business in the Community Responsible Business of the Year, 2014 Queens Award for Enterprise and holds accreditations for environmental management, quality management and business continuity. Veolia also runs schemes for environmental grants and the 14,000 Veolia UK employees have half a day's paid leave available for volunteering in their local communities.

NG commented that Covanta also operate corporate responsibility initiatives in the US, handling the safe disposal of e.g. counterfeit money and narcotics and a major sea cleaning programme to receive waste collected from the sea and dispose of it.

JH covered the key list of benefits of the project for the local community: The S106 commitments made as part of the DCO remain legally binding and include the energy discount scheme, Community Trust Fund, visitor centre, Rights of Way enhancement, Marston Vale Trust contribution, Millennium Country Park Planting scheme and Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway contribution.

Additionally the project will create more than 300 jobs during construction, with 40-50 permanent roles within the plant, including apprenticeships, during operation. During the peak construction period, the project will employ over 600 tradesmen and workers. Focus will be on local employment.

DC presented details of the most recent Veolia ERF construction projects in Shrewsbury, Leeds and Staffordshire, similar to the Rookery South Project with excellent safety records and construction standards. Veolia have completed four ERF projects in the last 6 years.

NG presented details of the Covanta Dublin ERF construction project, currently in construction and scheduled to be operational at the end of 2017.

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Questions

Where are Veolia based?

In London with offices across the UK covering existing contracts and commercial operations.

Are there further opportunities to green the proposed structure to hide the boxy nature of the building?

The consented plans include a living roof and green wall, to help it blend in.

Are all the S106 community agreements still in place including Stewartby Water Sports Club agreement?

Yes, all these are formal legal agreements and undertakings were signed and agreed and remain in place. They were negotiated between Covanta and the Councils, and a separate agreement with SWSC.

How was the Community Trust Fund amount arrived at as it seems quite low to cover all the communities affected by the development?

Action Covanta Veolia to present the **detail of the Community Trust Fund to the CLP**

Are all the amounts of the funding the same?

Yes, some are index linked

There have been many changes in the local area since the DCO was granted, there is now a school on Green Lane and a new housing estate on the old A421 – how will lorry routes be enforced (there are already many lorries continuing to use the old A421 as a short cut) and how will exhaust emissions be limited (particularly when waiting at the rail crossing outside the school, bearing in mind that at the Veolia Portsmouth plant lorries are prohibited from passing the local school?)

Action Covanta Veolia to respond on **plans for traffic management and enforcement of routes and driver behaviour to the CLP, including consideration of the School**

Will waste be brought in by rail in future?

It is an S106 obligation that Covanta Veolia investigate the feasibility of transporting waste by rail.

5. Programme for the project, stages of development and timescales

DC presented the stages of the development. Current activities are to discharge the pre-commencement planning conditions before work can start on site, site restoration will start early next year, the EA permit application, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor selection in early 2017 and land acquisition. Once this has been completed the construction will begin, in the latter part of 2017. Veolia have used EPC contractors on their other projects, the contract is currently out to tender and Veolia will select a contractor with the highest quality standards.

The Environmental Permit application will be submitted in September 2016 for the permit to operate. Only one permit is needed to cover both the ERF and the material recovery facility.

Questions

What action is planned during the pre-commencement work to restore the site and building the slip road onto Green Lane to prevent lorries bringing mud onto Green Lane and the A421?

All the site restoration work is the responsibility of the site owner and will be contained in the base of the pit so no works traffic will be coming into and out of the site at this stage. The road access and junction onto Green Lane will need to be completed before construction of the plant can begin (pre-occupation conditions).

Can construction begin before the EA Permit is made?

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Yes, the EA Permit is a Permit to operate, not to build. The construction does have to meet council planning and building control requirements.

Is funding in place for the project?

Covanta and Veolia are developing financing plans at present. Both companies have the financial resources to build the project; however they envisage utilising a significant element of project finance loans from banks along with their own equity funding.

The CLP are concerned that the discharge of the pre-commencement planning conditions will be using data for noise, emissions, traffic etc. from 4 plus years ago – there have been changes to the road (new A421 opened) and additional housing built as well as the school opened and this data will need to be reviewed.

Sue Marsh (SM) responded that there is a long list of technical details to be handled and meetings are ongoing.

Covanta Veolia are using specialist consultants to review noise, traffic etc. data and update it where required.

Action Covanta Veolia to provide the list of the pre-commencement conditions to be circulated to the CLP so that they can ask any questions they have about the details

How will Network Rail plans for East West Rail and electrification affect the operation of the facility in terms of access along Green Lane?

Covanta and Veolia are meeting with Network Rail on a monthly basis to discuss and resolve the issues of increased rail traffic and electrification: The DCO required upgrade to the crossing, but Network Rail have proposed to build a bridge which would require closure of the crossing for 9 months, and would require Covanta and Veolia to move the access road to the site further along Green Lane. A diversion and alternative access route would be necessary during the closure of the crossing. Covanta and Veolia prefer to retain an upgraded level crossing, and are willing to contribute to the project, and negotiations are continuing.

Action Network Rail to be invited to a future CLP meeting to discuss these issues

Why didn't Covanta sell the whole project to Veolia?

Covanta owns the project and intends to develop their interests in the UK ERF market which has potential for growth.

Where will the waste come from?

Veolia has commercial and business waste that they are handling from the regions around Rookery South and continue to pursue local authority municipal waste contract opportunities. All Veolia waste management plants are already full; at present this excess waste is going to landfill or being exported to Europe so will be redirected to the ERF. It will typically be delivered to transfer stations, or to local depots and then transported to the facility. The waste is sorted by the customers (who also have recycling contracts with Veolia) so it will be only the non-recyclable residual waste stream. There will be waste from supermarkets, manufacturing – all non-hazardous.

It is currently anticipated that the majority of waste will therefore arrive in Veolia bulk haul trucks and will use specified routes set out in the S106 agreement

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What are the calorific value and output projections for this different type of waste?

This type of waste has higher calorific value than municipal waste, so should need approximately 500,000 tonnes per year to generate in excess of 50 MW.

How many lorries per day are planned?

108 in and 108 out in a 12 hour period. The trucks will be larger to reduce the number of journeys. The DCO also contains a limit on movements per day.

Action Covanta Veolia to present lorry routes to the next CLP meeting

Will non-Veolia waste trucks be able to turn up with loads for the ERF, and how would the drivers of such trucks be managed in terms of the routes they take and behaviour at the crossing etc.?

Independent waste suppliers will be allowed at the facility but they will have to book in loads before they arrive and will be subject to the same conditions on routes and driver behaviour as Veolia trucks.

Who are the company contacts for the project if there are issues or queries?

There will be a joint venture company. Veolia has a local presence at the Veolia facility on Green Lane however this is a separate part of the business to the Rookery South Project and is not connected. The Veolia representatives DC and JC are often in the area. JIH is the local Covanta representative and is based a relatively short distance from the site. There is a dedicated telephone enquiry line for calls to be logged and passed to the appropriate person who will respond to any questions within 72 hours.

Action Covanta and Veolia to provide details of key contacts for community concerns during the development stage of the project *Complete: Veolia Head office: 020 7812 5038 or 020 7812 5034 OR Veolia Communications Department: Nick Burchett nick.burchett@veolia.com Tel. 01403 224727 mobile 07770 994212*

The CLP are concerned that the local population has changed and grown significantly since the original exhibitions were held in 2009 so that most people who now live in the area were completely unaware of the project history or plans when the news about the revival of the project broke – they feel that it would be appropriate for Covanta Veolia to have a public exhibition on the plans.

Action Covanta and Veolia to consider a public exhibition and communication approaches to keep the local community informed and updated on the project *Completed: Covanta Veolia has considered communication approaches and **intend to provide a newsletter to residents** rather than hold an exhibition*

6. Any other business

The CLP raised the issue of Covanta's environmental failures in the US – if US expertise is used for UK operations will they meet UK environmental standards?

NG stated that there had been an issue with a Canadian ERF where there had been a failure in the test results for dioxin emissions from the stack during commissioning, but this had been an isolated incident and the problem had been fixed (see Covanta Statement re Canadian facility attached). The ERF in Italy has operated for 15 years without any environmental breaches under EU standards; in fact Covanta has had to meet more stringent local requirements there.

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The CLP would like to add representation of all local communities – Brogborough and Wootton are not represented.

KF advised that Wootton was represented but decided to withdraw, but agreed to contact Brogborough Parish Clerk to see if the Parish Council would like to be represented. NB The two Maulden residents have agreed which of them will attend the CLP to allow for this.

Action KF to contact Brogborough PC to see if they wish to be represented Completed: KF has contacted Brogborough Parish Clerk, awaiting response

7. Date of next meeting and items to cover

The next meeting will be held on Monday October 17th at 18.30 at the Marston Forest Centre

Items for the agenda are:

- KF and Covanta and Veolia to review the CLP Terms of Reference and present a revised version for agreement to the next meeting – circulated with Notes
- Covanta Veolia to provide the list of the pre-commencement conditions, including the Community Trust Fund, Stewartby Water Sports and Waterways Trust contributions to be circulated to the CLP so that they can ask any questions they have about the details at the next meeting
- Covanta Veolia to respond on lorry routes, plans for traffic management and enforcement of routes and driver behaviour to the CLP

Actions for future CLP Meetings are:

- Covanta Veolia to present the detail of the Community Trust Fund to the CLP
- Network Rail to be invited to input to a future CLP meeting to discuss their plans for the crossing
- Covanta/Veolia and EA to present the detailed plans for water discharge pollution controls covered in the Draft Permit
- Covanta/Veolia to present the public Rights of Way improvement plans

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CLP Membership

Lisa Frangiamore	Chair, Houghton Conquest P. C.
Peter Neale	Marston Morteyne Parish Council
Jennie Thomas	Millbrook Parish Meeting
David Cooper	Stewartby Parish Council
Tim Hill	Elstow and Stewartby Bedford Borough Councillor apologies
Sue Clark	Cranfield and Marston Central Bedfordshire Councillor
Rod Calvert	Beds Chamber of Commerce apologies
Nigel Allison	Stewartby Water Sports Club
Hugh Roberts	MMAG
Robina Chatham	Lidlington Resident
Richard Franceys	Maulden resident
Ed Hiam	Stewartby resident apologies
Sean Tyrell	Amphill Resident apologies
Independent Observers	
Ross McIntyre	PPC Compliance Officer, Environment Agency
Sue Marsh	Principal Minerals and Waste Planning Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council
Covanta/Veolia representatives	Covanta - Judith Harper, Neil Grimstone Veolia – James Cook, David Cowan
Kate Fairweather	Independent Chair