

Rookery South ERF Community Liaison Panel Meeting 4

12th June 2017, 18.30 – 20.10

Marston Forest Centre Seminar Room

The Forest Centre

Station Road

Marston Moretaine

Bedford MK43 0PR

Attended – See attached

Notes

1. Actions from Meeting 20th March 2017

- Newsletter to publish in the Newsletter organisations represented on the CLP but not individual members' names **completed**
- Covanta-Veolia to consider including Brogborough residents in the Newsletter circulation **completed**

The CLP commented that several more remote houses were missed off the delivery drop and this would have been avoided if Covanta-Veolia had used Royal Mail delivery as advised by the CLP. Tom Koltis apologised for the houses being missed out, and agreed that Covanta/Veolia will use Royal Mail in future.

- Simple statement of traffic management to and from the site that explains what impact will be on current traffic levels (rather than the ones in 2013) that CLP members can use to explain how traffic levels will be affected and what pollution effects will be **completed**
- Details of the cause of the recent fire at a Covanta plant in the US and why that couldn't happen here – Tom Koltis (TK) reported on this issue: The fire was caused by waste that had burning embers in it being scooped into the bunker before being detected. In all modern plants, and specifically the Rookery South ERF, there are heat and optical sensors and fire suppression equipment. Also there is a separation between the floor and the pit. This was an older plant and Covanta have put in place modernisation of all older plants to meet the same standards. The fire was contained in the plant, there was a controlled shut down of the facility, all staff were evacuated safely and there were no injuries. The fire was big because it was a Thursday night and the pit had been stacked for operation over the weekend. The Fire Departments put out the fire overnight. An internal investigation identified that the facility needed additional infrastructure which has been installed, and the planned annual maintenance due in the autumn was brought forward to ensure the plant is fully operational. The plant will re-open shortly.

Questions:

What controls are in place to make sure protocols are followed? The protocols to evacuate the plant and to control the shutdown were followed successfully. Sensor equipment is in place to identify fire hazard, and protocols in place to take action immediately. Tom stated that this is an issue of corporate culture where Health and Safety is put first, and Covanta have implemented this from CEO down.

Is there an investigation report by the Fire Authority or other regulatory authority confirming the cause of the fire and assessing the air quality impact of it that the CLP could see?

Action: Tom agreed to report back on this issue.

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2. Update on questions arising from the Permit consultation and EA plans for a drop-in session at the next stage Iris Soler, Director of Permitting and Environmental Control, Veolia, Ross McIntyre PPC Compliance Officer, Environment Agency

Ross reported that the EA received 1994 comments on the first Permit consultation, which is well above average for this type of Permit application. Most of the issues raised were about:

- Health impacts
- Air emissions
- Ecosystem impacts, wildlife impacts
- Local weather conditions
- Temperature inversions caused by the local topography
- Traffic movement impacts
- The major housebuilding in the past five years not taken into account in the DCO
- Location not right for this size of development
- Waste coming on from other counties
- Concern about Covanta's competence as an operator

EA have asked for responses for those issues within the Permit remit (so not traffic, location and import of waste from other counties) from Covanta/Veolia, which will be taken into consideration in the EA draft Decision Document and draft Permit to be published in September. This will then go to the second consultation, probably in September. The second consultation will be published on the EA website and then be open for 6 weeks (30 days) and EA will hold a drop-in session either in Stewartby or the Forrest Centre with the key experts so that local people can ask questions and make informed comments.

Iris confirmed that Covanta/Veolia has responded to the issues put forward by EA from the 18th April closure of the first consultation, and these responses will be published by EA in the second consultation. The issues included confirmation of details on controls, questions about noise, ecosystems and health impacts from the consultation. Covanta/Veolia are waiting for any further requirements from EA. The National Permitting Service (NPS) will go through every response and answer each one collectively.

Questions:

Will people who responded to the initial consultation be advised of the second consultation being published by EA?

Action: Ross to ask EA if this is the case.

How will the second consultation be advertised to the local community?

Ross confirmed that the consultation will be published in the local paper and EA will advise the Local Authorities and Parish Councils of the publication of the documents on the EA website.

How will people who don't get the local paper delivered find out about the consultation – remote houses tend to be missed out on deliveries of the free paper?

Ross recognised that the local paper may not reach everyone, but EA have limited resources. He suggested that people check the EA website from September so they can pick up the documents when they appear. He also recommended that the local authorities, parish councils and community groups should be ready to communicate the information to their constituencies.

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Action: Ross to advise the CLP Facilitator when the documents are going to be published so that the CLP can share this information to the community.

It's disappointing that there was not an EA drop-in for the first consultation so local people haven't been able to make informed comments, and now the drop-in will be held to consult on the draft decision, which is surely too late?

Ross replied that there would only have been one drop-in session and EA feel the current plan will allow people to see Covanta/Veolia's responses to the issues raised and ask further detailed questions of the EA experts. There is then a further 30 day consultation for issues of continuing concern to be raised, and these have to be responded to before the final decision is made.

Are Covanta/Veolia's responses to the first consultation questions in the public domain?

Ross confirmed that the responses are being considered by EA to determine if they fully answer the questions asked, so will not be in the public domain until the report is written and published on the website in the draft decision.

The CLP feels that the 30 day period is very short for local people to fully understand the documents and respond and requests an extension to this period for this application which is clearly of above average interest for the local community.

Action: Ross will request an extension to the EA consultation period, and ensure that the drop-in session is scheduled for a few weeks into the consultation period so people have a chance to review and formulate the questions they want the experts to answer. As the development is one of high public interest the rules are less prescriptive.

3. Restoration works issues, response to complaints David Nicholson, Project Manager for site works, Veolia – **see presentation attached.**

David explained that the activities on-site had been scheduled so as to not disturb the wildlife in the area including nesting lapwings and skylarks. An ecologist has been visiting twice per week to monitor.

Complaints about night time noise and mud on the road were received from the local community:

David explained that the noise reported was not from the site which closes at 19.00 and opens at 07.00. The site has regular on-site monitoring and a noise assessment survey completed and noise was not above permitted levels at any time.

Veolia investigated the reports of mud on the road as soon as they were made: This happened when the plant was delivered to the site and mud was picked up on the tyres of the delivery vehicles and then deposited on Green Lane. Veolia have put remedial actions into place: The access road has been resurfaced with a layer of stone to raise it above the mud level, a wheel wash has been put in place and the road was cleaned. David has checked the road today and there is no mud on the surface.

Questions:

Why is the area of the site that is not being prepared for the ERF being restored to an agricultural surface? David explained that the planning requirement stated the area should be prepared with agricultural standard surfacing, and Covanta/Veolia had decided to put the construction surface down now in preparation for the build. The agricultural surface is a lower level of compacting than for construction. Tom commented that this area will be landscaped once the ERF is built as detailed in the DCO.

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4. Update on the final proposals for Electricity Subsidy Scheme including Covanta-Veolia review of the eligibility cut-off date and the parishes included in the Community Trust Fund and Electricity subsidy

Neil Grimstone reported that the proposals are nearly finalised: The review of household numbers has added 1457 new houses in the area to 31st March 2017. These new houses, built since the DCO are included in the scheme, and Brogborough has been also been included, so a total of 8716 households are eligible. Covanta-Veolia have also accepted including the Water Sports Club in the Scheme and is considering the Stewartby, Marston Moretaine, Wootton, Cranfield, Houghton Conquest, Lidlington, Millbrook and Brogborough Village Halls, and not for profit community organisations in the area – the cost of this needs to be evaluated before giving final agreement.

The date for eligibility of households is 31st March 2017.

Neil explained that the issues that now need to be resolved are:

- The process for proving eligibility of households that apply
- Setting the dates for opening and closing the application process

He expects to be able to provide final detail by the next CLP Meeting in October and that the Scheme will be open from January to March 2018.

5. Any other business:

- The CLP reported that trucks are increasingly using the old A421 from M1 J13 and becoming a danger to road users, what steps will Covanta/Veolia make to prevent ERF delivery trucks using this route? Judith Harper confirmed that Veolia drivers will be given instructions on the routes to use. Tom Koltis also confirmed that residents will be able to report any trucks on the wrong route to Veolia and this will be responded to – trucks will have the phone number on the side, and all will have GPS so any on the wrong route will be picked up straight away.

The CLP commented that the old and new A421 roads are so close together GPS doesn't always pick up which one a vehicle is on. Covanta Veolia committed to ensuring that truck drivers are briefed on the routes and that these were enforced.

Sue Clark confirmed that the Council have S106 funding to put in place an enforceable truck ban on the old A421 so it will be more difficult for trucks to accidentally use the wrong route.

- The CLP queried the route that will be used by trucks coming from the north. Judith Harper confirmed that the S106 includes a northern route:

“RRF HGV traffic travelling from the RRF to the north (B) would route along Green Lane through the existing Green Lane/ A421 junction, then route along the existing section of the A421 as far as the new grade separated Marsh Leys Junction, when it would gain access to the new A421 dual carriageway”

This was presented to the CLP at Meeting 2 in October 2016 (attached).

- The CLP asked how the environmental impacts of the ERF and the proposed Millbrook Gas Turbine would be combined to judge the full effect of the two developments. Judith Harper confirmed that it will be for the Millbrook Gas Turbine application to demonstrate that they have taken the ERF into account in their environmental impact statement.
- The CLP asked how negotiations were going with Network Rail. Neil Grimstone confirmed that Network Rail confirmed at a recent meeting they will be upgrading the crossing and it will be remotely operated from the signal box. Network Rail plan to make the upgrade on a Sunday to prevent too much disruption. It will increase the crossing closure time to 5 minutes. Tom Koltis

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commented that Covanta/Veolia will manage delivery truck movements to avoid traffic queues as far as possible.

The CLP commented that should Network Rail go ahead with their plans to increase traffic on the line the crossing would be closed five times an hour plus freight train closures. Neil confirmed that Network Rail recognise they would need to build a bridge at the crossing if this expansion takes place, but that Network Rail do not have the funding for the expansion at present so this is not an immediate issue.

6. Date of next meeting and items to cover

The next meeting will be held on 16th October 2017 at 18.30 at the Forest Centre. Items will be:

- Final details of the Electricity Subsidy Scheme eligibility and application process
- Update on the EA Permit process

Items for future CLP Meetings:

- Covanta-Veolia to present the public Rights of Way improvement plans when the project reaches this stage including Covanta-Veolia review of designation of cycle ways to bridleways
- Development of the Community Trust Fund Memorandum of Understanding
- Information about the design of the filtration system re the effectiveness of bag filters in preventing harmful emissions from the stack
- David Cowan to investigate the pathways for water pumped from holding lagoon and the potential to affect water quality at the Water Sports Club lake

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CLP Membership

Sarah Watt	Houghton Conquest Parish Council Attended
Peter Neale	Marston Morteyne Parish Council Attended
Jennie Thomas	Millbrook Parish Meeting Attended
David Cooper	Stewartby Parish Council Attended
Michelle White	Brogborough Parish Council Apologies
Andrew Penn	Lidlington Parish Council Attended
Tim Hill	Elstow and Stewartby Bedford Borough Councillor Apologies
Sue Clark	Cranfield and Marston Central Bedfordshire Councillor Attended
Rod Calvert	Beds Chamber of Commerce Attended
Ruth Ivory	Stewartby Water Sports Club Attended
Nick Webb	Forest of Marston Vale Attended
Hugh Roberts	MMAG Apologies
Robina Chatham	Lidlington Resident Attended
Richard Franceys	Maulden Resident Apologies
Sean Tyrell	Amphill Resident Apologies
Independent Observers	
Ross McIntyre	PPC Compliance Officer, Environment Agency Attended
Sue Marsh	Principal Minerals and Waste Planning Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council Attended
Covanta/Veolia representatives	Covanta –Judith Harper, Neil Grimstone, Tom Koltis Veolia –Iris Soler, David Nicholson
Kate Fairweather	Independent Chair