

Devonport Incinerator Liaison Committee Meeting

Date: 25th July 2016

Devonport EfW CHP Facility: 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Present:

Statutory bodies:

- George Wheeler – GW (PCC)
- Jane Ford – JF (MVV, minutes)
- Ashleigh Sherrell – AS (SWDWP)
- Tina Tuohy – TT (PCC)
- Paul Carey – PC (MVV)
- Mark Turner – MT (SWDWP)
- Alistair Macpherson – AM (PCC)

Guests:

- Karyn Knight – KK
- Claire Pearson – CP
- Jade Allen – JA

Resident members:

- Alex Battershill – AB (Chair)
- George Cooke – GC
- Carroll Cooke – CC
- David Angove – DA
- Denis Murphy – DMu
- Sue Murphy – SM
- Veronica Smerdon – VS
- David Marks – DMA
- Ruth Crawford – RC
- Pamela Husson – PH
- Margaret McKee – MM
- Sheila Battershill – SB

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Mudge (EA) • Sarah Taylor (EA) • Gregg Portass (PCC, PPS) 	
2.	Minutes from previous meeting	
	<p>The minutes from May's meeting remain in draft due to time constraints at today's meeting. They will be agreed in October (see 6 below)</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> The North Yard Community Trust public meeting will be held at Tamar View Community Centre, Barne Barton, on Tuesday 20th September at 7:00 pm Date for social event/buffet to be agreed at next meeting Newsletters to be produced and distributed in September</p>	
3.	Site tour	
	11 members took part in the site tour and had the opportunity to talk with operational staff.	
4.	Members and guests Q&A	
	KK introduced herself and AB suggested everyone introduce themselves for the benefit of guests present. KK explained that she was attending due to an ongoing issue with odour at her property, stating that she had been in contact with EA officers and had brought a petition	

signed by 206 residents calling for MVV and the EA to abide by the stipulations agreed within the Environmental Statement (published May 2011). She expressed disappointment that the EA officers were not in attendance and JF reiterated apologies on their behalf which were due to the St Dennis EfW entering the commissioning phase. Other ILC members noted that they had benefited from the EA officers' support during our commissioning phase and St Dennis residents deserved the same attention.

AB pointed out that the ILC is actually a good forum for such concerns but KK was not aware of its existence until GW pointed her in the right direction. PC clarified that meetings are held quarterly on the last Thursday of the month – this information was checked and found to be available on MVV's website (latest news, May 2016). KK queried the timing of the meetings and PC/JF confirmed that they usually take place at 6:30 pm but this one was called with a specific topic in mind and to accommodate PCC for that purpose. AB confirmed and KK agreed that PC/JF are always available via telephone, email or in person at other times as well.

Odour

PC explained that MVV are taking any odour issues seriously and that, as part of the ongoing investigations, a three-week survey was undertaken which included collecting data from local resident volunteers.

During the recent outage, the standby fan was not functioning adequately and a technical solution will be found. Smelly air is generated in the bunker and should all be sucked into the fire and burnt. Currently some smelly air is being pulled out of the building but increasing the negative pressure through the bunker should overcome this. Already, the air vents above the tipping bays have been blocked off to narrow the area that air is being sucked through (thus increasing the rate at which it is drawn through). If necessary, additional vents will be blocked off.

The fans on the bale plant side of the building (creek and access road side) are designed to suck clean air in but are currently becoming over pressurised, allowing smelly air to leak out. Again, MVV's operations team are working through possible solutions methodically.

KK noted that to claim 'odour will not be detectable beyond the site boundary' is a bold statement. MT pointed out that the EA are involved in the ongoing odour investigations on site and PC confirmed that MVV are in regular correspondence with them.

PC went on to explain that there is no major outage planned until next year's. in the meantime, the carbon filter system is being improved as the cartridges were spent after 4-5 days. A new system will be in place before the next shutdown and any unplanned shutdown in the interim shouldn't be an issue as the filter cartridges have been replaced. GW asked whether the plant needs to be shut down for the filters to be changed and PC confirmed that this would not be necessary.

	<p><u>Flies</u> KK stated that she had experienced an infestation of flies last year. PC pointed out that flies off site were unlikely to have come from the Facility as the waste on site would be far more attractive to them.</p> <p><u>Meetings</u> KK pointed out that this meeting had not been advertised on MVV's website for which JF apologised – future meetings to be advertised on MVV's latest news page as they have been in the past.</p> <p>GC expressed surprise that people didn't know when the ILC meetings are, especially in view of recent letters published in the Herald.</p> <p><u>Bin collections / Household Waste Recycling Centres</u> PH asked for more information about an article in the Herald discussing proposals for changes to bin collections and the possible closure of Weston Mill HWRC.</p> <p>MT clarified that analysis of all waste services needs to be done and nothing has been decided yet. Fortnightly residual waste bin collections and the closure of the HWRC are merely two of a number of proposals.</p> <p>TT confirmed that she will oppose the closure of Weston Mill.</p> <p><u>Noise</u> VS stated that residents in the sheltered housing (Weston Mill Drive) had been disturbed by the entrance bell being rung at 11:33pm on Sunday 24th July. She also felt that they had not been adequately warned of the opening ceremony on Saturday 9th July. JF expressed some surprise over this as one of their residents was on the decision panel for the entrance sculpture design and attended the opening ceremony.</p> <p>PC explained that the rope has been removed from the bell clapper and it sits on MoD land which is monitored by their security. The bell is also quite hard to ring but MVV will monitor the situation.</p>	<p>JF</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Low Carbon Infrastructure / District Heating</p>	
	<p>AM introduced himself, representing Plymouth City Council's low carbon infrastructure team, and confirmed that he has attended various meetings with residents over the past two years. Please see briefing note and feasibility study attached with these minutes. It should also be noted that this funding represents public money.</p> <p><u>Low carbon infrastructure fund and spending</u> AM pointed out that this fund is intended to deliver long-term benefit and must be spent by 2022 so considered decisions are needed, rather than 'fast wins'.</p> <p>AM confirmed that the Simple Measures Energy Efficiency Programme would specifically target the North Yard Community Trust area (please see map attached with these minutes). It will be launched this winter and has received £600, 000 of match funding from the EU.</p>	

<p>Plymouth Energy Community has focused on solar panels, insulation and switching (getting better deals from energy suppliers).</p> <p><u>District Heating</u> CC asked how the locations for the District Heating (DH) feasibility studies were chosen and AM explained that they were based on where heat is or could be made available and where demand for heat is high. It was confirmed that only the Dockyard is currently benefitting from heat from the EfW Facility.</p> <p>AB asked about the possibility of heat for Camels Head residents and CC stated that they had already been told there was no chance of them receiving any.</p> <p>As a point of order, AM requested that he be allowed to finish his update first and then take questions at the end.</p> <p>AM provided additional clarity around the DH figures, explaining that a £14,000 investment per property would be required to save those individual households 20% on their annual energy bill (a saving, on average, of around £160 per year). Other options currently represent better value for money but this doesn't mean that a DH scheme will never happen. Fundamental changes are needed before DH becomes viable and PCC are waiting for clarity from central government on schemes that will bring cheap finance to the table.</p> <p>GW asked whether the connection charge associated with DH surveys was for retrofitting such a scheme and AM confirmed that this was the case. GW went on to point out that Affinity Sutton (social landlord) are planning the redevelopment of 300-400 properties in Barne Barton and AM confirmed that his department would be very happy to discuss DH with the developer when they are ready.</p> <p>PC queried the business case for the original scoping study and pointed out that MVV would not operate any DH scheme but that a Community Interest Company (for example) would need to be set up with a back-up boiler for periods of shutdown – government money for such a scheme might now be more available.</p> <p>PC also stated that the MoD/Babcock heat demand has been lower than anticipated so there may be more heat available than was originally expected. He also confirmed AM's point that domestic heat demand is extremely erratic and much more difficult to provide than (for example) hotels, swimming pools, industry etc.</p> <p>Other sources of money should also be considered and AM explained that a good time to carry out a further study would be when the Government's new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy confirm their agenda and criteria for the next financial year. Plymouth is already well-placed for when this happens, due to work and studies already done and underway.</p> <p>AM reiterated the point that major change is needed for DH to become feasible and not enough has yet changed. Schemes would start small and grow.</p>	
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	<p>PC confirmed that if DH were feasible for the University (as an example) then the heat would not come from MVV.</p> <p>CC asked where a boiler would go in town and JF explained her experience of a new build at South Devon College, where a biomass boiler has been fitted within the building itself to provide heat and hot water.</p> <p>AM confirmed PC's point that any heat in town would come from another source and that possible candidates for receiving heat might be the University, library, museum, art gallery. Once small schemes are in place, the possibility to widen them becomes more viable.</p> <p>AB stated that his understanding is that there is currently no opportunity for individual householders to benefit from any heat, which AM confirmed as it would be a constant draw on the public purse.</p> <p>CC stated that it appears to be only the bigger companies / establishments that are benefitting.</p> <p>DA pointed out that residents in Harbour Avenue, Hamoaze Avenue, Wolseley Road and Rodney Street feel neglected but there is now a better understanding that a larger heat demand is necessary to make DH viable.</p> <p>GW asked what the MoD steam demand was and PC stated that it was very little at the moment. GW went on to point out that one benefit of social housing (eg. Barne Barton) is that DH can be made a condition of sale/tenancy, as opposed to private residents where agreements would be needed with all of the individuals. AM reiterated that previous studies had looked at social housing options as well as other options for energy efficiency where DH is not the best option.</p> <p>CC stated that the idea of making an initial investment for long-term gain has put people off (eg. Green Deal) and AM reiterated that PCC have allocated money specifically for the Camels Head area through the Simple Measures Programme.</p> <p>AB suggested that people might benefit more from free solar panels.</p> <p>JF thanked AM for attending the meeting.</p>	
6.	Date of next meeting	
	<p style="text-align: center;">27th October 2016 from 6:30pm Devonport EfW CHP Facility</p> <p>Quarterly meetings will then resume on the last Thursday of the month</p>	