

Devonport Incinerator Liaison Committee Meeting

Date: 26th May 2016

Devonport EfW CHP Facility: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Present:

Statutory bodies:

- George Wheeler – GW (PCC)
- Jane Ford - JF (MVV)
- Ashleigh Sherrell – AS (SWDWP)
- Tina Tuohy – TT (PCC)
- Paul Carey – PC (MVV)

Resident members:

- Alex Battershill – AB
- 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

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Mudge (EA)• Sarah Taylor (EA)• Pat Patel (resident)• Melv Chislett (resident)• Mark Turner (SWDWP) <p>It was noted that PCC's Public Protection Service are happy to attend when required. Members requested that they be invited to future meetings and JF will ensure that this is done.</p>	JF
2.	Minutes from previous meeting	
	<p>Regarding training for new delivery drivers, AS confirmed that all drivers are required to carry their induction card at all times. Weighbridge staff are familiar with all regular drivers and request sight of the induction card for those who are not familiar. A record of all inductions is held by the Contract Management team. Any new drivers recruited by the councils are notified to MVV by SWDWP and receive a site induction before being allowed to deliver.</p> <p>DA noted that there had been a reduction in the number of vehicles delivering to site and PC confirmed that this is due to the fact that fewer C&I vehicles are delivering ahead of the planned maintenance shut-down in June (this is covered at Item 4 below).</p>	
3.	Unplanned shut-down over Easter weekend	
	<p>Operators were forced to shut the plant down due to a blockage in the ash conveyors, caused by non-combustible waste.</p>	

<p>Following this unplanned shut-down, there were some issues with restarting the plant which were caused by operator error. PC explained that it was rather embarrassing but the operator concerned forgot part of the start-up procedure and failed to drain the water which had collected in the system. During start-up, it is necessary to manually close the water drains and this is the step that was missed. The flash vessel which the drains feed into then acted like an echo chamber. The emergency systems then kicked-in as they should and all of the steam in the boiler was vented loudly for which PC apologised again.</p> <p>PC went on to explain that a full fault analysis was carried out resulting in disciplinary action for the Assistant Shift Team Leader involved. The Shift Team Leader in charge on this occasion has been fired.</p> <p>GW noted that silencers have been fitted to steam vents in the roof following issues last year and asked whether it is also possible to fit silencers to the flash vessel. PC confirmed that he would investigate this.</p> <p>SM asked whether this event had caused any damage to the plant and PC explained that some parts of the system had got hotter than usual but no significant damage was sustained. Over the course of the same night, some water got into pumps causing water hammer and physically shook them – these pumps were replaced.</p> <p>CC asked whether, in the event of a serious accident or fire, residents would receive any warning. PC clarified that JF would be the one to let people know of any such events but reassured the meeting that there is a sophisticated fire prevention, detection and suppression system in the waste bunker. If a fire were to get out of control the ceiling deluge system would be deployed. Residents would not get any more warning than MVV. CC pointed out that it would be good to receive reassurance and JF will remain proactive in this respect.</p> <p>GC asked whether there was any serious danger during the incident and PC stated that there was not; the plant safety and emergency systems all reacted correctly and shut the plant down safely. GC also noted that, for a highly sophisticated plant, it seems to be having a lot of teething troubles. PC pointed out that technically and mechanically it is working extremely well and very efficiently; MVV are proud of it.</p> <p>GW queried why there was no warning in the control room to indicate that the superheater vents were not closed. PC confirmed that there is such an alarm but it was unfortunately ignored.</p> <p>GC commented that, following the ILC site tour last year, he had left feeling reassured that nothing could go wrong with the process but recently there had been a number of scares. PC clarified that there is no sorting or segregation of waste on site so MVV/SWDWP rely on the public and other waste customers to do their bit. Some non-combustible items have been received, especially in the early days of operation, such as gas bottles, rubble, tree trunks and entire metal wheelie bins. MVV's Waste Acceptance Operatives and staff in the control room are constantly vigilant so that these things can be removed before they go onto the grate. In addition, MVV and SWDWP have worked together to educate partner councils and their delivery drivers.</p>	<p>PC</p>
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	<p>AB asked how such items can get into the Facility and PC explained that they come from wheelie bins and household waste sites (tips). AS elaborated that a quarterly programme of education is ongoing at all the partner councils' waste sites to check the quality of the waste.</p> <p>MM asked whether there are random site inspections to prevent these types of waste being delivered. AS confirmed that MVV don't have the authority to turn up unannounced at SWDWP sites but that she has been accompanying MVV's Assistant Contract Manager on site visits. AS noted that staff at these sites are passionate about their job and are doing their best. PC confirmed that communication with drivers had improved significantly.</p> <p>GC queried whether the safety of the Facility was based on a human element and PC confirmed that although this is true, the plant is designed to withstand a lot and the aim is to minimise damage.</p> <p>CC asked whether a shut-down holds up waste treatment and therefore costs MVV money. PC confirmed that this is indeed the case.</p>	
4.	Planned maintenance shut-down (June)	
	<p>CC asked whether this is to do things to the building. PC confirmed that the Facility will stop burning waste once a year in the summer. This will mostly involve inspection work as well as some replacements. In this instance, there will also be some modifications to further improve the operation of the Facility.</p> <p>MM asked when it would start and PC confirmed that work will commence on 6th June 2016.</p> <p>GW asked what arrangements the C&I customers have when the Facility is only accepting council waste (continued from Item 2 above). PC explained that, unfortunately, they probably have to revert to landfill although there is an EfW Facility in Exeter and the one in St Dennis will be operational soon.</p> <p>GW asked about odour control as the level of waste in the bunker rises. PC explained that the negative pressure system drawing stale air from the tipping hall and waste bunker to be burnt has been improved, including the addition of strip curtains to prevent odours being blown back out of the tipping hall air vents. There is also a carbon filter system attached to the shut-down fan which enables the negative pressure system to continue sucking air when the fire is not burning.</p> <p>GW enquired about gaps in the waste bunker walls and PC confirmed that much time and effort has been spent tracking these down and sealing them. PC stated that he is confident that issues from last year won't be repeated.</p> <p>GW pointed out that there had been much discussion of the baling and wrapping system at the planning stage to which PC responded that this is a last resort for additional storage capacity. GW went on to ask whether baling might be used to prevent odour if justified complaints were received. PC explained that this would have no immediate effect as it would be the newest waste that got baled first; the negative air</p>	

	<p>system should be capable of maintaining air flow and any external odour is most likely to be caused by wind/weather conditions; closing the main tipping hall door at quieter times is another possibility.</p> <p>DMA expressed concerns over the noise from the steam vents. PC explained that this doesn't happen during a normal shut-down so residents will not have a repeat of the experience at Easter.</p> <p>GW asked about noise from maintenance activities. PC explained that the majority of maintenance activities will take place inside the buildings and the east side of site will be used for storage to avoid disruption for residents adjacent to site on the west side (Talbot Gardens and Savage Road). PC will confirm that this is the case.</p>	PC
5.	Residents' concerns and questions	
	<p><u>District Heating</u></p> <p>GW asked for feedback from the meeting between PC and MT. PC explained that an initial meeting had been held with Paul Barnard of PCC's planning department in February and this needs to be followed-up. The idea is to look again at a small district heating scheme, primarily for Barne Barton and spurred by an offer of government funding via the Department of Energy and Climate Change.</p> <p>PC went on to state that MVV are happy to work with PCC. A feasibility study in 2013 showed that such a system would not be viable but PC feels that this is pessimistic.</p> <p>GW explained that the cost of retrofitting properties generally makes such schemes unviable but that Affinity Sutton (social landlord in Barne Barton) are about to embark upon a major regeneration and new builds which would seem to offer the ideal opportunity.</p> <p>PC explained that a gas-fired boiler will feed a hot water system around a home and that it is relatively simple to fit a heat exchanger as well. he confirmed that the right time to do this is at the design and development stage.</p> <p>CC asked whether this would only be for new properties and whether the railway line would prohibit Weston Mill residents from benefitting. PC stated that no discussions had been held so far regarding district heating for Weston Mill but that it is technically possible.</p> <p>DA asked how many MVV sites have such a system. PC confirmed that MVV in the UK is currently limited to two sites: Plymouth and Ridham Dock in Kent. Plymouth provides district heating to the Dockyard and Ridham is too far from residential properties to have a residential district heating scheme. He went on to explain that MVV do have extensive district heating schemes in Germany and the Czech Republic. Furthermore, Sheffield EFW feeds heat into a district heating scheme and Nottingham feeds both a residential and business heating scheme.</p> <p>JF pointed out that cost is not the only factor involved and that establishing a residential heating scheme in Plymouth is not entirely within MVV's gift, there are a lot of other things to be considered.</p>	

	<p>CC queried the use of S106 low-carbon money. PC confirmed that MVV have paid the full £2M to PCC. JF explained that some of this has been spent setting up Plymouth Energy Community which is a share scheme with profits being spent on solar panels for public buildings. PC suggested that a further meeting is required with PCC planning department to establish how much money is left and what can be done with it, including securing other sources of funding (crossing the railway line, for example, would be very expensive).</p> <p>MM expressed frustration at how difficult it appears to be to get an answer from the council and GW explained that any member of the public can submit a written question to a council meeting and they will get an answer (without having to attend the meeting in person).</p> <p>GW requested that district heating be an agenda item at the next ILC meeting. As this is due to be held in August, it was agreed that this might clash with holidays and that the meeting should be rearranged for July. Quarterly meetings will then continue in October, January, April and July (see Item 7). PC will invite Paul Barnard, PCC planning department.</p> <p><u>North Yard Community Trust (NYCT)</u> GC expressed frustration that NYCT funding is not readily available to communities as applicants need to be part of a constituted group with their own constitution and bank account. There was some concern that the NYCT may not be entirely transparent but JF, GW and TT assured members that they do have a website where all monies awarded are published (JF showed the group the NYCT's website and ran through some of the projects already funded). It was noted that the library has computers which can be accessed by those who don't have one at home. JF will let ILC members know when and where the Annual General Meeting of the NYCT will be held.</p> <p>GW further clarified the difference between the NYCT and other S106 monies.</p> <p>GC reminded the group of the work done by his daughter both on district heating and in attempts to open up access from Weston Mill to Blackie Woods. PC pointed out that MVV can't apply to the NYCT for their own money!</p> <p>DMA asked whether residents/ILC members could apply and PC confirmed that this is the case; CC pointed out additional issues relating to access such as the tide and traffic. PC confirmed that Tudor Evans had been broadly supportive of the idea and TT clarified that the concept of a bridge over Wolseley Road had made the idea non-viable, although the idea of a boardwalk along the edge of the creek was a good one. PC suggested that this could be overcome with pedestrian lights if the wish for it was strong enough.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>JF</p>
6.	Any Other Business (AOB)	
	<p><u>Planning Condition 3 (entrance sculpture)</u> PC outlined the planning requirement and the agreed scheme of implementation, in response to letters of concern received from ILC members, PH and AB:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel convened, consisting of representatives from MVV (PC), the client, SWDWP, (Carol Arthur), NYCT (Joan Stuckey), local ward councillor (TT), PCC's public art department (Jodie Bishop) • Local schools were offered the opportunity to work with local artists on concept designs • These designs were incorporated into the artist brief which was agreed by the panel • Artists from all over the country submitted expressions of interest • Five artists were shortlisted and given £500 to develop a detailed design proposal • Public consultation was held at Weston Mill, advertised via a letter drop and on MVV's website • All five shortlisted artists were interviewed by the panel • The location of the sculpture changed for artistic merit and a Cornish artist was selected, whose design was a bell cast from aluminium recovered from the plant • Further modifications were made to the supporting structure <p>AB remains sceptical of the design but TT stated that she finds the concrete frame structure very impressive. PC clarified that MVV would not tell the artist what to do and confirmed that there is an increased cost involved in leasing a small part of the MoD car park (RN4).</p> <p>PC went on to explain that the casting was due to take place last week, with a group of local residents (including two ILC members) travelling up to Loughborough for the event. This included a tour of the Foundry and museum as John Taylor are one of only two working bell foundries in the country. Due to a technical issue, the aluminium wouldn't melt so refined aluminium has now been sent to the foundry for casting on Tuesday 7th June. This is still aluminium recovered from IBA from the Plymouth Facility but it has been through a further process of refining to make it suitable for casting the bell. The finished bell will be delivered to Plymouth around the middle of June, in plenty of time for the unveiling ceremony in early July.</p> <p><u>ID passes / MVV jackets</u> DMA asked whether ILC members wanted/needed site passes and / or jackets to identify them as part of the group. There was not a general requirement for this.</p> <p><u>Social event</u> DMA asked whether members would be interested in a social event. CC agreed it would be nice to meet and not 'talk shop'. AB suggested a buffet as provided for the site tour last year and JF will organise this.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> DMA explained that he had met with JF to discuss ideas for an operational newsletter. JF outlined ideas so far. There was agreement that an annual newsletter in the autumn would be a good idea to let people know how the plant is performing and maybe advertise forthcoming events. JF will produce this as a mailshot with additional copies being available in community centres if required.</p> <p>AB requested that copies be delivered to Kings Tamerton Community</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JF</p>
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	Centre and JF will ensure that this is done.	JF
7.	Date of next meeting	
	<p>Monday 25th July 2016 (time TBC) – this will include a site tour Devonport EfW CHP Facility</p> <p>Quarterly meetings will follow on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th October 2016 • 26th January 2016 	