

**Devonport Incinerator Liaison Committee Meeting**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Devonport EfW CHP Facility: 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Present:**

**Statutory bodies:**

- George Wheeler – GW (PCC)
- Jane Ford – JF (MVV, minutes)
- Ashleigh Sherrell – AS (SWDWP)
- Mark Turner – MT (SWDWP)
- David Mudge – DM (EA)
- Sarah Taylor – ST (EA)
- Mike Campbell – MC (MVV)

**Resident members:**

- Alex Battershill – AB (Chair)
- George Cooke – GC
- Margaret McKee – MM
- David Angove – DA
- Denis Murphy – DMu
- Sue Murphy – SM
- Veronica Smerdon – VS
- Pamela Husson – PH

| ITEM |  | ACTION |
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| 1.   | <b>Apologies</b>   |        |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Marks (resident)</li> <li>• Pat Patel (resident)</li> <li>• Caroll Cooke (resident)</li> <li>• Tina Tuohy (PCC)</li> <li>• Paul Carey (MVV)</li> <li>• Gregg Portass (PCC, PPS)</li> </ul>  |        |
| 2.   | <b>Minutes from previous meeting</b>   |        |
|      | <p>May and July's minutes were agreed.</p> <p><u>Actions (May):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JF has contacted the Director of Public Health who is considering whether a member of PCC's Public Protection Service could be available for future ILC meetings</li> <li>• PC confirmed that the loud release of steam from the boiler in March should never have happened and won't again</li> <li>• PC confirmed that there had been no noise issues associated with the maintenance shutdown</li> <li>• PCC's low carbon team leader attended the July meeting</li> <li>• Two ILC members attended the NYCT public meeting in September</li> <li>• The Christmas social event was organised for 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm</li> <li>• The operational newsletter will be produced after the first full year of operations and copies will be distributed to local community centres as well as the usual mailing list</li> </ul> |        |

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|           | <p><u>Actions (July):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational newsletter postponed (see item 5 below)</li> </ul>  |           |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Membership and publication on the website</b>   |           |
|           | <p>It was agreed that members' names and area of residence will be published on the website but not individual contact details. JF to contact members who have not attended or sent apologies to check whether they wish to remain on the list.</p>  | <b>JF</b> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Odour control update</b>  |           |
|           | <p>MVV's Facility Manager, Mike Campbell, gave a summary report on odour and mitigation measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The shutdown fan and filter system had a specification of 21 days which is equal to the length of the planned annual maintenance outage. In practice it only worked properly for three days, after which it pumped odour out into the atmosphere. The system is under warranty so a defect has been raised and a design solution will be found and installed ahead of the next planned maintenance shutdown in September 2017. In addition, back-up solutions are being explored including a carbon bath system and a plasma (electrical) system.</li> <li>b) Fugitive emissions of odour have been identified from poorly sealed areas and design openings have been closed off to overcome this and ensure that air is being sucked in through the tipping hall door. This will be tested using smoke bombs which produce orange smoke that will show how air is flowing through the plant.</li> <li>c) It has been found that the smoke ventilation system was not terminated properly at the cladding in the switch gear building and this has been rectified (completed yesterday).</li> <li>d) An odour neutralisation system has been fitted in the waste bunker and commissioning of this was completed today. It is so effective that staff can now enter the waste bunker without the need for protective suits and a fly spray can be added if needed.</li> <li>e) The wiring and motors for the smoke vents on the roof of the waste bunker are not up to spec and all 28 need replacing; work on these will commence next week.</li> </ol> <p>MT queried how long replacement of the motors would take and MC confirmed that this would take less than a week.</p> <p>GW pointed out that things weren't supposed to go wrong last year and MC replied that this is, of course, the case and MVV always want to be good neighbours whilst running safely and compliantly.</p> |           |

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|           | <p>GW asked whether baling waste during a shutdown period would solve potential odour issues but MC explained that the baling process itself requires moving, shredding, conveying and compacting waste – all of which are smelly activities. Once the bales are wrapped then they are no longer smelly but baling is a contingency measure if the outage goes on for an abnormally long time; it also costs money and electricity. The issue was with odour and not baling.</p> <p>DM added that the EA saw baling as a capacity issue, not for odour suppression or control; the EA have witnessed the process and would not recommend it to the operator for any other purpose.</p> <p>GW queried whether baling should start from the outset so that the incoming waste wouldn't stretch the capacity of the bunker. MC stated that this would not be a sensible option – the waste arriving is already smelly and the baling process would exacerbate this.</p> <p>AB asked whether members were happy with the response and control measures put in. DA commented that there had been no odour in the Weston Mill area and others were in agreement; DM added that there had been no complaints and a lengthy site investigation had been undertaken; GW stated that if the residents were happy then he would not pursue the matter.</p> <p><u>EA updates:</u><br/>The EA have been working closely with MVV on odour issues. The summer shutdown had been unpleasant but things are moving in the right direction.</p> <p>MM stated that odour had not been an issue every day and MC asked when the last incident had been; MM stated that it was months since she had noticed any.</p> <p>Emissions – DM stated that there are no issues whatsoever with the emissions from the Facility, it runs steadily and is very compliant with levels of pollutants way below allowable limits.</p> <p>DA asked what monitoring was still being undertaken at Wolseley and it was clarified that this is noise monitoring of operational levels. SM commented that it seems to run quietly and PH thanked the EA for their diligence</p> |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Operational newsletter</b>   |  |
|           | <p>AB suggested that this should include information about booking site tours and relate to real things.</p>  |  |

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|           | <p>GW suggested that recycling information could be included and PH suggested it include instructions about rinsing out containers to avoid contamination.</p> <p>MC stated that the Facility had achieved 89% availability in its first year of operation, in spite of losing 280 hours due to unplanned shutdowns; only 24 hours have been lost so far this year (since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016) – some of these type of facts and figures should be included in the newsletter.</p> <p>It seems sensible to collect information about the first complete year of operations before producing the newsletter; once a draft is ready, JF will circulate to the group for comment.</p>   | <p><b>JF</b></p> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>ILC member concerns / questions</b>  |                  |
|           | <p>The amount of waste being delivered to the Facility was queried and MT explained that projections were made in 2009 but changes will occur; the reality is close to that which was expected and an economic saving of £14 million has been achieved over the first year.</p> <p>GW asked what would happen if recycling rates don't improve and PH asked how they could be improved. MT stated that PCC are currently exploring options including moving to fortnightly brown bin collections in an effort to change behaviours and encourage people to put more in their green bins.</p> <p>PH stated that some people can be irresponsible and DA added some areas have four or more bins. MT explained that a £6 million processing facility has been built at Chelson Meadow to enable the sorting of mixed recyclables.</p> <p>GC asked what is being done to improve recycling in the new student flats currently under construction. AB and MT suggested that waste separation facilities could be built-in; MC added that people will have no choice but to recycle in the future.</p> <p>GC asked about 'horrible waste' and MT replied that SWDWP understand the need to deliver waste in the correct way and an education programme has been established with the waste sites and HWRCs.</p> <p>GC stated that there is still confusion over what can go in each bin, especially different types of plastic. GW suggested that all plastics should go into the green bin but MT clarified that it should only be rigid plastics and plastic bottles.</p> <p>GW asked about fortnightly brown bin collections and MT stated that education would be required. AB queried whether this would work in areas with high student populations and MT</p> |                  |

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|           | <p>acknowledged that this could be difficult group.</p> <p>There were no further questions and MT and MC left the meeting due to other commitments.</p>  |            |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>AOB</b>   |            |
|           | <p>JF asked members whether they would be happy to move the quarterly meetings forward in order to finish slightly earlier – it was agreed to start at 6 pm in future.</p> <p>Terms of Reference – AB has reviewed and commented, especially on the role of the ILC, the election and removal of the Chair and Vice Chair. Copies have been sent around to all members in the past and everyone will review these – agenda item for next meeting.</p> <p>JF explained the Christmas e-card tradition and asked for suggestions of local charities to benefit this year. The group suggested Plymouth Foodbank, with Shekinah as a back-up in case the Foodbank were unreceptive.<br/><i>Post-meeting note:</i> Christmas charity this year will be Plymouth Foodbank.</p> <p>The date for the Christmas social get-together was agreed (15<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm).</p> | <b>All</b> |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Date of next meeting</b>  |            |
|           | <p>26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 from 6:00pm<br/>Devonport EfW CHP Facility</p> <p>Quarterly meetings will remain on the last Thursday of the month, starting at the earlier time of 6:00pm</p>   |            |