

Notes from Covanta CLP meeting 11/1/2021

BACI asked questions about the total carbon footprint of building the plant. They had requested this previously but had not received an answer.

Construction Update

Workforce now decreasing from 900 to 600 as main construction phase comes to an end. The living roof on top of the Tipping Hall has been completed, as well as the living wall adjacent to it.

UKPN have connected the site to the grid end Sept 20.

Network Rail have completed the level crossing upgrade at Stewartby and an anti-glare fence has been put up along the Covanta access road alongside the railway.

Highways – Green Lane/C94 junction improvements started 4/1/21 and will be completed this month. There will be weekend road closures 22/24 and 29/31st Jan.

Next three months – Quality control, finishing the cladding, electrical installation, lighting, cold commissioning starts.

Cold commissioning covers functional testing; making sure everything works without firing up the boilers. (Jan – May)

Hot commissioning from April to year end. There will be “steam blowing” during April and May to clear out all of the boiler components. There will be no waste deliveries as they use oil burners for this. This is expected to take place for 5-10 days in late April and then again in May.

First waste fire will be May 21 during hot commissioning. This will be followed by a “reliability run” from December 2021 to March 22 prior to full operations.

Transition to operations

Signage – this is being reviewed by CBC and will be in place as soon as CBC have approved it. Final recruitment activities taking place. They are trying to recruit locally where possible. Need staff for operational procedures, maintenance, environmental management, health & safety.

Maintenance team will consist of 13 people. EC&I - Electrical Control & Installations.

Health & Safety, Environmental Management, Procurement – specialist team of 5.

Recruitment to be finalised by end of Q1 2021.

Jacob Hall was introduced – Fuel Supply Manager in charge of Waste Delivery. During commissioning this will be 100% Veolia supplied. 25% will be RCVs which are the local waste collection vehicles, not large capacity HGVs. These will be from CBC and Beds Borough. Vehicle movements will increase from 30-40 per day to 100-200 by July and then 200-300 per day by Feb 2022.

Waste contracts generally last 5 years. They aim to keep the local contracts.

Routing strategy – Approved route will be provided by way of instructions and maps. Signage will also be clear. Drivers will have a site induction. They are hoping for “foolproof” routing! Drivers flouting the routing instructions will face a “three strikes and you’re out” threat.

Emissions

There was a discussion around emissions. What happens if Public Health England issue advice to reduce emissions? Plants are given 4 years to reduce emissions.

Can we set lower emission levels now that we have left the EU? Lower levels are already in statute.

Do emissions from plants exacerbate COVID symptoms and make people more susceptible?

EA are not experts in human health, they rely on medical experts – PHE.

Traffic emission dispersion will be different to what comes out of the stack. Levels will be tightened if needed. Levels are set conservatively.

Rights of Way

DCO extinguished the Rookery South footpaths but these will be reinstated once the RoW strategy is approved.

Site Visits

Not possible at the moment but will be arranged as soon as COVID restrictions are eased.

Stakeholder engagement

Newsletter delivered to 10,516 properties this time round (9,995 previously). The electronic edition will be delivered to 14 Town & Parish Councils.

Next meeting 12th or 19th April