

Covanta CLP Meeting Notes – 18th October 2021

The meeting was held in the Boardroom at Rookery South. After the meeting, we were given a tour around the room that will form the Visitor Centre and Café. We were also taken up to the Control Room to see the operation.

Although I have not produced notes, we have had two previous meetings; April and July 2021. Both of these were mainly centred around issues of odour during the initial firing up of the boilers and why PHE weren't prepared to come and discuss emissions with the CLP. The final construction updates and commissioning plans were also discussed.

At this point in time, the plant is going into its final commissioning phase. The plant has effectively been fully operational since the early summer. Currently they are processing around 20 tonnes of waste per line per hour (3 lines in operation). Waste will (is?) coming from Bedford Borough, Central Beds, N.E. Herts, S Northants and E Bucks (45%), Norfolk (30%), with the other 25% from elsewhere. Covanta will take over the running of the plant from 1Q 2022. All waste is fully contracted; they are not looking for any other contracts.

Although the plant is fully operational, there won't be much visible evidence except the arrival and departure of waste vehicles. At most times of the day little, or nothing, will be visible coming from the top of the stack; possibly just a heat haze/shimmering. On cold or damp days, the hot gases coming out of the stack will cause clouds of condensation that will look a bit like smoke but aren't. Steam will often be seen coming from the main building. This is just steam; quite normal and nothing to worry about.

Traffic – Always at the top of the Agenda at these meetings, and rightly so! The official routing for large waste vehicles that come from outside the immediate area is via the A421 to either Marsh Leys or Marston Moretaine and then on to the Old A421 (C93?) to Green Lane. They should not be using Broadmead Lane/Road. However, residents are reporting that they have seen both Sherwoods and Gregorys waste lorries on Broadmead road. Residents need to report the date, time, company and registration number (if possible). Once Covanta have the details, they can check CCTV and identify the vehicles and drivers. These drivers will be spoken to and reminded of the correct routing instructions. There are contact details at the Green Lane entrance or there is a "contact us" messaging facility on the website. These can be used to report vehicles. Other companies that will also be delivering waste over the coming months are Veolia, F&R Cawley and Geminor(?). They can also be reported via Roy Romans or Anita Taylor at CBC Waste & Minerals.

There is also an HGV ban between M1 J13 and Marston Moretaine on the Old A421 so any vehicles using this other than for local access also need to be reported. Roy did say that the local collection vehicles should not be travelling through Millbrook on any other days than when they are making collections (i.e. Mondays for household general waste and recycling) and that we could/should report them if we see them at other times.

Roy Romans – Roy.Romans@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Anita Taylor – Anita.Taylor@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Community – Community Trust Fund - Grantscape are managing the fund - £190,000. Covanta have/will have paid £320,000 towards the Marston Vale Trust by November 2021. The Community Energy Initiative is the scheme that residents had to register with to receive a small refund on their electricity bills. The first of these payments will be made to registered households in February. It will be for approx. £100 being 18 months' worth of payment. Going forward it will be around £66 a year, index linked. 3,500 households registered for the scheme.

District Heating – A company called Vital Energi will be investigating the possibility of providing heating to nearby proposed developments (residential and industrial). This company were involved with the

heating loop at Centre Parcs. There are hopes to get the heating into the new housing developments in the Vale – Marston Vale New Villages and the CloudWing development at the Stewartby Brickworks site. There are also plans to investigate the possibility of the floor of the pit being used for horticulture; glasshouses, etc. There's 60-70 acres available. The plant could provide electricity, heating and light.

EWR – Covanta are not happy with EWR's plans to close the Green Lane crossing and have their delivery vehicles re-routed onto a bridge because they will need to go into the nearest part of the village and back out again. They are in discussions with EWR.

Rights of Way – Part of the original ROMP for the old mineral workings requires RoWs to be re-instated. This is partly the responsibility of O&H. The original plans were to reinstate them as footpaths/cyclepaths but, in all probability, they will either be made wide enough to carry horses as well or will have a wide, managed verge that will act as a bridleway.

Emissions – These will be published but the format, frequency and method of publication has not yet been decided upon. We were shown an example of a bar chart showing the amounts of 6 types of emission that need to be monitored as a percentage of the allowable level. These 6 are Nitrous Oxides (NOX), Sulphurous Oxides (SOX), Carbon Monoxide, Volatile Organic compounds, Hydrogen Chloride and Dust Particles. NOX, SOX and HCl are classed as acid gases and are treated with lime or ammonia to neutralise them. The NOX, in particular, is broken down by Ammonia by injecting the Ammonia into the stack at varying levels depending on the level of NOX that is detected in the stack.

Neil Goudie (EA) explained that any exceeding of the limits or other discrepancies will be reported to the CLP but that the EA would "validate" the details before publication, whatever that means! Plants such as this don't usually have "live" reporting.

Roy Romans (CBC Minerals & Waste Officer) explained that the S106 of the DCO sets out how Covanta should publish the data and that it is not required to be real time.

EA reporting to the CLP will generally lag by a month. Neil confirmed that there had been no breaches to date and that the only issue had been the odour complaints, of which they were aware of 6. Cllr Sue Clark pointed out that 6 doesn't mean that only 6 people were inconvenienced by the odour. She explained that, unfortunately, people seem to think they have "complained" if they post on Facebook. Unless Covanta, CBC/BBC or the EA have actually received the reports (dates, times, description of nuisance), they don't get counted. Neil confirmed that inspections will continue, probably quarterly.

Roy Romans explained that there was still a lot of hard landscaping to be done over the next few months, which will include a lot of tree planting. The Council has been in discussions with Millbrook Power about the construction of their plant, which is due to start in the middle of 2022. I asked Roy to confirm that MP are going to be using Covanta's Green Lane entrance for all construction traffic. He confirmed that they would. They will only need the access off of Station Lane (Millbrook) for the work to be done on building an electricity sub-station near to the overhead pylon. The entrance on Station Lane may also be made into an emergency entrance but would not be in regular use. He suggested that MP could attend the CLP but needed to check whether the DCO for the power station set out a requirement for them to hold their own, separate CLP meetings.

Next meeting 17th January 2022 at Rookery South