

Transcript Report

Energy Recovery Community Liaison Group

Meeting 2
held on 4 January 2007 at
Rainworth Miners Welfare Hall

12 January 2007

Document Details

Note:

This report is a transcript of the live flipchart recording undertaken during the meeting in full view of all participants, by the independent facilitators 3KQ. Whilst during the transcription of the flipcharts we have added occasional words to make it more readable and accessible, we have not changed the meaning of any of the comments. It is meant as an aide-memoir for participants rather than a definitive record of every detail.

We have added explanatory notes in boxed italics like this to describe what was happening during the meeting, so that the report make more sense to readers who were not present.

Authors : Rowena Harris, Rhuari Bennett, 3KQ facilitators

Contacts : rowena@3kq.co.uk
rhuari@3kq.co.uk

Telephone 01892 506909

3KQ Ltd
Pantiles Chambers
85 High Street
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1XP

If you wish to contact Veolia Environmental Services then please contact Kevin Parker on 0115 9882247 or Kevin.parker@veolia.co.uk

1 - Purpose, Agenda, Facilitators and Ground Rules

The **purpose** of this meeting was to:

- To learn more about the proposed ERF in the context of the County Waste Strategy
- To give member opportunities to ask questions and share views
- To agree a forward programme

The **agenda** was:

- Welcome and introductions
- Brief review of last meeting and Terms of Reference
- The 'Bigger Picture': waste strategy (national and county)
- Managing waste: options etc
- The proposed ERF
- Work programme
- Next steps, and Evaluation of today's meeting

Ground Rules: reminders of ways to make the meeting run smoothly:

- Mobiles off please!
- One person speaks at a time
- Watch the wall record, as it becomes the report of today's meeting
- Treat others with respect

2 - Updates since Meeting 1 (25 October 2006)

Meeting 1 Review and Comments:

- The questions raised at the first meeting will be answered through the whole work programme... not all tonight
- Visit to Chineham in Hampshire was mentioned at Meeting 1, we will have an update on this later this evening (see below)
- Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed for this group (see annex)

Hampshire Site Visit:

- Once the idea of an ERF at Rufford was suggested, N & S District Council decided to organise a site visit to two incinerators in Hampshire at Chineham and Marchwood
- Didn't go to Sheffield as it is in quite a different (urban) environment
- 50 people were invited and 28 attended - councillors from both District and Parish Councils
- Chineham was completed around 2001
- Marchwood was completed around 2005/6
- Main reason for the visit was to visit Marchwood Parish Council as they had been through this process directly and live with the plant/s daily
- Everyone got a good look round, as well as opportunity to ask lots of questions
- The group met with local residents without Veolia being present so there was a frank discussion and they saw the monitoring and emissions systems in the plants
- Various people presented to the visitors, including the environmental health officer from the Environment Agency (The Environment Agency issues the permits for operation and regulates the ongoing operation of the plant)
- Councillors and residents were there from the local area (both supporters and not supporters) which provided a great range of views to the visitors
- Saw new housing estate next to the incinerator
- Veolia have been asked to give further presentations to the N & S Scrutiny Committee

Sheffield ERF Site Visit:

- Following the meeting a visit was organised to take place on Saturday January 27th. Leaving the Miners Welfare, Rainworth at 9am.
- Just for members of the group to begin with... may be able to open it wider once we know how many people want to come
- If you want to join this visit please contact Kevin Parker on 0115 9882247 or Kevin.parker@veolia.co.uk
- May be able to visit the proposed site at Rufford if the landowner gives permission but a public footpath runs along side so it is easy to view.

3 - Bigger Picture: Waste Strategy at national and county level

Malvin Trigg of Nottinghamshire County Council was asked to give a brief presentation by way of setting the context of where the waste comes from and why Veolia has the contract. This was an attempt to begin to answer some of the questions raised by attendees in Meeting 1, and the presentation aimed to answer them. Other questions asked in Meeting 1 will be addressed in future meetings. The key points from the presentation and the discussion are recorded below by the facilitator.

- The European Union and Government sets targets for recycling, Gov: charges £150 per tonne of waste going into landfill... this is an incentive to reduce amount going to landfill
- NottsCC is responsible for the waste strategy at the county level and has appointed Veolia Environmental Services as a contractor to implement this strategy for the next 26years
- NottsCC wanted to reduce reliance on landfill, and minimise the amount of waste produced. They worked with input of other Councils and organisations, including pressure groups, to develop the strategy. They aimed to implement the waste hierarchy: reduce - reuse – recycle.
- 1000 copies of the strategy were sent out to variety of partners for comment
- The strategy was adopted in April 2001, including the following points:
 - improve kerbside collection
 - improve recycling
 - collect garden waste
 - reduce waste produced in first place
- NottsCC ran a tendering process which took 3 years to complete, asking industry to propose how they could achieve this, and how to manage the residual waste (what's left once you've recycled as much as possible). The tender specification included:
 - 43% recycling by 2010
 - 47% recycling by 2014
 - 52% recycling by 2020
- NottsCC were asking industry how it thought the waste could best be managed given the council's objectives.
- 57 companies bid for the contract initially, Veolia was not the only company on the shortlist who proposed incineration as a way of handling the residual waste
- The contract requires for various capital investments, including Materials Recycling Facility, Composting Facilities, Energy Recovery Facilities
- Legislation and regulation may potentially change over the next 26 yrs, so flexibility is built into the contract to allow for this
- The contract is so long (26yrs) because much capital investment is required (£140m)
- The contract documents will ultimately be in the public domain, but with some sensitive areas removed

4 - Waste Management

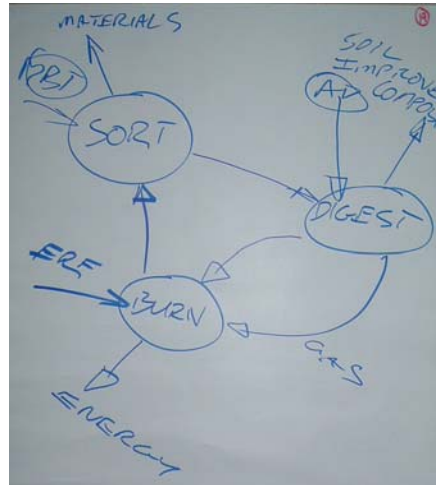
Veolia were then asked to make a presentation in response to other key questions that had been raised at Meeting : namely what does the waste consist of, where does it come from, and what alternatives are there for managing it?

- Edward Thomas of Veolia showed the meeting a mock-up showing the average contents of a bin
- Approximately 0.5 tonnes of waste generated per person per year in Nottinghamshire, but it does vary over time as well as from household to household
- See slide 1 in appendix 3 for the %s of how waste is currently managed
- This is partly dictated by UK's National Strategy which has targets and initiatives
- It sets out the 'waste hierarchy' which aims to reduce reliance on landfill:

REDUCE / REUSE → RECYCLE → RECOVER → DISPOSE

- If 80% of people recycle 80% of their waste 80% of the time, there is still 50% of waste left to manage
- Recycling targets are challenging, and the line on the graph (slide1) is quite flat because it is physically difficult to separate some materials.
- Notts currently has a recycling rate of about 25%
- For recycling to be genuine, the materials must be made into a product that will ultimately be bought and used by someone. There is a market for these products, but they are always changing in volume and nature. There are some grants to encourage companies to use these materials to complete the "recycling loop"
- Plastics have different markets for different recycling numbers stamped on them
- Trade waste sometimes can't be recycled: not done via municipal waste management system, but, it can be done via a contractor for larger businesses
- Slide 3 in appendix 3 illustrates the amount of organic/biological waste that is allowed into landfill (blue line)
- Red line shows expected levels
- Part of this diverted waste will be incineration and the energy recovered into electricity
- Slide 4 shows how waste is currently managed
- Veolia aims to recycle as much as possible, as it is incentivised in the contract
- Recycling does cost money, in particular when technologies are not well-developed
- Contract allows for higher recycling rates to be negotiated later
- District Council will look in residents' bins and fine them if they put the wrong things in the recycling bins more than 3 times in a row
- £140m investment split between MRF, composting and ERFs
- There are essentially 3 options for managing residual waste: sort it, digest it, burn it (see diagram below, which is also expanded and explained more fully in Veolia's written response to questions raised in this meeting)

Representation of 3 waste management options: Anaerobic Digestion, Mechanical and Biological Treatment, and Energy Recovery / Incineration



How an ERF works - see slide in appendix 3, where numbers below refer to the numbered stages on the diagram

1 - waste is dropped by lorries into the waste bunker, holding waste from your bins. Grab crane drops it into furnace via a conveyor grate. Odours are trapped by sucking air out of the waste bunker, so it is under negative pressure (clean air seeps in, not smelly air seeps out).

2 - all combustion of solids is in the grate, gas continues to burn during stage 3

5 - steam is superheated and passed through a turbine to produce electricity

7/8 - gas cooled down and filtered and 'scrubbed'

9/10 - chimney releases the remaining gas... could be 65metres high. Particulates and bits of dust that go up the chimney, and the legal limit is 10mg/m³. None is leached to the ground. Furans / dioxins have low limits for chimney release, and the emissions are posted in the public domain. Limits apply in the chimney, as this is the only point at which they can be measured and managed - but the limits consider the amount that will ultimately fall to the ground.

- Monitoring equipment is tested both manually and automatically, and regularly assessed and calibrated by the EA, and shown on web sites accessible to general public. The Operator decides how to respond given the emissions levels released, but must inform the EA of every action.
- There are some conditions in which waste is not fed into the plant, so that the plant is effectively shut down

5 - Work Programme for the Group

The facilitators 3KQ had put together a work programme of meetings and topics with Veolia, covering all the questions raised at Meeting 1. This work programme was broadly agreed, although the detail of how precisely each meeting will be run has yet to be confirmed: it will depend on rate of progress, and also the needs of attendees. We anticipate that further questions and concerns will be raised as the group continue to meet.

The discussion of the way forward programme prompted the following comments:

- There was some anxiety that many of the group's questions had yet to be answered.
- There's too much information and diversity of questions to answer them all in evening meetings.
- The forward programme is designed to address the questions raised in meeting 1 and has some flexibility to include more issues if raised.
- Written answers to questions posed and information given can be circulated on paper outside the meetings (Veolia have agreed to do this)
- The visit to the ERF in Sheffield will provide a valuable opportunity to ask questions and gain more understanding
- For the next meeting the facilitator presented a choice of topic: architectural concept or health/environmental impact, not time to do both.
- If the group doesn't discuss the architecture in February, there will be very little opportunity to influence the design visually. Some people felt strongly that they'd prefer to forego this opportunity in order to get answers to health and safety questions.
- In view of the offer by Veolia to circulate written answers to questions raised at the meeting, and the planned visit to the Sheffield ERF, the facilitators decided to ask Veolia to invite their architect to present design options in February.
- The Work Programme and dates of future meetings in on the next page.
- A presentation from EA as a regulator, especially on health regulations would probably be included in the April meeting
- NSDC has produced a newsletter with pros/cons of incineration which people may find informative.

6 - Questions and Ideas for the way forward

During the meeting, we recorded questions that could not be answered directly or immediately due to lack of time. This ensured that the questions were not ignored or lost, and so Veolia can answer them in writing before the next meeting. They are listed below.

- How many lorries of waste will arrive at the ERF each day?
- Where can I find the emission levels on the internet?
- Why do targets for recycling not increase more over the next 6 years?
- Why was Rufford site chosen? Why not use another site from an old power station?
- What will the access route be?
- How and why could the plant be shut down?
- What planning permissions have or are being sought? MRF, composting, ERF etc?

Work Programme for the Group

Mtg No.	Date	Main Topic	Questions raised at meeting 1 which will be addressed
1	25 October (2006)	Set up of Liaison Group	Would a liaison group be useful? Do people want it? Has a planning application already been made?
2	4 January	Waste strategy and management	Where does waste come from? What's in it? Trade waste? What alternatives are there for managing it? Who manages it? How? How does an ERF work? How are odours controlled?
Site Visit	27 January	Visit an ERF in Sheffield to see how it works, what it looks like etc	How does an ERF work? What do they look like? How do they produce energy? How are emissions monitored and controlled?
3	12 February	Architectural concept	What could it look like? What visually is important to people? <i>(We may also look at some of the questions listed below for the May meeting)</i>
4	11 April	Health and environmental impacts	What health and safety risk does it pose? What emissions are released? How are these monitored? What impacts will it have? Pollution, noise, heat? Leaching to surface/ground water? What is the track record of plants?
5	21 May	Transport, landscape and boundaries	Why was Rufford chosen? Plan B? Who will take waste to the ERF? Will houses depreciate? What is the access route? What volume of traffic will there be? What emissions will traffic cause? How will public access be managed? How much of the site will be used? Distance from houses? Any ancillary development?
6	3 July	Health impacts (2)	As above, continue from meeting 4
7	4 or 5 September	To be confirmed	What will the costs be? <i>This question may be answered before this but didn't fit into the above categories:</i>
8	2 October	Draft planning documents – opportunity for the group to review them	
9 (?)	6 Nov (?)	To be confirmed	

We will do our best to stick to these dates but some will be confirmed nearer the time.

7 - Jargon Glossary

This glossary is a cumulative list of acronyms used in the Liaison Group meetings:

VES	Veolia Environmental Services Ltd (often known just as Veolia)
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
ERF	Energy Recovery Facility
PPC	Pollution Prevention and Control
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NSDC	Newark & Sherwood District Council
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
AD	Anaerobic Digestion
MBT	Mechanical and Biological Treatment

Appendix 1 - Attendees at 4 Jan 2007 mtg, Rainworth Miners Welfare Hall

Name	Surname	Organisation
Andy	Statham	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Yvonne	Woodhead	County Councillor
Michael John	Jeffries	Local Resident and Rainworth District Councillor
Rob	Burns	Python Hill Primary School
	representative from	Heathlands Primary School
Leslie	Lee	Local Resident
Lynn	Holland	Local Resident
David	Holland	Local Resident
Janet	Collins	Local Resident
Robin	Smith	Local Resident
G	Parker	Local Resident
Paul	Maloney	Local Resident
F.D	Warrener	Local Resident
Tanya	Montgomery	Environment Agency
Malvin	Trigg	Nottinghamshire County Council
Jonathan	Standen	RPS Group plc
Edward	Thomas	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd
Kevin	Parker	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd
Rhuari	Bennett	3KQ, Facilitator
Rowena	Harris	3KQ, Facilitator

On mailing list but did not attend

Lucy	Dickie	Local Resident
William	Carr	Local Resident
Alan	Brown	Rainworth Parish Council
Janice	Bradley	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
David	Kent	East Midlands Business & Environment Club
Keith	Sercombe	Rainworth Miners Welfare Institute
S.O.K	Olubodun	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
Diane	Dolman	Churchfield Care Centre
Richard	Goodhand	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
David	Chalmers	Forestry Commission
Edward	Peat	Harworth Estates Ltd
Nick	Tribe	Natural England

Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference, (*discussed and amended by the group on 25 October 2006*)

1. Purpose:

- 1.1 To share information and engage in “balanced” discussions about the issues regarding Veolia’s application for permission to build and operate an Energy From Waste Plant at Rufford Colliery, without prejudice to peoples’ positions on an application.
- 1.2 For members to represent the interests of groups rather than attend as individuals. Therefore members are expected to discuss the issues with others and bring their views to the meetings.
- 1.3 To inform Veolia’s plans for wider consultation to ensure that the consultation process reaches people who will want to find out more and voice an opinion.
- 1.4 To meet at least 4 times before planning application in September 2007.
- 1.5 The aim of the group is not to change peoples’ minds or achieve consensus. Membership does not imply support for Veolia, the planning application or energy recovery / incineration in general.

2. Membership:

- 2.1 To represent a cross section of views, including
 - local residents
 - local schools, churches, businesses
 - Parish, district and county councillors
 - Wildlife Trust & other environmental groups
 - Environment Agency, Natural England
 - Forestry Commission
 - Landowners
 - Veolia
- 2.2 Size of the group: Maximum 30 to allow effective discussions but also a good balance and representation from local residents.

3. Operation:

- 3.1 The meetings will be independently facilitated by 3KQ. That means that 3KQ ‘chair’ and plan the way that the meetings are run. 3KQ will suggest an agenda based on their understanding of what the group has requested and what is feasible to cover in the agreed time. 3KQ will meet with Veolia to inform planning & make sure that the right information is available for the meetings.
- 3.2 Duration and frequency of meetings. Meetings will be roughly every 6 weeks, between 1.5-2hrs long, starting at 6-6.30pm in Rainworth Village Hall.

3.3 Ground rules for behaviour at the meetings are agreed by the group to ensure the meetings go smoothly. Currently these rules include:

- Mobiles off when in the meeting
 - One person speaks at a time in the meeting
 - Watch the wall record, as it becomes the report of each meeting
 - Listen as well as talk
- but the list is open and can be added to and reviewed as needed.

3.4 Local administration to be undertaken by Veolia – they will make the necessary logistical arrangements for the group.

4. Communications:

4.1 Reports of the meetings (produced by 3KQ). The content of the full meeting report will be transcribed by 3KQ from notes made in full view of the group on flip charts. Comments will not be attributed to individuals or organisations without clear agreement. If additional information is requested to be included with the report by the group it is included as an appendix or clearly differentiated within the report as being added afterwards & not at the meeting.

4.2 3KQ do not intend to produce summaries or press releases. Veolia may keep the press up to date with the process of the group, but point journalists to the meeting reports if they want to know more about specific conversations that went on.

4.3 Reports from meetings will be made available to the public by posting them on the internet as well as circulating them to interested parties.

4.4 Informal communication. Members are expected to discuss the issues raised at the meetings with others and bring their views to the meetings. This is part of their responsibility as representatives of other people in the community.

Appendix 3 - Waste Management slides, presented by Veolia
