

Transcript Report



www.veolia.co.uk/

Energy Recovery Community Liaison Group

Meeting 5
held on 11 April 2007 at
Rainworth Village Hall

7 May 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.

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1 - Purpose, Agenda and Ground Rules

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

- The architect, Jean-Robert Mazaud, to update the group on how his thinking is developing.
- Edward Thomas from Veolia to answer the group's questions relating to the site and its boundaries.

The **agenda** was:

- Updates and matters arising
- Presentation from Jean Robert Mazaud, Architect. Discussion
- Presentation from Edward Thomas, Veolia on the site and its boundaries. Discussion
- AOB
- Way Forward

Ground Rules: reminders of ways to help 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 and Matters Arising

Review of report of meeting 4

Page 9 of meeting report 4. Emissions heading, at end of 3rd bullet, 'if improvements could not be achieved' to be added.

3 – Presentation by Jean-Robert Mazaud, Architect and Discussion

The architect for the site, Jean-Robert Mazaud, returned to update the group on his latest thinking for the plant and site. Notes were taken by the facilitator during the presentation and of the questions and answers in the following discussion. These are transcribed below.

*The slides are available on the Veolia website
(www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk/nottinghamshire)*

Introduction

- An ERF is very small scale plant when compared with industry.
- The architect seeks to make plants as environmentally friendly as possible.
- The design of an ERF does not have to be the same as any other plant. It should be made relevant to the local site and situation, based on the experience gained from designing other plants.

The design process

- The design process is a long one. There is about another year and a half worth's of design work to be done before construction starts, then construction will take 2 to 3 years (this timescale doesn't include however long is required for the planning application).
- Details of the design are finalised during construction and further improvements are even potentially made once operation has commenced.
- When starting to design, an architect usually has the surrounding buildings to use as a reference point but there aren't any on this site.
- The initial sketches and 3D drawings are working drawings. They are not produced with presentation in mind.
- NB No landscaping has been included in these initial sketches and drawings.
- The initial drawings are driven by the functions and activities required rather than aesthetics and then the design develops organically including the activities as part of the design.

The design

- The architect doesn't think about the activities and then how to encase them. The building and the processes can be interlinked.
- The architect is seeking to put the main plant operations in a compact area.
- The Tipping Hall is used as part of the road system.
- The height is that required to fit in the crane. This and other aspects of operation put some limitations on the shape and dimensions of the plant.
- The architect wants to create a sensation of something that is 'lighter'.
- The design seeks to maximise natural light and the comfort and health of people who will be working there.
- There are details of the initial designs that the architect is not happy with yet so they will change over the next few months, e.g. the air cooler condensers (ACC), the roof/'skirt' edge.

The 'skirt'

- The 'skirt' encloses everything including the bays and the water treatment area.

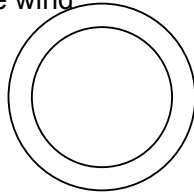
- Some of the holes in the 'skirt' have functional uses – allowing natural light in. Others are for design only.
- The architect wants lots of columns below the 'skirt' rather than fewer, heavier ones to keep the plant looking lighter but has to manage costs. (The pillars are less to support the weight of the 'skirt' than to stop it being blown upwards by the wind.)

Qu It is usual to have the Tipping Hall in an area of negative pressure to suck in any odours. How will this happen if the skirt is open?

Ans The skirt around the tipping hall and bunker will be closed except when the vehicles go in and out.

The chimneys

- If the EA decides that the chimneys need to be higher then the architect will try to reposition them within the plant so that the height they protrude above the rest of the plant is the same as it is now. Visually, this means they won't seem as high.
- The plant requires two flues which can be put into one or two chimneys. If they are put together into one chimney this needs to be even wider as it needs to be able to resist the force of the wind



- The architect wants to make the chimneys as slim as possible so that they are less visible.
- The chimneys are positioned on the opposite side to Rainworth.

Vents

- Vents will be needed for the machinery but the architect can't finalise the number and placements of the vents until the engineers have finalised their requirements.

Dimensions

- The design is 130m long, about 65m wide and 39.5 m high.
- The footprint is less than 10,000m², which is smaller than most warehouses.

Qu Can the height of the building be reduced by digging out the ground?

Ans

- The 'skirt' height will be 12m above the embankment then the rest of the plant will be 21m above that to reduce the perception of height.
- The architect does not believe that sinking the plant would be the best use of money. The cost of this can be significant.
- NB the landscaping has not been put in the initial drawings yet. Trees etc will change height perceptions.

Maintenance

- The equipment is under operation so Veolia will have to maintain the plant.
- The architect has to provide a sustainability statement as part of the planning process. This includes what materials will be used, where they come from and what their lifecycle properties are.

- The architect looks at the amount of Carbon which is produced as a result of the design. This is reduced by reducing the need for heating and lighting systems through the design and reducing the amount of aluminium involved in the structure (aluminium is a carbon intensive material to produce)

Materials

- The plant materials will include wood, earth, lots of steel and cement blocks.
- The cladding will be steel with a coating so it doesn't need painting.
- The plant should not deteriorate visually over time

4 – Presentation and discussion by Edward Thomas, Veolia on the site and its boundaries.

Questions raised at Meeting 1

- Why was Rufford chosen?
- Is there a Plan B?
- How much will public access be managed?
- How much of the site will be used?
- Distance from houses?
- Any ancillary development?
- Will houses depreciate?

Edward Thomas from Veolia gave a short presentation in order to answer the above questions, raised in the first meeting. The slides from the presentation can be found on Veolia's website (www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk/nottinghamshire). Notes were taken by the facilitator during the presentation and of the questions and answers in the following discussion. These are transcribed below.

Why Mansfield/ Ashfield area for the Energy Recovery Facility?¹

Logistical & Operational Issues

- Sources of residual waste required for treatment
- 60,000 tonnes p.a. to Eastcroft EfW in Nottingham
- Optimise deliveries of direct delivered and transfer station waste
- Good transport communications infrastructure
- A need for waste treatment capacity in central and north Notts.

Planning & Site Availability Issues

- Initially looked at numerous sites across County using PPG10 & Waste Local Plan – suitability from Operational & Planning perspective.

This site is appropriate because:

- Situated close to where waste is generated
- Excellent transport links to the site
- Proximity for District Councils waste collections
- The brownfield site has a history of resource recovery
- Previous waste management use at Rufford
- Landowner has earmarked the site for development and potential employment generation
- Construction of this facility will provide a catalyst for further economic development, providing an economical local source of electricity and heat to future developments.

Plan B?

- Much thought and effort has gone into choosing the most suitable site. If Veolia aren't able to get planning permission for this site they will have to have a major re-think.

¹ Text taken directly from the presentation slides.

Public access

- Veolia will have a secure perimeter around the site. Public access will be via the visitor centre by arrangement.
- At most of Veolia's sites there is someone who controls access and the weighbridge but not someone specifically hired for security purposes.
- Fly-tipping outside the site is likely to continue initially, based on experience of other sites, but Veolia do seek prosecutions for this offence which discourages further offences.
- The safety of the plant is driven by having a safety culture and relevant training of staff etc.

How much of the site will be used?

- The main body of the plant is probably only about half of the site. Car parks, landscaping and water storage etc make up the rest.
- UK Coal owns about 250 hectares.
- The Veolia site will be about 2-3% of that.

Distance from houses

(see slide 7 in presentation for geographical representation)

Ancillary development

- Connection to the grid
- Improvements to the access road
- May need a sewage connection for storm water
- Need to create an alternative road to that which currently runs through the site.

House prices

- Experience from the Newhaven and Chineham sites suggests that there isn't any negative impact on house prices.
- The next leaflet will look at this.

The group were happy that all their questions from the first meeting on this topic had been answered sufficiently.

Lighting the access route to the site

At the last meeting, Veolia asked the question 'There seems to be a lack of enthusiasm for the idea of lighting the route to the site due to its proximity to a SSSI. What else do you think will help tackle the problems of fly-tipping and biking on the wider site?'

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) were unable to attend this meeting but sent a response which was shared with the group. In summary, the NWT would be reluctant to see further permanent disturbance to the entrance road immediately adjacent to the SSSI through the installation of lighting due to the detrimental impacts on birds, bats and invertebrates this could have. They recognise that the problems of flytipping and off-road biking are very serious in the area but believe that they should be addressed through a concerted effort by all landowners to maintain their fences and preventative measures enforced with heavy penalties by the police (e.g. putting double yellow lines on the

entrance road and then fining/ confiscating vehicles parked there). They believe that most bike activity is during the day and therefore would not be affected by the installation of lighting.

Comments from the group:

- There needs to be some lighting.
- There always has been lighting on the site since the 1950s.

5 – AOB & Way Forward

Compliance statistics

- Tanya Montgomery of the Environment Agency provided compliance statistics for municipal waste facilities across the country as offered in the previous meeting. These were circulated to the group with an explanatory note.
- It was decided to give the group time to absorb the figures and review whether there were any outstanding questions on this topic at the next meeting.

Way Forward

- The next meeting is on 21st May in the Miners Welfare
- This will look at Transport & Access issues with a presentation by Jonathan Standen, RPS group, on forward planning opportunities.
- At this point in time the July and September meetings do not have topic areas planned for them. If there are particular questions you want to be covered at these meetings please let Rowena or Helen know before the next meeting.
- If there are no further questions/ issues to be discussed then it may not be necessary for the group to meet.

Actions

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Amend report of mtg 4	HA	ASAP
Bring facts re court cases to next mtg (UK cases since 2000)	ET	Nxt mtg
Raise any outstanding qus/ issues with 3KQ	All	Before 21 May

6 – Work Programme

Mtg No.	Date	Main Topic	Questions raised at meeting 1 which will be addressed
6	21 May	Transport & access issues	Who will take waste to the ERF? What is the access route? What volume of traffic will there be? What emissions will traffic cause? As above, continue from meeting 4
7	2 July	To be confirmed	<i>We expect that the group may have further questions so it is best to keep the content of the meetings flexible</i>
8	4 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>
9	4 October	Draft planning documents – opportunity for the group to review them	
10(?)	1 Nov (?)	To be confirmed	

6 - 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
ERM	Environmental Resources Management

Appendix 1 - Attendees at 11 April 2007 mtg, Rainworth Village Hall

Name	Surname	Organisation
Nora	Armstrong	Newark & Sherwood District Council (Councillor)
Julie	Beddows	Newark & Sherwood District Council (Environmental Health Officer)
David	Chalmers	Forestry Commission
David	Holland	Local Resident
Lynn	Holland	Local Resident
Michael John	Jeffries	Rainworth District Councillor
Leslie	Lee	Local Resident
Tanya	Montgomery	Environment Agency
Samuel	Olubodun	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
Keith	Sercombe	Rainworth Miners Welfare Institute
Robin	Smith	Local Resident
Jonathan	Standen	RPS Group plc
Edward	Thomas	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd
Malvin	Trigg	Nottinghamshire County Council
FD	Warrener	Local Resident
Helen	Ashley	Facilitator, 3KQ
Jean Robert	Mazaud	Architect S'PACE
Kevin	Parker	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd

Apologies

Janice	Bradley	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Steve	Cotterill	Newark & Sherwood District Council (Environmental Health Officer)
Richard	Goodhand	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
Edward	Peat	Harworth Estates Ltd
Andy	Statham	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Nick	Tribe	Natural England

Resigned from group

BRJ	Fairhurst	Local Resident
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