



**Avonmouth Resource Recovery Centre  
Community Liaison Group  
Avonmouth Community Centre**

**Thursday 12 April 2018 - 19.00**

**Attendees:**

Judith Hadley (Avonmouth Community Centre Association)  
 Craig Burdis (Avonmouth ERF Project Representative, Viridor)  
 Isaac Casson (Chair, Newgate Communications supporting Viridor)  
 Scott Harker (Newgate Communications supporting Viridor)

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introductions and apologies</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	The Chair, Isaac Casson, welcomed members to the meeting and gave a short introduction to the role of the community liaison group which is to support the construction of the Avonmouth Resource Recovery Centre. Isaac noted that this was the fourth meeting of the Community Liaison Group and then invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.	
<b>1.2</b>	Isaac Casson, Chair Newgate Communications Scott Harker, Newgate Communications Craig Burdis, Project Representative, Viridor Judith Hadley, Chair of Trustees at Avonmouth Community Centre Association  Apologies were received from:  Cllr Don Alexander, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston ward member	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Isaac asked members if they had received a copy of the minutes from the last meeting. All members confirmed that they had, copies were also available at the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed off as accurate by attendees.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Update of construction progress at Avonmouth RRC</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	Craig Burdis began to run through a short presentation detailing the progress in construction at the site of the Avonmouth RRC. Craig asked Judith whether she had seen a diagram detailing the process of an energy recovery facility before. Judith replied that she hadn't and Craig proceeded to talk about the process behind an energy recovery facility. He explained how waste is collected and then burned, with the resulting energy generating heat and power. Craig noted that a third of the plant is dedicated to gas filtration, to ensure that no harmful emissions leave the RRC.	



<p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p>Judith asked what would be emitted from the RRC once the facility was operational. Craig stated that similar facilities in the 1970s gave RRCs a bad name. The Avonmouth RRC would not emit any harmful gases or product in to the local area. The stack at the site would filter out any harmful material before releasing left over warm air through the 90-metre stack. Craig reiterated that a third of the plant was dedicated to the process of removing harmful particles before releasing anything from the stack.</p>	
<p><b>3.3</b></p>	<p>Judith said that the local community in Avonmouth were used to industry in the area releasing waste in to the local environment and that it had been a problem for a long time. She queried how high the stack would be. Craig said that the stack would be 90 metres. Judith asked whether this would be visible from Avonmouth village. Craig replied that he was unsure whether you would be able to see the stack from the village and asked Judith whether she was able to see the 110-metre high stack at the nearby Suez waste facility. Judith replied that she did not believe that she could see the stack at this facility. Isaac stated that you could see the stack at the Suez facility from the raised position of the M5 motorway; the Avonmouth RRC would be smaller than this.</p>	
<p><b>3.4</b></p>	<p>Judith raised the question of whether emissions from the site would be pollutant free. Craig stated that emissions would be pollutant free. The Environment Agency monitors emissions and would revoke the site's operating permit if it was found to be releasing harmful particulates in to the air. Judith said that the presence of the Viridor RRC in Avonmouth was not ideal for the local community but that there was no way of stopping it from being built. Craig responded to say that the planning process that resulted in the site being granted approval was profound and the result of over eight years of work.</p>	
<p><b>3.5</b></p>	<p>Isaac asked whether anyone had any further comments on the working of an energy recovery facility. Craig Burdis detailed how energy recovery facilities differed from coal fire power stations and landfill sites. Judith enquired as to what waste the Avonmouth RRC would process. Craig stated that it will be black bin waste; the facility would be a substitute for a landfill site.</p>	
<p><b>3.6</b></p>	<p>Isaac moved on the presentation and noted the fact that once operational, the Avonmouth RRC would produce enough energy to power 44,000 homes and had the potential to establish a district heating network. Isaac stated that the current contract for the site was to deal with waste from the Somerset Waste Partnership, but the site had the capacity to potentially handle waste from further afield.</p>	
<p><b>3.7</b></p>	<p>Judith queried how far afield that waste could come from. Craig said that Viridor has nearby facilities in Oxford and Cardiff and that Viridor would not want the waste processed at the Avonmouth RRC to come from too far afield. Judith agreed and asked whether this meant that the Avonmouth RRC would only serve Bristol, Somerset and Wiltshire. Craig replied that this was likely.</p>	
<p><b>3.8</b></p>	<p>Judith noted that there are already a large number of HGVs on the road in Avonmouth and the surrounding area. Isaac said that no HGVs related to the site should pass through Avonmouth village. Craig Burdis said that a traffic management plan would be in place for the site to ensure that this would not happen.</p>	
<p><b>3.9</b></p>	<p>Isaac noted that as of January 2018, £2.8 million had been spent on the local supply chain. He also stated that a peak of 600 people would work on the site during construction and that 45 people would have permanent jobs once the site was completed. Judith asked where the people recruited to work at the site would come</p>	

	<p>from. She said that it had been noted before that Viridor prefer to hire local people to work on site but this is dependent upon the qualifications of people in the local area. Craig replied that it takes 12 months to train people to work at the RRC so qualifications and experience would not be a problem, rather it was more a question of whether applicants would have the right aptitude for the job. Craig noted that Viridor would rather local to Avonmouth. Judith said that she had heard figures that suggested 2500 jobs were available in Avonmouth that firms were unable to fill. Craig said that industrial areas such as Avonmouth usually have a highly qualified population who have the choice of a wide range of jobs. In his experience working in Teeside this was exactly the case. Judith said that she was shocked that local firms were having trouble filling their vacancies.</p>	
<p><b>3.10</b></p>	<p>Judith expressed concern that given the jobs created by the project, local traffic was a worry for the local community. She said that local employers currently funded the Severnet Flyer bus service to ensure adequate public transport for those employed in the area. Craig said that there would be a travel plan in place for the workforce at the site. He acknowledged the need to stop all those working at the site from driving to work on their own, car shares could offer a possible solution to this problem. Members proceeded to talk about the general local transport problems in Avonmouth.</p>	
<p><b>3.11</b></p>	<p>Isaac said that the computer generated image of the site was going to be updated to reflect changes in the site's appearance. Craig clarified that the change was needed to reflect changes to the bottom ash processing building previously depicted as being separate and adjacent to the main RRC building. In the updated plans the bottom ash building was now closer and connected to the main building. Judith asked whether the current computer generated image depicted the RRC in its entirety. Craig replied that this was the entire facility; the facility would fill the boundaries of the site.</p>	
<p><b>3.12</b></p>	<p>Craig moved on to say that the groundworks at the site had almost finished. As a result of the poor ground quality, these works had needed to dig deep. Steel was now being erected within the waste bunker at the site and the walls were reaching eight metres in height. Judith questioned how materials were being transported on to the site. Craig said that transportation routes included both road and the Avonmouth docks. He also said that Severn Road was being improved as part of the works.</p>	
<p><b>3.13</b></p>	<p>Craig informed the group that two cranes had now been erected at the site, each 70 metres high.</p>	
<p><b>3.14</b></p>	<p>Craig talked through the construction of the waste bunker depicted in the presentation and the construction of the fire pump room on site. Craig said that the piling on site would be completed shortly and future construction would focus on building upwards. Craig stated that keeping Severn Road clean would be an ongoing priority during the construction phase of the project. So far, wheel washing was being used and a tarmac through road had been constructed from Severn Road to the site in order to minimise the debris carried back out of the site. Isaac stated that a community helpline is operational and people could report any concerns about vehicles moving to and from the site. Isaac also reminded all those present that all Community Liaison Group members would be notified in advance of any major developments on site.</p>	
<p><b>3.15</b></p>	<p>Isaac raised the update on planning conditions. Craig stated that the project was ongoing with the discharge of planning conditions.</p>	



<b>4.0</b>	<b>Community Relations and Communications</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	Isaac Casson delivered a brief overview of community relations around the development site. Isaac also stated that the minutes of the last meeting and newsletter are available on the website at <a href="http://www.viridor.co.uk/our-developments/avonmouth-rrc/community-liaison-group/">www.viridor.co.uk/our-developments/avonmouth-rrc/community-liaison-group/</a>	
<b>4.2</b>	Isaac reminded members that there were a number of ways that members of the community could contact the project:  Email Contact: <a href="mailto:Avonmouthrrc@newgatecomms.com">Avonmouthrrc@newgatecomms.com</a>  Phone contact: 0800 169 6507  Postal address: Viridor Community Team Avonmouth ERF Site Severn Road Chittening Bristol BS11 0YU	
<b>4.3</b>	Judith said that she thought newsletters were a good method of ensuring that the local community were up to date with developments at the site. Isaac said that newsletters would continue to be produced with the next edition due at the latter half of 2018.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	Judith asked if a site visit for members was on the horizon. Isaac said that the Community Liaison Group could now be hosted at the site if members were interested. Judith approved of this idea and felt that the improving weather made this a possibility. Isaac replied that the next meeting was scheduled for July, most likely a Thursday.	
<b>5.2</b>	Judith also asked whether a group of Avonmouth residents would be able to visit the site. Isaac said that the next event at the site would ideally only be open to members of the Community Liaison Group but he would ask about the possibility of others attending. Judith replied that she had been told by others that they would be interested in sitting in on meetings. Isaac said that new membership of the Community Liaison Group was most welcome.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	The date of the next meeting is suggested for a Thursday in July. Isaac confirmed he would check for availability at the site and would get a suggested date to members as soon as possible.	<b>IC</b>