



**Avonmouth Energy Recovery Facility
Community Liaison Group meeting**

Avonmouth Community Centre

Thursday 15 June 2017 19.00

Attendees:

- Kate Royston, SevernNet
- Cllr Don Alexander, Avonmouth Ward , Bristol City Council
- Judith Hadley, Avonmouth Community Centre Association
- Peter Tyzack, Vice chair Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council
- Anthony Warder, Engineering Procurement Contractor, Clugston
- Alan Hyde, Head of Community Relations, Viridor
- Phil Bines, Avonmouth ERF Project Representative, Viridor
- Michael Ribbeck, Newgate Communications
- Andrew Turner, Chair Newgate Communications

		Action
1.0	Introductions	
1.1	<p>The Chair, Andrew Turner, welcomed members to the meeting and gave a short introduction to Viridor as one of the UK's leading recycling and waste management companies working across the UK to reduce waste, recycle as much as possible and then recover energy from what remains.</p> <p>The Avonmouth Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) will form part of a UK wide network of over 300 recycling and recovery facilities. The facility will divert non-recyclable waste from local authorities and businesses away from landfill sites in the West of England.</p>	
1.2	<p>Andrew then invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and the communities they represent.</p> <p>Kate Royston, SevernNet – a representative organisation working with businesses and communities in Avonmouth and Portbury. SevernNet is also developing a circular economy working group.</p> <p>Cllr Don Alexander, councillor for the Avonmouth Ward, Bristol City Council – ward councillor representing the community and businesses surrounding the Avonmouth site.</p> <p>Judith Hadley, Avonmouth Community Centre Association – working for the community and supporting the Avonmouth Community Centre.</p> <p>Peter Tyzack, Vice chair Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council – Peter is also a member of the Severnside Emergency Planning forum.</p> <p>Anthony Warder, Engineering Procurement Contractor, Clugston – a representative from Viridor's construction partners.</p> <p>Alan Hyde, Head of Community Relations, Viridor – responsible for community engagement across the UK.</p>	



	Phil Bines, Project Representative, Viridor. Andrew Turner, Chair Newgate Communications – Newgate Communications will be supporting Viridor delivering community engagement services for the project. Michael Ribbeck, Newgate Communications.	
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	Apologies were received from: John Chaplin, Director of External Affairs Bristol Port, Cllr Robert Griffin, councillor for Pilning and Severn Beach, Cllr Jo Sargeant, councillor for Avonmouth, Jonathan Morris, Avonmouth Planning Group, Sue Everett, Environment Agency, Helen Moon, Project Manager Viridor.	
2.2	Andrew Turner confirmed that there might be community representatives that Viridor had not invited to the meeting. Andrew encouraged the members in attendance to be advocates of the community liaison group (CLG) and suggest additional members to Viridor, where appropriate.	ALL
3.0	Role of Community Liaison Group	
3.1	Andrew Turner explained that Viridor operates recycling facilities across the UK and welcomes honest and open communication with local communities. Andrew stated that members in attendance were invited to join this new liaison group because they represent communities near to the Avonmouth ERF site. Andrew continued to say that if there were other community representatives in the local area Viridor would encourage them to contact the community team at Newgate.	
3.2	Andrew shared copies of the CLG terms of reference with those in attendance. It was stated that these were similar to other ERF sites across the UK. A copy of the terms of reference are also available on the Viridor website. https://viridor.co.uk/assets/REDESIGN/DEVELOPMENTS/Avonmouth/Avonmouth-ERF-Terms-of-Reference-draft1.pdf	
3.3	Andrew explained that the purpose of the CLG was to provide an open channel of communication between Viridor and communities near its operations. Andrew encouraged members in attendance to review the document after the meeting and contact Viridor with any queries.	ALL
4.0	Introduction to Avonmouth ERF	
4.1	Phil Bines gave a short presentation about the Avonmouth ERF this included explaining how an energy recovery facility transformed non-recyclable waste into energy. There was an acknowledgement that this was a similar process to the SUEZ Resource Recovery Facility, also located in Avonmouth. Phil showed the group an artist's impression of how the ERF would look once completed. He stated that the process is extremely efficient, robust and safe. Emissions are treated to meet required standards under the European Industrial Emissions	

	<p>Directive, which is strictly enforced and monitored by the Environment Agency.</p>	
4.2	<p>Phil continued to explain that enabling works at the facility are currently underway with temporary office cabins now installed. Phil showed photographs of the construction site and an aerial image of the construction site. There was a brief discussion about the location of the site and the work Viridor had already completed to remove contaminated materials from the soil, this had been left over from the previous occupiers. There was a short discussion about the site address – one of the lanes around the ERF site was occasionally known as Ableton Lane, however if this was used in a sat-nav it would take the driver to another location in Avonmouth. Viridor confirmed they would inform all visitors and deliveries to the ERF that they should not use Ableton Lane as their point of reference.</p>	
4.3	<p>Judith Hadley asked about how much pollution would be coming from the flue stacks once the ERF is operational. Phil Bines explained that as part of planning process there was a detailed environmental impact assessment and modelling of the emissions from the facility on the surrounding environment. Phil added that the ERF will be stringently regulated by an environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency. During its operations the ERF will continuously monitor its emissions.</p>	
4.4	<p>Peter Tyzack mentioned that the Pilning and Hallam areas could be affected because of wind direction in the area. There was a brief discussion around where Viridor would send newsletters and other information about the project. It was agreed that residents in Hallam would be included.</p> <p>Cllr Alexander asked Phil how the waste will arrive at the site. Phil replied that all deliveries will be made to the ERF by road. There is no rail connection unlike the nearby SUEZ facility. All vehicles will adhere to the pre-agreed transport management plans and drivers will be aware of residential areas.</p> <p>Judith Hadley asked whether Viridor can guarantee that lorries will stick to the prescribed route. Phil Bines replied that all drivers will be notified of the approved transport routes. Phil encouraged all members of the CLG to contact Viridor if they felt vehicles were driving inappropriately or through the nearby villages.</p> <p>Judith Hadley then asked if the lorries that will deliver waste to the Avonmouth ERF would have Viridor logos on the side so they could be easily identified. Phil Bines replied that in most cases they would. Phil continued to state that there would be space available at the ERF for lorries to park up and observe their regulated breaks – Viridor would discourage drivers from stopping in the villages.</p>	
4.5	<p>Kate Royston asked how many vehicles would deliver waste to the ERF each day. Phil Bines replied he would clarify this point in the minutes. In accordance with the planning permission the ERF is permitted to receive a total of 186 vehicles daily</p> <p>Kate Royston asked when the plant would become operational. Phil Bines replied that construction is expected to take roughly three years. It should be operational in 2020. Kate Royston added that the new motorway junction on the M49 would be in place by then.</p>	
4.6	<p>Judith Hadley asked if there would be jobs for local people. Phil Bines said Viridor would be encouraging their contractors to employ local people and use local</p>	

	<p>services wherever possible. He added that a 'Meet The Buyer' event would be held on July 12th. This event would invite local suppliers and businesses to find out more about how they can become involved with the project.</p> <p>The contribution to the local economy would be significant, in Cardiff where a similar ERF was built, an estimated, £5 million was invested in the local economy.</p> <p>4.7 Phil Bines summarised the work that had already been carried out on the site including surveys for WWII ordnance and ecological surveys. There was a brief discussion about how the Avonmouth area had been used as a 'decoy' bombing site for Bristol.</p> <p>Phil Bines explained there will be split access to the ERF with different entrances for lorries and cars. Kate Royston expressed a concern that there had been issues with mud on the roads in the past in Avonmouth and the surrounding area.</p> <p>4.8 Phil Bines reassured Kate that Viridor and its construction partners would be installing a wheel washing facility and ensure that all vehicles leaving the site were cleaned. There would also be a street sweeper constantly based at the site to control the road surfaces, although this would not include the Avonmouth village.</p> <p>Peter Tyzack raised an issue about the Chittening Road and Severn Road junction and the effect additional construction traffic from the site might have on the existing road network. Phil Bines confirmed that as part of the project Viridor will be carrying out work to improve the junction – however this would not include installing a roundabout.</p> <p>Kate Royston asked if Viridor could communicate any works planned on the highway to the community liaison group. Andrew confirmed that Viridor would communicate any work planned on the road network or any planned deliveries that would be escorted to the ERF site.</p> <p>Peter Tyzack asked about the flow of traffic when the plant is in operation. Phil Bines said the traffic would mostly be between 7am and 7pm - five and half days a week (Monday-Friday and Saturday morning) – this would align to when waste collections were taking place. There would some limited traffic on Saturday and Sundays where business customers would deliver to the ERF. Viridor will work to manage the deliveries to avoid more congested rush hour times. The Transport Assessment undertaken found that following mitigation, the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the highway network.</p> <p>4.9 Judith Hadley asked if Viridor had engaged with the community during the planning process and if there were any objections to the planning application. Phil Bines replied there was a public exhibition held in the Avonmouth Community Centre in 2009 and planning permission was granted in 2011. There were a handful of objections to the facility, however this was not unusual for a facility of this type.</p> <p>Phil referenced that Viridor had recently built a number of these facilities and the Avonmouth ERF was the last to be built in its current strategy.</p> <p>4.10 Judith Hadley asked if landscaping work around the ERF would be carried out. Phil Bines showed the artist's impression of the finished ERF and confirmed that landscaping would take place. Phil added that there will be an exhibition and teaching space at the ERF. The aim will be to engage with school and community</p>	
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<p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p>	<p>groups about waste minimisation, focusing on recycling and recovering energy from anything that remains. Alan Hyde added that Viridor works with communities across the UK and has won awards for its education centres.</p> <p>Anthony Warder explained that in the coming weeks the construction team would prepare the site before starting to drive foundation piles into the ground. The ground in Avonmouth was soft and soil would need to be imported to ensure the piling was successful. This material would be sourced from the site itself and from surrounding construction projects. He added that vehicles will not come through the nearby villages and that there will be a full-time-wheel washer and road sweeper to prevent mud affecting the road network.</p> <p>Kate Royston stated that there were still concerns over the energy from waste process and that too many facilities had been built. This would result in 'over-capacity' in the UK.</p> <p>Phil Bines replied that Viridor conducts comprehensive assessments of the waste market in the UK and fully believes that there will be non-recyclable waste available for the Avonmouth facility in the West of England over the life of the ERF. He continued to state that those opposed to Energy Recovery Facilities often claim that they reduce the need and the inclination of residents to reduce, re-use and recycle and that waste that could be recycled is used instead to 'feed the burn'. Minimising and recycling waste will always be the priority. Many other European countries have shown that a robust Energy from Waste policy is still compatible with high recycling rates. Defra research shows that recovering energy from residual waste (including by incineration) is a much better for the environment than sending waste to landfill sites.</p> <p>Alan Hyde added that Viridor is heavily involved in recycling waste across the UK, Viridor managed over 2.4m tonnes of recycling last year and is fully committed to a full waste management service offering. Viridor has made a significant investment in the Avonmouth ERF and this is supported by comprehensive market intelligence.</p> <p>Kate Royston queried how many homes the Avonmouth ERF would power. Phil responded that this was around 44,000 homes a year being powered by 34 megawatts of energy. Kate challenged this figure as inaccurate. Alan Hyde confirmed that the calculation had been made using energy consumption and conversion factors from the Centre for Sustainable Energy and had been validated by Viridor's technical experts.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Regulatory and Planning Matters</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Andrew Turner reiterated that all waste management facilities in the UK must apply for an environmental permit and sites are regulated by the Environment Agency. The Avonmouth ERF was granted an environmental permit – this can be accessed online.</p> <p>Continuing to state that the Environment Agency have indicated they would like to be a member of the CLG, however due to resources would be unable to attend meetings.</p> <p>The Environment Agency officer allocated to the site would receive a copy of the minutes, and should any member of the community have a concern or question, this could be communicated through the CLG.</p>	

5.2	<p>Phil Bines added that Viridor has submitted an additional planning application for a building to store incinerator bottom ash this applications is due to be determined shortly. Viridor submitted another minor change to permit a vehicular entrance for cars and vans near to the main entrance – this application has been approved. Phil added that with projects of this size and nature it is common for small planning applications to be submitted during construction.</p> <p>Viridor has submitted an application to vary the facility’s Environmental Permit. This is a minor technical variation to reflect improvements to processing technology since the initial Environmental Permit was issued.</p>	
6.0	Community Relations and Communications	
6.1	<p>Judith Hadley asked if the community would be informed of progress at the construction site. Alan Hyde confirmed that the CLG was the core way for the community to keep informed of progress at the Avonmouth ERF. Viridor has also established a dedicated website, there will be a community newsletter and emails sent to key stakeholders later in the summer when the construction project is established.</p> <p>https://viridor.co.uk/our-developments/avonmouth-erf/</p>	
6.2	<p>Judith Hadley mentioned that there is a large Polish community in Avonmouth. It was confirmed that Viridor would consider this when communicating with residents in the future.</p>	
6.3	<p>Peter Tyzack asked what would happen if the lorry drivers coming to the ERF from the south on the M5 missed the junction. Phil Bines stated that all drivers would have to turn around and re-exit at junction 18 – it would not be appropriate for them to attempt using the smaller roads to access the site. He added that Viridor recognised traffic was a big concern for local people and that Viridor will put processes in place to ensure drivers comply with the agreed traffic management routes. Andrew Turner commented that the community members could use the contact information below to report any vehicles coming to the site that are not driving responsibly. Viridor would have a fleet of regular drivers delivering waste to the ERF, the drivers would become familiar with the route and potential places to stop safely.</p>	
6.4	<p>Andrew reiterated that there was a designated website for the project, but if members of the community wanted to contact the project there were a number of ways to get in touch:</p> <p>Email Contact: Avonmoutherf@newgatecomms.com</p> <p>Phone contact: 0800 169 6507</p> <p>Postal address: Viridor Community Team Avonmouth ERF Site Severn Road Chittening Bristol</p>	



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7.0	Any Other Business	
7.1	<p>Cllr Alexander asked if Viridor had been in contact with Bristol City Council about making use of excess heat from ERF once operational. He added that there might be a chance to work with other operators in Avonmouth to deliver a wider district heating network.</p> <p>Phil Bines responded that Viridor had contacted Bristol City Council to initially introduce the Avonmouth ERF project, however as the project develops there would be a more communication. Cllr Alexander agreed to share the details of Cllr Steve Pearce who was working on a district heating project for the area.</p>	DA
7.2	<p>Kate Royston asked if Viridor would engage with local community events. Kate also mentioned there would be a circular economy working group hosted by SevernNet in the Avonmouth area – this might be of interest to Viridor. Alan Hyde confirmed that Viridor would like to develop lasting relationships in the community and where appropriate become involved with community projects.</p>	
7.3	<p>Kate Royston asked if there was a possibility to use gas powered vehicles to deliver waste to the ERF. Phil Bines replied that it was something Viridor is already exploring through its Filton transport hub.</p>	
7.4	<p>Judith Hadley asked about the possibility of holding future events as an open meeting. Andrew Turner replied that Viridor hosts a number of similar meetings across the UK and have found that if open meetings are held, it can be challenging to focus the discussions in a positive manner. However Andrew confirmed that if members of the group felt there were further community representatives that would find the meetings useful to recommend them to the Chair – Kate Royston supported this view.</p>	ALL
7.5	<p>Cllr Alexander mentioned that there was an annual Avonmouth Fair, this might be a good way to engage with members of the community around the ERF project.</p>	
8.0	Date of Next Meeting	
8.1	<p>Phil Bines asked the group if the Avonmouth Community Centre was a convenient venue to host future community liaison group meetings. The group confirmed that it was.</p> <p>Andrew Turner referred back to the terms of reference and advised that Viridor would propose hold meetings quarterly. This would be most appropriate for this stage of the project. Andrew asked if Thursdays at 19.00 were convenient for the members in attendance. This was confirmed with other community activities taking place earlier in the evening.</p>	
8.2	<p>A provisional date was suggested of the 14th September. Cllr Alexander mentioned that there was a community meeting taking place at that time in the centre. Viridor can confirm that the next meeting will take place at the Avonmouth Community Centre on the 21st September at 19.00.</p>	AT



	<p>The meeting closed. Kate Royston added that the meeting had been useful and it was positive to have an open dialogue.</p>	
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