



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

Avonmouth Community Centre

Thursday 21 September 2017 19.00

Attendees:

Cllr Don Alexander, Avonmouth Ward, Bristol City Council
 Cllr Kevin Weeks, Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council
 Chris Boddington, MsC Environmental Management (Bristol resident)
 Judith Hadley, Avonmouth Community Centre Association
 Anthony Warder, Engineering Procurement Contractor, Clugston
 Phil Bines, Avonmouth ERF Project Representative, Viridor
 Isaac Casson, Newgate Communications
 Andrew Turner, Chair Newgate Communications

		Action
1.0	Introductions	
1.1	<p>The Chair, Andrew Turner, welcomed new and existing members to the meeting and gave a short introduction to the role of the community liaison group to support the construction of the Avonmouth ERF.</p> <p>Andrew then invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and the communities they represent.</p>	
1.2	<p>Andrew Turner, Chair Newgate Communications – Newgate Communications will be supporting Viridor delivering community engagement services for the project. Isaac Casson, Newgate Communications. Anthony Warder, Engineering Procurement Contractor, Clugston – a representative from Viridor’s construction partners. Judith Hadley, Avonmouth Community Centre Association – working for the community and supporting the Avonmouth Community Centre. Chris Boddington, MsC Environmental Management – attending to gain information on environmental practices of Viridor’s operations. Cllr Kevin Weeks, councillor for Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council. Phil Bines, Project Representative, Viridor. Cllr Don Alexander, councillor for the Avonmouth Ward, Bristol City Council – ward councillor representing the community and businesses surrounding the Avonmouth site.</p>	
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	<p>Apologies were received from: Darren Jones MP, Member of Parliament for Bristol North West, Sue Everett, Environment Agency,</p>	



2.2	<p>Kate Royston, SevernNet, Helen Moon, Project Manager Viridor.</p> <p>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.</p>	ALL
3.0	Role of Community Liaison Group	
3.1	<p>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.</p>	AT
3.2	<p>Andrew confirmed that copies of the CLG terms of reference were shared at the last meeting. A copy of the Terms of Reference is also available on the Viridor website. https://viridor.co.uk/assets/REDESIGN/DEVELOPMENTS/Avonmouth/Avonmouth-ERF-Terms-of-Reference-draft1.pdf</p>	
3.3	<p>Andrew explained that the purpose of the CLG was to provide an open channel of communication between Viridor and communities near its operations. Andrew asked if all members present had received a copy of the last minutes, all in attendance confirmed and they were agreed as representative of the last meeting. Andrew confirmed these would be posted on the Viridor website.</p>	
4.0	Update to construction progress at Avonmouth ERF	
4.1	<p>Phil Bines gave a short presentation about 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>	
4.2	<p>Phil then continued to explain the process of energy recovery and how the Avonmouth ERF will transform 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. There was a brief discussion around how the two facilities would differ. Phil explained that the waste bunker (where waste is delivered) has been erected above ground in the SUEZ facility, whilst the Viridor site will dig its bunker into the ground.</p> <p>He stated that the energy recovery process is extremely efficient, robust and safe. Emissions are treated to meet required standards under the European Industrial Emissions Directive, which is strictly enforced and monitored by the Environment</p>	



4.3	<p>Agency. AFTERNOTE: YouTube link demonstrating how the energy from waste process works. The facility shown in the video is a similar Viridor ERF (also built by CNIM, Clugston construction partners) : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-nkIDixeCl</p>	
4.4	<p>Phil continued to explain that enabling works at the facility are underway with temporary office cabins now installed and piling works taking place. Phil explained that piling is required to stabilise the facility and to enable the excavation of the waste bunker. Phil showed photographs of the construction works and an aerial image of the construction site. Phil explained that Viridor hosted a Meet the Buyer event at Bristol Golf Club in July, with over 30 interested suppliers in attendance. Contracts for local firms have already been awarded, with six-figure value contracts being awarded to local aggregate, concrete and mobile plant suppliers. Andrew encouraged members to share details of the project with potential local suppliers and email the project if interested. Interested suppliers should email avonmoutherf@newgatecomms.com for more information.</p>	
4.5	<p>Chris Boddington asked where the majority of workers on site would be coming from geographically. Phil stated that where workers are based would vary throughout the construction phase and efforts are made to encourage contracting partners to hire local where possible. There is a skills shortage in the energy from waste sector and some specialist contractors may need to come into the area. Viridor encourages apprenticeships and other initiatives at its sites to promote students and young people entering the energy from waste sector. As the project progresses, the need for local accommodation will increase, giving a boost to the local hospitality industry.</p>	
4.6	<p>Judith Hadley queried the figure on the presentation that the energy produced from Viridor's Avonmouth Energy Recovery Facility would produce enough energy to power around 44,000 homes. Phil clarified that this was a figure based on the amount of energy sent to the National Grid (34 MW). Due to the way the National Grid operates, it would not mean that the power produced by the facility would directly power the nearest homes to the facility.</p>	
4.7	<p>Cllr Weeks referred to the Chittening Road/Severn Road junction directly outside of the site. Phil informed members that improvement works to widen the junction are planned for the near future. This will ensure that vehicles delivering to the ERF will be able to access and exit the site in a more safe way, benefitting from increased visibility at the junction.</p>	
4.8	<p>Cllr Weeks asked how many trucks can be expected to deliver to the site during it operation. Phil responded that he would clarify this figure in the minutes.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE. It is expected that the ERF will generate circa 90 vehicle deliveries a day. The Transport Assessment undertaken during the planning process concluded that following mitigation, the proposed development will not have significant impacts on the highway network.</p>	
4.9	<p>There was a brief discussion regarding the route that these deliveries will take. Phil confirmed that Viridor had signed an agreement with the Somerset Waste Partnership to treat non-recyclable waste at the Avonmouth ERF and that deliveries will come to site from North Bridgwater and Castle Cary along the M5 and through the new motorway junction on the M5, the M49. This route negates the need to travel through Avonmouth village. Judith Hadley did mention that she</p>	



	<p>noticed a Viridor vehicle in the Avonmouth village in recent weeks. Andrew responded that in some cases, commercial customers might require waste disposal services at their premises. These vehicles will come from Viridor's Filton depot.</p>	
<p>4.10</p>	<p>Judith 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> <p>AFTERNOTE: This link provides a Public Health England report on the operation of Energy from Waste facilities: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/municipal-waste-incinerator-emissions-to-air-impact-on-health</p>	
<p>4.11</p>	<p>Cllr Alexander asked how much incinerator bottom ash (IBA) the facility would produce. Phil stated that around 20% of inputs to the ERF would be returned as IBA, this would be transported to a licensed facility and then be processed for reuse. There was a discussion around the potential to treat IBA at the Viridor Avonmouth ERF site. Phil confirmed that Viridor has considered this as an option. Cllr Alexander stated that residents in Avonmouth have concerns over another IBA processing facility in the Avonmouth area.</p>	
<p>4.12</p>	<p>Anthony Warder explained, using the PowerPoint presentation, that in the coming weeks the construction team would continue to drive foundation piles into the ground, with three piling rigs currently active (these are visible from outside the site). This will continue until Christmas, most of the piles will be sunk using a drilling technique rather than hammering piles into the ground. Soil has been imported to support the piling rigs.</p> <p>This material would be sourced from the site itself and from surrounding construction projects. He added that vehicles will not come through the Avonmouth village and that there will be a full-time-wheel washer and road sweeper to prevent mud affecting the road network.</p>	
<p>4.13</p>	<p>Andrew encouraged members to contact the freephone community line should there be concerns over construction traffic relating to the ERF. Telephone line: 0800 169 6507, email address: Avonmoutherf@newgatecomms.com</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>4.14</p>	<p>In response to a question from Judith regarding community engagement, Andrew reiterated that the Community Liaison Group is open to any community group interested in the development. Viridor does not facilitate open meetings regarding its facilities, but advocates representatives of the community sharing the information about the development. Judith recommended that Viridor might like to present an update of the project to the Avonmouth Community Link residents group. Phil confirmed Viridor would consider this at an appropriate stage of the project.</p>	<p>PB</p>
<p>4.15</p>	<p>Cllr Weeks 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 indicating trees and a small drainage lagoon. Phil added that there will be an exhibition and teaching space at the ERF. The aim will be to engage with groups about waste minimisation, focusing on recycling and</p>	

4.16	<p>recovering energy from anything that remains.</p> <p>Judith asked what consideration had been given to local wildlife during the construction of the project. Phil stated that as part of the pre-construction works, extensive ecological surveys were undertaken to monitor the wildlife present on site. Phil confirmed that several grass snakes were relocated away from the construction works. Phil also stated that a number of water voles will be safely relocated away from construction.</p>	
5.0	Regulatory and Planning Matters	
5.1	<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 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> <p>Phil confirmed that Viridor had 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>	
5.2	<p>Phil also explained that Viridor successfully applied for a temporary speed restriction, from the national speed limit to 30mph, on Severn Road up to the junction at Ableton Lane. This restriction will come into effect shortly with road signs are being erected to denote the change.</p>	
5.3	<p>Phil Bines added that Viridor has been granted an additional planning application for an amendment to the proposed building to store incinerator bottom ash. 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>	
6.0	Community Relations and Communications	
6.1	<p>Judith Hadley asked if the community would be informed of progress at the construction site. Andrew confirmed that the CLG meetings were the core way for the community to keep informed of progress at the Avonmouth ERF.</p> <p>Viridor had also established a dedicated website: https://viridor.co.uk/our-developments/avonmouth-erf/</p> <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>	



6.2	<p>Phone contact: 0800 169 6507</p> <p>Postal address: Viridor Community Team Avonmouth ERF Site Severn Road Chittinging Bristol BS11 0YU</p> <p>Viridor also intend to issue a community newsletter in October/November to update members of the local community to progress on the project. Andrew encouraged members of the group to consider if there are any groups that might like to receive the newsletter.</p>	ALL
7.0	Any Other Business	
7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4	<p>In response to a question from Cllr Weeks regarding the delivery process of waste, Phil stated that the tipping hall next to the waste bunker had fast acting roller shutter doors in holds the air in the bunker under negative pressure. Air is drawn into the process which means that air, if it is odorous, does not escape the facility.</p> <p>Chris Boddington raised the question of Viridor providing district heating with the heat generated from the plant. Phil explained that establishing a district heating scheme was complex and that only a handful of facilities have successful schemes in the UK. Phil mentioned that Sheffield and London currently have active schemes.</p> <p>Andrew noted that Viridor had recently signed an agreement with the London Borough of Sutton to provide heating to a scheme from another ERF. Chris mentioned that in continental Europe district heating schemes were more common, Phil responded that the legislation and support for establishing schemes is very different however Viridor remain supportive of establishing a scheme at Avonmouth. Andrew confirmed that Viridor would share information about European schemes with Chris after the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Alexander also stated that the Bristol City Council had very limited resources to pursue a district heating project. Chris also raised a question on efficiencies of gas-fired power stations against Viridor's ERF. Phil responded that the Avonmouth ERF is a facility to treat non-recyclable waste and to divert it away from landfill sites to generate energy alongside other low-carbon energy sources.</p> <p>Cllr Weeks asked why Viridor chose to invest in a site in Avonmouth. Phil explained that as part of Viridor's strategy to divert waste away from landfill, £1.5bn has been invested in next-generation recycling and recovery infrastructure. As part of a review for the South West it was established that Avonmouth was a strategically located site for a facility to treat waste from the West of England. Viridor currently operates a waste collection fleet in Filton that would also support the Avonmouth ERF.</p> <p>Chris Boddington asked a question of the Chair, regarding Newgate Communications and its relationship with Viridor. Andrew responded that Newgate supports its clients to use communications best-practice to engage with</p>	AT



	<p>communities and stakeholders. In this example the Avonmouth ERF.</p> <p>Phil Bines reaffirmed that Newgate is supporting Viridor from a communications perspective and that any information discussed is a Viridor concern.</p>	
8.0	Date of Next Meeting	
8.1	<p>Andrew Turner referred back to the terms of reference and advised that Viridor would propose hold meetings quarterly. Andrew explained that with the next meeting scheduled for mid-December, it might be sensible to postpone the meeting until the new year. All in attendance agreed.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Viridor intended to issue a community newsletter in October/November and would inform residents if any activity at the site might impact upon surrounding area.</p> <p>It was agreed that Viridor would liaise with the Avonmouth Community Centre to seek convenient dates for future meeting. A provisional date was suggested of the 25th January, which would be confirmed with members via email.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>AT</p>
8.2	<p>Chris Boddington confirmed that his tutor was comfortable with his final report about the Avonmouth ERF being shared with Viridor.</p>	CB