

Rookery South RRF Community Liaison Panel Meeting 13 Notes

Rookery South RRF Community Liaison Panel Meeting 13 Monday 4th October 2010, 18.30 – 20.05

Actions from last meeting

Most actions from the last meeting and queries in the intervening period are on this agenda or have been covered by email contacts – see details at the end of the notes.

Outstanding items for a future agenda are:

Covanta to provide noise data for a similar facility, and a simpler explanation of how noise impacts are calculated

Covanta to consider putting radiation detectors on this facility as they have in the US and Italy

Timetable of IPC and related activities/opportunities to comment

Rachel Ness (RN) presented on this item – see IPC “How to have your say” document attached.

The IPC have accepted the application for examination, now Covanta have the responsibility to ensure the application is available to all consultees so the right people have the right information. This has taken some time to organise given the number of consultees (over 150 organisations) as the hard copy of the application (due to its size) takes 3 weeks to print and some consultees have requested a hard copy.

The timescales for the first part of the process have now been set:

7th October (Thursday) Consultation period goes live – Covanta will place legal notices in The Times, the local Times and Citizen and Bedfordshire on Sunday newspapers, plus the London Gazette.

Also in early October Covanta will send another Community Newsletter to 15k households in a 5 km radius of the site, and be providing press releases to other local media.

Hard copies of the application will be available for the public at a number of local venues from Thursday this week – see the back page of Covanta’s paper on the Development Consent Order submission attached for details and opening times. Consultees will either be provided with the hard copy or DVD version depending on what they have requested from Covanta. These will all be issued on Thursday or Friday this week. The application is already on the IPC website, although it is presented differently to how Covanta has “grouped” the application documents. Covanta will provide a hyperlink to the IPC web site from its web site.

19th November (Friday) End of initial consultation - This gives everyone 6 weeks to make their representations to the IPC (the statutory requirement is for a minimum of 4 weeks).

After this it is understood from the IPC that it will make all the representations available on its web site and allow 21 days for everyone to view these and comment.

The expectation is that the IPC will set up a preliminary meeting in the New Year to determine how the examination process should be run, decide how many Commissioners will examine case and set the ongoing timescales for the process.

Anyone interested in making representations on the project at any stage must register online with the IPC on their Registration Form from 7th October at www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure by 19 November 2010.

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On 22nd October the IPC and Planning Aid England (a voluntary group providing free professional planning advice to communities) will be in the area to provide advice registering and have hard copies of the Registration Form: They will be at the Beds Borough Council Town Hall from 10.00 – 12.00, at Central Beds Council Priory House from 13.00 – 15.00 and Amptill Library from 15.30 – 17.00.

Post meeting note: Covanta has checked with the IPC to understand the publicity being given to the 22 October event, and has been advised that the IPC will be issuing a media release and placing adverts in the local press 7-10 days in advance of the drop-ins session. Accordingly Covanta will not be advertising this IPC initiative.

The IPC advice note issued by RN at the CLP meeting also provides contact details for Planning Aid England so that individual and organisations can contact them directly.

Questions:

The timetable after the 6 week process is very vague, why can't the IPC be clearer about this?

A key part of the process is for there to be time for debate – the onus is on Covanta to kick start it with this initial phase of making the application detail available to consultees. The IPC will then be able to confirm their timescales for providing representations online to comment and setting up the preliminary meeting. From there on the process will be defined by the IPC as informed by the results of the consultation exercise.

Action: Covanta to provide updated IPC timescales to the next CLP meeting.

Will it be possible to copy documents from the DVD to email to others?

Yes, but the documents are all large so it may be difficult to email them. It may be easier for people to access the IPC web site to read them.

Who determines who the statutory consultees should be?

This is set down in the Planning Act 2008 and supporting regulations so Covanta is legally obliged to consult them – Covanta additionally have a range of more local organisations they are consulting with although it is not statutorily obliged to do so. CLP members have asked for DVD copies to be sent to them, except where they have said that they will access the copy available to their organisation.

Where to locate information in the Covanta IPC submission

RN presented on this item – see the Development Consent Order submission paper attached.

Key documents that may be of particular interest for CLP members are the:

Document reference 1.5 Explanatory Memorandum – explains the draft consent order;

Document reference 3.4 Non Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement in 3.1 – will direct to the specific aspects people are interested in;

Document reference 5.1 Planning Statement shows Covanta's case on how the application accords with planning policies and weighs up the pros and cons of the project from Covanta's point of view. This is where all the elements of the project are brought together.

Document reference 5.3 Need Assessment has details on the forecast of waste sources for the project.

All documents have Executive Summaries to guide readers through them.

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The Environmental Permit process will be undertaken concurrently with the IPC process – Covanta will provide its application to Environment Agency (EA) at the end of the month and there is a 12 month consultation and assessment period.

Action Covanta and EA to present on the process to the next CLP meeting.

Update on planned CLP visit to Lakeside RRF

Siobhan Bruce (SB) informed the CLP that the company that runs the Lakeside facility near Heathrow has generously agreed to have a visit from the CLP as agreed at the July CLP meeting. The facility is run by a competitor of Covanta's, but is within a Country Park type setting and of a similar size to the Rookery South project.

They can take a group after the end of October. Covanta could organise a coach for the visit.

Action Kate Fairweather (KF) to contact CLP members to find a suitable date for a visit so that arrangements can be made.

Feedback from BYC CLP visit to Covanta US

SB presented her report on the US visit, see attached. The CLP delegates who visited sites in the US of specific interest to them were very positive about the facilities they visited and the impact on the local community. They would be prepared to talk to CLP members by phone if required.

A CLP member reported that they had spoken to one of the delegates and had nothing to add to the report.

SB asked if the CLP would be interested in participating in a US visit. CLP members felt that this was not appropriate at this stage of the application – it might be seen as a “jolly” by the groups they represent, or to compromise them, so this offer was declined.

Various CLP members have visited energy from waste facilities in the past but feel that there are none that exactly match the Rookery South site i.e. in a rural area and in a pit, with a specific local air movement pattern. Other members feel that the Lakeside visit will be valuable for them in order to experience a real facility and provide more credible information to their organisations.

SB commented that Covanta do have some very rural sites in the US, so these could provide some data for the CLP.

Alasdair McKellar (AM) said that he had contacted EA's air quality specialists, who had confirmed they had no concerns about the air inversions in the area.

CLP review report included in the submission – see Extract distributed at the meeting attached

KF reported that she had been asked by Covanta to complete a review of the CLP process for the application, which has been included in the Consultation Report (document reference 7.1 on Disc 7) submitted with the application – see specifically chapter 6 of the Consultation Report. .

The review was completed by referring to notes of the CLP meetings and from feedback provided by CLP members. Not all CLP members had provided feedback, but those who had represented the spectrum of opinion among the Panel.

The review makes specific reference to a number of areas where the CLP has raised concerns and issues.

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Actions from the review are:

KF to allow for further debate of topics at the following meeting to allow CLP members time to reflect and come back with further queries for debate – time allowed on each agenda for this

Covanta to ensure presentations are clear for the non-expert - KF also briefing presenters on the need for straightforward presentations

Covanta to investigate how to access testimonies and real data about environmental impacts from communities who have experienced the building and operation of similar facilities - Covanta still seeking ways to provide this, had suggested a visit to US facilities but this has been declined by the CLP.

Covanta to provide details of the application to CLP members so that they are fully aware of the content and how to make their representations – completed

Covanta to make clear in the IPC application that CLP membership does not imply support for the project - This is stated in the Consultation Report accompanying the application (document reference 7.1).

Review of Rookery CLP Terms of Reference

At the last meeting the CLP had discussed the way that the CLP process will change now that the application has been submitted, and agreed that meetings could be every two or three months and be more about updates on the progress of the IPC and related application processes and outcomes of consultation.

KF thanked the CLP members for their hard work and input over the year the CLP has been in existence, and said that the CLP should take this opportunity to review the Terms of Reference attached. It is also probably a good time for members to consider if they wish to continue to participate in the CLP through this developing stage, or whether they might want to nominate another member of their organisation to attend.

Action KF to contact CLP members to discuss these issues and report back to the next meeting

Date of next meeting and items to cover

The next meeting will be in early December **Action KF to contact CLP members to arrange**

The next meeting will cover the following items:

Details of the EA permitting process and consultation opportunities for the local community

Covanta's Environmental Permit application content

How the IPC and EA processes differ and how they fit together

Update on the IPC consultation process timetable

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Attended:

Nigel Milway	Chair of "Revamp" Ampthill - Apologies
Hugh Roberts	MMAG – Apologies, Colin Raine substituting
Barry Halton	Volunteer with Beds CPRE
Tony Talbot	MD Forest of Marston Vale
Gary Summerfield	Ampthill Town Council – Apologies, Margaret Wright substituting
Lisa Frangiamore	Houghton Conquest P. C.
Jennie Thomas	Millbrook Parish Meeting
David Cooper	Stewartby Parish Council
Alan Barnard	Maulden Parish Council
Peter Neale	Marston Morteyne Parish Council
Richard Franceys	Resident
Ed Hiam	Resident - Apologies
Robina Chatham	Resident - Apologies
Independent Observers	
Sue Marsh	Principal Minerals and Waste Planning Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council
Alasdair McKellar	PPC Compliance Officer, Environment Agency
Covanta representatives	See below
Kate Fairweather	Independent Chair

Attending this meeting for Covanta:
Rachel Ness Director of Planning
Siobhan Bruce Communications Manager
Simon McKee Planning Manager