

Protos Energy Recovery Facility – Local Liaison Committee

Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting No 1: Tuesday 8th November 2022**

**Record of Attendance**

Present:

Andy Canham, Elton Parish Council **(AC)**

Ian Crummack, Cobalt Energy **(IC)**

Chris Jackson, Ince Parish Council **(CJ)**

Tommy Kane, Mytilineos **(TK)**

Lois Kay, Peel L&P **(LKa)**

Lou Kearsley, Ince Parish Council **(LKe)**

Sebastian Lünsmann, Standardkessel Baumgarte **(SL)**

Terry O'Neill, Helsby Parish Council **(TON)**

Michalis Sapountzis, Mytilineos **(MS)**

Thomas Schulze, Standardkessel Baumgarte **(TS)**

Andy Smith, Covanta **(AS)**

Ben Stafford, Foxhill Probus **(BS)**

Susie Storey, Mytilineos **(SS)**

Liz Waugh, Coast Communications **(LW)**

Kath Williams, Coast Communications **(KW)**

Apologies:

Keith Bradley, Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford Parish Council

Graham Heatley, Cheshire West & Chester Council

Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council

**1. Welcome and introductions**

**2. Presentation on the Protos ERF**

AS presented an overview of the project. See *pdf copy of presentation – [Protos ERF Local Liaison Committee – Project Introduction.pdf]*

During the presentation, the following issues were also discussed:

- Operational jobs. Aim is to recruit as many local people as possible to operational jobs.
- Use of Peel's canal berth for deliveries to site. All waste will be delivered by road at present and the route HGVs will take will depend on the direction of their approach but will avoid residential areas.
- Facility is designed to store about five days' worth of waste so any temporary delivery interruptions can be accommodated should traffic hold-ups create bottlenecks.
- HGV traffic levels. There will be up to 111 vehicle movements per day, which is in line with the development's planning permission and makes up a small subset of the overall HGV traffic on these routes. Delivery hours are also a clear condition of the planning permission.
- HGV delivery routes will be finalised by operational colleagues in Covanta and Biffa but waste usually comes from a consistent, small number of sources and all drivers will be given site-specific briefings on permitted routes.
- HGVs entering Ince because of unclear road signage. The project will need to work with Peel and Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWACC) Highways Dept to resolve this as it is unable to erect signs on the public highway.
- **ACTION** – Peel to follow up signage issues with CWACC Highways Department following liaison with Covanta (**LKa**)
- Possibility of inviting a representative from CWACC to attend a future committee meeting.
- Odour management. The design of the plant incorporates features to minimise the risk of odours being released from the facility. The plant will also have to comply with the strict limits set out in the Environment Agency's environmental permit.

### 3. Construction update

TK presented a construction update. See *pdf copy of presentation – PERF LLC November 2022 Construction Update - Mytilineos*. During the presentation, the following issues were also discussed:

- Noise levels during piling. Acoustic measurements are taken in various locations to ensure that decibel levels remain below stipulated limits. The vast majority of piles have now been completed and, if any more piling needs to

be undertaken, the project will inform both this group and Peel's Community Forum in advance, and will also post updates on the project website.

- Destination of bottom ash. Following off-site processing, this can be used as an aggregate in construction. Covanta and its partners are looking at several sites to process the ash including one at Bromborough.
- Types of waste that will be processed at the facility and the combustion of non-homogenous material. The plant is designed to treat all non-recyclable residual waste such as the type that is typically disposed of in a domestic black bin (including inappropriate items). The plant is capable of processing a wide range of fuels with varying energy content.
- Flue Gas Treatment (FGT) technology is designed to accommodate a wide range of waste with different compositions.
- Emissions control. Plants such as these employ various control methods including the use of very high temperatures (>850°C), chemical control systems (injection of dry lime and powdered, activated carbon) and Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) which are all very effective, well proven and rigorously tested and monitored.
- Energy from waste is a heavily regulated industry and the environmental permit is stringent in terms of emissions levels and monitoring so that if, for example, the combustion temperature drops below 850°C, then the waste feed stops. Plants such as these have continuous monitoring systems with two systems operating (i.e. 100% back-up) and the plant has to cease operations if these systems stop working.
- View of the stack. Very little will be seen coming out of the stack but during commissioning and/or periods of colder weather there is the potential for plumes of water vapour to be seen. There will be no flare stack.

#### **4. Purpose of the committee**

LW outlined the purpose of the committee and introduced the Terms of Reference, Neighbourhood Charter and Declaration of Interests forms. Committee members were asked to review the documents later and come back with comments at the next meeting.

**ACTION** – Review Terms of Reference, Neighbourhood Charter and Declaration of Interests for next meeting **(ALL)**

## 5. Terms of Reference including remit and roles

Feedback is very welcome.

## 6. Neighbourhood Charter

LW explained that this is a public commitment from the project to be a good neighbour. Feedback is very welcome.

## 7. Declaration of Interests

LW explained that this is intended to provide governance. 'Anything to declare' will be a standard question for members at each meeting.

## 8. Increasing public membership

LW said that the committee had been set up in order to engage directly with local people so suggestions for extending membership would be well received.

The group discussed the need to include members from CWACC and potentially other parish councillors, and also the need to bring in younger members. Potential approaches could be made to the sixth form college and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

**ACTION** – Suggest options/ideas for increasing membership **(ALL)**

**ACTION** – Approach the local sixth form college and Cheshire Wildlife Trust **(KW)**

## 9. Future agenda requests

- Local plans

**ACTION** – Consider how Ince Neighbourhood Plan can be presented to the group **(CJ/LKe)**

- Site tour. AS said this would be better held during British Summer Time when days will be longer and construction has progressed. Unfortunately, Covanta does not have any nearby operational sites so a visit to a currently operational site is unlikely to be possible.

## 10. AOB

- It was queried whether the local MP was invited; it is part of the communications from the project to keep the local MP informed about the construction project.

- The group agreed that the meeting minutes would be made available on the construction project website.
- The group discussed options for sustainable transport / electric vehicles. AS said that Biffa will be bringing waste to site and engaging local hauliers so this is a topic that would be better addressed closer to the start of commissioning. LW suggested a future agenda item looking at how the whole industry is decarbonising. AC suggested that transport should be a regular agenda item to discuss, for instance the use of Ince and Elton train stations by site workers.
- TS said that Standardkessel Baumgarte would be very happy to answer any technical questions that the group may have.
- SS said that they are keen to take care of wildlife on site and have strong environmental policies.
- TK said that he would be very happy to provide a site tour for anybody in the group at any time.

## **11. Time and date of next meeting**

TBC but will be a 5-7pm slot in February 2023

### Actions:

- Follow up signage issues with CWCC Highways Department **(LKα)**
- Review Terms of Reference, Neighbourhood Charter and Declaration of Interests **(ALL)**
- Consider options/ideas for increasing membership **(ALL)**
- Approach the local sixth form college and Cheshire Wildlife Trust **(KW)**
- Consider how Ince Neighbourhood Plan can be presented to the group **(CJ/LKe)**