

Date: Thursday 22 January 2015, (16:00)**Location:** Coggeshall Village Hall**Attendees:**

Frank Saunders	Environment Agency	Bob Wright	Rivenhall Parish Council
Claire Tomalin	Essex County Council	Jamie Hooper	Kelvedon Parish Council
Lady Patricia Newton	Essex County Council	Wendy Scattergood	Braintree District Council
James Abbott	Essex County Council	Apologies:	
Renee Hockley-Byam	Bradwell Parish Council	Alan Stone	Community Group
Katherine Evans	Feering Parish Council	Guests:	
Alan Waine	Silver End Parish Council	Chris Papworth	Community Group
Steven Smith	Honace Limited	Phil Lee	Environment Agency
David Pye	Coggeshall Parish Council		

Outline Agenda:**No Item****1. Welcome & Introductions**

Cllr Lady Newton welcomed the attendees and guests as the Chair of the IWMF Site Liaison Committee.

2. Planning Applications and Submission of Details

Steven Smith confirmed the approval of the Application for Extension of Time and presented an overview of the recently submitted Section 73 Hinterland Application – Removal of Conditions 28 and 30.

It was noted that the original planning application was made in 2008 and granted in 2010. Over the past few years, the emphasis of national and waste planning policy had changed. Therefore an application has been made to remove two conditions that are outdated and unenforceable under current planning policies and practices. Such conditions have been rejected by the Secretary of State in recent decisions as being inappropriate and unenforceable.

It was explained that waste has always travelled freely around the country and used as a resource to supply sites which can recover, recycle, treat and dispose of our waste economically, within an open and competitive commercial environment. Even Essex County Council has recently signed a 3 year contract to export the 50% residue from its new municipal waste treatment plant at Basildon (180,000 tonnes per annum) via Tilbury Port to energy-from-waste plants on the continent. Equally, several commercial waste operators in Essex are also exporting similar residual wastes, all of which could be treated at Rivenhall.

It was emphasised that due to the economics of transport, even if the application was successful and the conditions were removed, waste arriving at Rivenhall is unlikely to travel from further distances than if the conditions remain. There is no intention to import waste from overseas. The removal of the conditions will prevent the County Council having to try and administer something which is unenforceable.

Claire Tomalin explained that the planning policy justification for conditions 28 and 30 relied upon national and regional planning policy that has now either been changed or abolished. The NPPF now requires that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development

and the application to remove Conditions 28 and 30 will be considered by ECC against current planning law and guidance. ECC must consider each application on its individual merits, but can and will take account of the cumulative effect of any future changes to the planning permission.

Cllr Abbott raised a number of comments relating to the Section 73 Hinterland Application, namely: the distance that waste will travel to the IWMF suggesting it may even come for overseas (despite the comments made regarding economic waste operations); commented that the application only concerns itself with the definition of SRF and RDF and fails to focus on recycling; and, openly stated that the IWMF would now be receiving and burning chemical wastes, medical wastes, discarded equipment and animal wastes.

Steven Smith advised that the IWMF would not be receiving and burning chemical wastes, medical wastes, discarded equipment and animal wastes. All wastes treated within the IWMF would be controlled by an Environmental Permit and the various waste codes it is permitted to receive.

Frank Saunders clarified that waste codes define the waste that can be received and treated at the IWMF, and that the Environment Agency had responded as a Statutory Consultee to the Hinterland Application. It was commented that in principle the Environment Agency did not object to the application.

Jamie Hooper, Renee Hockley-Byam, Chris Papworth and Alan Waine commented that whilst some people will always oppose the development of the IWMF, they requested that as things moved forward at the site, Gent Fairhead & Co Limited should be more engaging and open with the public regarding their plans. The recent applications to vary conditions were of concern.

3. Current Position and Submission of Details

Steven Smith stated that after considerable work and investment over the coming weeks, various submissions will be made to ECC to provide the details required to allow the commencement of the IWMF's development. It was also noted that an Environmental Permit Application was being prepared for submission to the Environment Agency.

4. Environmental Permit

Frank Saunders and Phil Lee offered an overview of the Environment Agency's local engagement plan associated with the Environmental Permit.

In summary, it was explained that as a High Public Interest project, once the Environmental Permit had been issued and 'duly made' (i.e. all information had been submitted to allow the Environment Agency's scientists to review the technical data), pre-application meetings would be arranged locally. The meetings are intended to inform members of the public as to how the Environment Agency will review the Environmental Permit application, i.e. the air quality information will be reviewed by the Environment Agency's AQMAU team of scientists based in Cardiff.

The consultation period for the Environmental Permit is 28 days following a duly made submission; locally the engagement process will comprise: local newspaper advertisements; the preparation of information offering an explanation of how the application will be reviewed; and, an informative drop in event that will be held at a local venue attended by Environment Agency scientists, representatives of the national and local permitting teams and representatives of ECC.

Frank Saunders suggested that whilst a venue had not been fixed for the drop in event, the Environment Agency are considering holding it at either Coggeshall or Silver End Village Halls. It was noted that the team at the Environment Agency's Feering office would be leading the engagement process.

The Environment Agency's objective is to engage with Parish Councils and brief Members of Parliament and the County and District Authorities to explain how the Permit will be reviewed. It was noted that the Environmental Permit would be subject to a detailed compliance assessment that would take a number of weeks/months to complete.

5. IWMF Financial Contributions

Steven Smith explained that if the IWMF was developed it was estimated that around £1 Million would be available to Braintree District Council to spend on local services through local business rates, and the IWMF's contributions to a Community Trust Fund would be up to £42,650 each year to support local environmental schemes.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Subject to the submission of details it was suggested that the next meeting would be held towards the end of June/early July or September 2015.