

Cornwall energy recovery centre

Community forum meeting minutes 2020

Meetings

Wednesday 01 December 2020

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meeting minutes

Subject	Meeting
Date	01 December 2020
Location	Virtual via TEAMS
Recorder	Natalie Chard

Present

Name	Initials	Company	Title
Dick Cole	DC	Cornwall Council	Councillor St Enodor
Fred Greenslade	FG	Cornwall Council	Councillor St Dennis and Nanpean
Patrick Daws	PD	SUEZ	General Manager
Tony Burge	TB	SUEZ	Plant Manager
Natalie Chard	NC	SUEZ	Senior Community Liaison Manager

Ref	Note	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>NC explained that only 2 other forum members had replied to the email sent out the previous week with the offer of a virtual meeting or email. Both had requested any update to be sent via email and therefore NC advised that she take minutes of the meeting and would send these out along with the presentation for all forum members to review.</p>	NC
1.1	<p>PD introduced himself and explained the role he plays within the PFI contract. He stated that he was the primary interface with the Contractor CERL and with</p>	

	<p>Cornwall Council and that SUEZ are employed by CERL to run operations across all the household waste facilities in Cornwall.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p>CERC presentation – increase tonnage</p> <p>PD referred to the notification sent to Councillors from Cllr Rob Nolan and the separate communication sent to forum members explaining the need for the extension in processing tonnage through the CERC. PD also noted that Cllr Nolan had introduced the need for the capacity increase during last week’s Neighbourhoods Overview Scrutiny Committee (NOSC) meeting. He then started his presentation by giving an overview of the events that have happened over the course of 2020.</p> <p>PD explained that the beginning of 2020 started off as normal but that as soon as lockdown looked likely to be announced SUEZ started to review its contingency plans, not just in Cornwall but across the whole of the business. During this process discussions with the EA were undertaken reviewing all of the facilities to look for flexibility during the pandemic given the uncertainty that lay ahead. He explained that the EA were sympathetic and understood that we were facing a crisis and that the CERC represented a critical component of infrastructure that needed to be protected. This allowed SUEZ to produce Business Continuity Plans that were then shared with Cornwall Council.</p> <p>PD went on to explain that when lockdown happened on 24 March 2020, SUEZ started to see trends developing for example third party waste stopped very quickly, there was a reduction in waste from the HWRC’s as SUEZ had been instructed to shut the HWRCs and these weren’t reopened until 19 May 2020. There was also much uncertainty as to how long lockdown would persist for.</p> <p>PD highlighted that because of pandemic and restrictions in place with most of the population working from home SUEZ saw a huge rise in kerbside residual waste but that it had been anticipated that from the 04 July 2020 when lockdown ended that third party waste would start to increase and residual waste would decrease. However, he explained that in Cornwall during the holiday season there had been a rise in the number of holiday makers, and this meant that domestic waste levels continued to be elevated. It was clear from that point if residual waste levels remained elevated it was likely that there would be a need to exceed the 240,000 tonnes of waste by the end of the year. Talks then began with the Cornwall Council.</p> <p>PD advised that the EA granted a dispensation to 280,000 tonnes in consideration of continued compliance with Emissions Limits Values and explained however that looking at waste levels, even if the CERC ran at full burn it was now anticipated that the facility would process around 250,000 tonnes by the end of the year. He referred to the continued uncertainty of how third party waste will recover and that the rise in total residual waste equated to a 5%</p>	

	<p>increase, but that kerbside waste alone showed a 10% increase compared with a normal increase of 0.5% allowed for population growth each year.</p> <p>At this point PD referred to a graph in his presentation which compared the levels of waste month by month over 2019 and 2020. He highlighted that the household waste has a lower energy content and therefore more tonnes are needed to generate the same amount of electricity. He also explained that the increase had been compounded as the effect had largely occurred in the second half of the year.</p> <p>PD stopped and asked if anyone had any questions.</p> <p>DC then asked how long the dispensation is for and will the tonnage level revert back to 240,000 tonnes next year.</p> <p>PD explained that there is a trend in rising residual waste and potentially this trend could continue however the dispensation that the EA have granted is only for 2020.</p> <p>DC then asked is the percentage of third-party commercial waste to domestic waste proportionally the same.</p> <p>PD stated that it is broadly the same, but that SUEZ had seen around a marginal 2% increase in third party waste (2020 vs 2019). He then went on to explain that this type of waste is required for blending with residual waste to ensure that the calorific value remains high to ensure efficiency of the plant. The Contractor also has a contractual obligation to blend commercial waste.</p> <p>DC then asked is 180,000 tonnes domestic waste.</p> <p>PD stated that last year it was 154,000 tonnes and that 162,000 has been predicted for this year.</p> <p>DC asked if there were any knock-on effects to any of the planning consents issued.</p> <p>PD inform the group that they had considered the possible increase in traffic movements, more waste requires movements however numbers are spread over the year and that there were no consented limits on traffic movements.</p> <p>FG referred to the graph and the peak of incoming waste and asked with that in mind asked if the CERC had capacity to step up to the demand over Christmas.</p> <p>PD explained that during December waste usually drops off with more of a pickup in January however the trend is an increase in recyclables at this time. He went on to explain that TB will already be planning on how outages and maintenance will be scheduled next year, and all this goes into the forecast. However, the forecast for waste this year has been difficult because of the lockdowns and the amount of waste needed to be processed at the back end of the year in a short space of time.</p>	
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	<p>FG then asked if there is a larger amount of kerbside waste would SUEZ decline commercial waste.</p> <p>PD stated that Cornwall Council can deliver up to 200,000 tonnes of household waste and therefore Commercial waste could be declined if need be.</p> <p>DC then referred back to talks about the CERC 10 years ago where the discussions stated that the CERC was principally for household waste and commercial waste was secondary. The predictions and data shared then stated that the CERC would be full of household waste by now. However, he stated that he understood that getting the correct waste blend with some commercial waste is needed.</p> <p>PD stated that it had been a very unusual year and that there have been huge increases in waste and recyclables, for example in April this year SUEZ saw a 40% increase in glass alone.</p> <p>FG asked TB looking at the current waste coming in are you managing to get a blend that is easily mixable.</p> <p>TB explained that it gets more difficult to mix and get the correct waste blend as the pit levels start to rise throughout the week. Commercial waste provides a high energy output and it is a balance between available space for kerbside waste and commercial waste. We are finding that we are reviewing this daily.</p> <p>FG asked that when food waste comes out will that mean it will give SUEZ more room.</p> <p>PD answered that over the next couple of years or so as the new collection contract will see quite a different dynamic with food waste removed. Black bin bag waste will be collected fortnightly, so recycling should go up. Recyclables that would have gone to the CERC should end up at the MRFs and it is expected that around 30,000 tonnes will come out of the residual waste stream.</p> <p>FG then asked where the food waste is due to go.</p> <p>PD explained that Cornwall Council have instructed that it should go to an anaerobic digester and that there is currently under taking a procurement process, however it is likely to be Devon.</p> <p>FG asked would there be an application for a plant in the Duchy.</p> <p>PD stated that SUEZ would love to build a facility but that there is current commercially viable solution.</p> <p>DC asked why and then referred to issues at a similar facility in Fraddon.</p> <p>PD advised that during the initial talks the facility at Fraddon had been considered but that a new facility would require a lot of upfront investment.</p> <p>DC asked for an explanation of what the commercial waste stream contained that meant it had a higher calorific value than domestic waste.</p>	
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	<p>PD explained that commercial waste contained a lot of plastic film and plastic packaging which had a high CV value. It also contained a lot of paper and cardboard.</p> <p>TB added that the shredded bulky waste from Connon Bridge helps with the CV as well as commercial waste from customers such as Nick Ferris. He clarified that the cardboard they receive is often contaminated with grease or dirt and therefore can't be recycled.</p> <p>DC then asked if local waste went up to 200,000 tonnes the mix would be 1:5 what would happen then, waste per head should go down but with all the new houses in Cornwall waste will increase.</p> <p>PD explained that contractually we are signed up to accepting 200,000 tonnes and so would have to comply but stated it is difficult to forecast what it will end up at.</p> <p>FG asked that the minutes reflected the tonnages accurately and the scenario that has brought about the increase.</p> <p>DC asked that if getting over the 240,000 tonnes is due to the commercial mix, could less Devon household waste be taken to ensure there is room for the Cornish waste.</p> <p>PD explained that the contract with Devon benefits all parties, it is for around 40,000 tonnes of waste each year and until 2029.</p> <p>FG added that the commercial waste that comes from campsites for example is surely the same make up as household waste.</p> <p>PD explained that waste that comes from holiday parks usually has a higher CV as holiday makers are not as stringent with their recycling and therefore the CV is higher.</p> <p>As there were no more questions at this point PD then went on to the second part of his presentation.</p>	NC
2.1	<p>CERC Presentation – Roof report and repairs</p> <p>PD referred to the recent NOSC meeting held on 26 November 2020 which went through the repairs and proposals. He went on to explain that in Phase 1 damaged components would be replaced making it ready for the Winter months ahead. He stated that repairs are already underway with a view to the repairs being completed by the end of January 2021, weather dependant. He explained that working at this time of the year was inefficient due to the weather and daylight hours and that because of this SUEZ had received a request for the contractors to be able to work over a weekend between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm to try to get the works completed as soon as possible. He referred to the work that would need to be completed explaining that workmen would be adding</p>	

new fixings using impact drivers and reciprocating saws so that noise levels would be minimal, the only anticipated impact on the community would be visual as they would be able to see workmen on the roof area in a safe manner with edge protection and harnesses.

PD explained that the planning authority were aware of the request for weekend work but that SUEZ wanted the opportunity to present first before regularising the position with the authority and then asked both Councillors for their thoughts.

DC stated he was happy for the works to go ahead explaining the working hours stated are just normal working hours and if the work need to be done over a weekend, it needs to be done he then asked if FG was happy with that, to which he stated yes.

DC asked if this latest round of repairs was going to be the end to the issue with the roof.

PD referred to the NOSC meeting last week and stated that SUEZ as an operator are as equally frustrated. He referred to the relatively exotic design of the roof structure stating although architecturally interesting they present more design challenges. He went on to explain that the design was undertaken by specialist UK consultants and the installation was carried out by reputable UK contractors, and although we refer to VINCI they are probably better known as Taylor Woodrow in their former state. He stated that he didn't think anyone can say that it won't happen again even though quality assurances have been given. During this process Cornwall Council have employed an independent specialist to oversee the investigation and CERL have now employed an independent roof specialist to oversee the latest round of repairs.

FG asked would any contractors be staying on site overnight.

TB answered that they will be travelling to the site daily with no overnight stops on site.

As there were no more questions PD thanked FG and DC for attending.

NC stated that she would write up the minutes and once complete send them on for review along with the presentation. She also stated that as the majority of forum members had not replied to the email asking if they wanted virtual meetings or email operational updates that she would send out an operational update to the community forum members about the proposed weekend works.