

# Cornwall energy recovery centre

## Community forum meeting minutes

### **Meetings**

Wednesday 27 June 2022	2
Wednesday 01 December 2020	8



recycling and recovery UK

## meeting minutes

Subject	CERC Community Forum Meeting
Date	27/06/2022
Location	CERC
Recorder	Lisa Thompson/Sarah Cotton
Chair	Julia Clarke

**Present**

Name	Initials	Company	Title
Julia Clarke	JC	St Dennis Parish Council	Chair
Tony Burge	TB	SUEZ	Plant Manager
Jackie Ward	JW	Cornwall Council	Head of Waste
Keith Truscott	KT	St Stephens Parish Council	
Julie Broad	JB	St Stephens Parish Council	
Sharron Kelsey	SH		Resident
Lisa Thompson	LT	SUEZ	Senior Community Liaison Manager
Sarah Cotton	SC	SUEZ	Education and Community Officer
Dick Cole	DC	Cornwall Council	Councillor

Ref	Note	Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies from Patrick Daws and Ken Rickard. JC thanked SUEZ for holding an in-person meeting and introductions were made.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Approval of minutes</b>	
2.1	LT displayed the minutes from the last meeting on the screen. JC highlighted that the meeting was held in 2020 and that we now have some different Councillors in position.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Operational Update</b>	
3.1	<p>TB gave a presentation outlining the operational update.</p> <p>DC asked about waste tonnages. TB answered that the size of the plant links to the limits.</p> <p>KT asked if lorries from Devon use the CERC. TB answered that the North Devon contract comes here. Third party waste is usually local, with some from Exeter.</p> <p>KT asked if Cornwall produces enough waste for the CERC. TB answered that the CERC is unable to process certain items and there is a size limitation which means that bulky items need to go to Connon Bridge to be shredded. None of this goes to landfill as once it is the correct size, it can be processed at the CERC.</p> <p>KT asked if the mileage was a consideration. TB replied that the bunker has capacity to store items and then be taken to Connon Bridge in one trip.</p> <p>DC asked about the ratio of domestic to commercial waste. TB will provide this information in a slide for the next meeting.</p> <p>JC added that a tour may be beneficial so that the group can observe the process from start to finish.</p>	TB
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Operational Update</b>	

4.1	<p>TB updated the group on the roof issues from 2020. KT, JB and SK all observed the issues. TB confirmed that the roof works were completed in 2021.</p> <p>DC asked if there was a confirmed location for the G7 money. TB answered there was not a confirmed location yet. DC highlighted that after the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, applications went nowhere and the generic message received is that there is not as much money from the government as expected. KT also mentioned problems with this.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Emissions Monitoring</b>	
5.1	TB updated the group on the emissions reports from February to May.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Health and Safety</b>	
6.1	TB updated the group on the minor issues and near misses from February to April.	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Visitor Update</b>	
7.1	LT updated the group on the Visitors centre activities and community outreach. KT commented that the Treviscoe park initiative supported by SUEZ is lovely to see.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>News Update</b>	
8.1	LT updated the group on the community engagement events that had taken place since 2020.	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>St Dennis and Nanpean Trust Fund</b>	
9.1	<p>JC updated the group on the amount the Trust has been able to donate. This includes a new building for a local primary school. KT and JC agreed that an official opening of the building would be appropriate. JC also commented that the St Dennis over 70's group was well attended.</p>	
9.2	<p>JC updated the group on the community fund budget. DC commented that some of the money in the stated amounts is already earmarked for other projects. JC agreed that the amounts stated are the current balance with more money to come out soon. JC to get final figures to the group.</p>	JC

	<p>DC stated that more projects with more money required the need to source from alternative revenues as well as the Trust. This will allow the Trust to support projects more widely.</p> <p>JW highlighted that it was good to see so much money being spent after not doing so for so long.</p> <p>JC commented that she had to go directly to groups and organisations to get them to apply.</p>	
<p><b>10.0</b></p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p>	
<p>10.1</p>	<p>KR submitted comments. He will have access to the minutes after this meeting as all agreed to KR joining the group. LT read out KR’s comments and the SUEZ responses.</p> <p>KR’s comments are as follows:</p> <p>“1 Electricity produced and emissions charts, being updated daily, or as up to date as possible. (Sometimes it is months behind, until recently, for some considerable time the last entry was January 2022.)”</p> <p>SUEZ response: Information is uploaded to the website on a weekly basis. Where there have been technical difficulties in the past, these have been rectified.</p> <p>“2 Prior information of repairs and maintenance, including what effect it has on the level of operating, i.e. respective line shutdowns, stock piling or landfill, along with the actual dates.”</p> <p>SUEZ response: We update the forum ahead of planned shutdowns and post an update on our website.</p> <p>“3. Prior information when start-up will take place, the recent start-up caused considerable adversity and inconvenience to the local population regarding excessive noise, smells and air quality, all effecting local quality of life.”</p> <p>SUEZ response: No complaints were received during the recent start-up. The Forum is notified about re-starts and updates are posted on the website.</p> <p>JC stated that the Parish Council will distribute the Forum minutes on their channels.</p> <p>JC highlighted that if we do not receive complaints, we cannot respond to them. SK added that they did not notice any odours.</p> <p>TB stated that the air is pulled into the facility through negative air pressure, during shut down this is not happening, so that is the time when odour might be</p>	<p>JC</p>

	<p>noticed.</p> <p>JC made a request for lavender deodoriser to be used.</p> <p>DC expressed condolences for a member of the public (Elizabeth Hawken) who previously came to these meetings, having passed away in December 2021. JW echoed this sentiment as did the other members present.</p> <p>KT recently followed a non-SUEZ lorry out of Treviscoe, which took a long route to the A30. KT questioned if the road SUEZ uses is available.</p> <p>TB answered that the road SUEZ uses is a council road.</p> <p>DC added that it is a historic problem. “Complimentary measures” guaranteed money to this project, but that money is no longer guaranteed.</p> <p>KT highlighted that the direct route to the A30 avoiding the villages is the quickest and fuel is being wasted.</p> <p>TB highlighted that by law SUEZ vehicles must use the designated road. If a SUEZ vehicle is observed not using this route, it must be reported.</p> <p>JC suggested a joint meeting with highways department.</p> <p>KT asked how policing it would work.</p> <p>DC added that Fred Greenslade worked on it for years and it would be good to see how far he got and if we could take it further.</p> <p>A discussion was had about the possibility of trains delivering waste to the CERC.</p> <p>TB highlighted that train links were not viable and that the CERC only processes Cornwall’s waste.</p> <p>KT asked if it was enough to keep going.</p> <p>DC added that train links were a possibility, not a reality as the CERC has A30 access.</p> <p>KT asked what percentage of Cornwall’s energy is made by the CERC.</p> <p>TB answered that 22 MW per hour is exported to the grid but was not sure how much electricity was imported to Cornwall through the grid.</p> <p>DC added that the energy is not only for domestic properties as it includes commercial ones. Cornwall is still importing energy and questioned why battery storage is not being looked at.</p> <p>TB answered that most places import energy and that the CERC generates the energy for either domestic or commercial purposes.</p> <p>DC commented that Cornwall Council talks about everyone doing their share. DC feels that contentious applications should be done elsewhere as we are already doing “our share”.</p> <p>JC commented that battery storage applications may impact on the solar farms.</p> <p>DC added that battery storage was previously proposed with a consultation 12 months ago.</p>	
	<p>AOB</p>	

	<p>DC asked that the break down of total tonnages from municipal and commercial streams are discussed. TB and LT to action this.</p> <p>TB and KT discussed where the waste from Devon travels from.</p> <p>KT asked if ash is mixed with concrete blocks. TB answered that aggregate made from the ash is used in Cornwall and not pulled away from the area very often.</p>	<p>LT/ TB</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting</p>	
	<p>Monday 30 January 2023</p>	

## 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><b>Welcome and apologies</b></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><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>CERC presentation – increase tonnage</b></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><b>CERC Presentation – Roof report and repairs</b></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>	

	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DC asked if this latest round of repairs was going to be the end to the issue with the roof.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FG asked would any contractors be staying on site overnight.</p> <p>TB answered that they will be travelling to the site daily with no overnight stops on site.</p> <p>As there were no more questions PD thanked FG and DC for attending.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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