# Cornwall energy recovery centre (CERC) COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING MINUTES

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### meeting minutes

Subject	CERC Community Forum Meeting
Date	24/07/2023
Location	CERC
Recorder	Lisa Thompson/Sarah Cotton
Chair	Julia Clarke

#### Present

Name	Initials	Company	Title
Julia Clarke	JC	St Dennis Parish Council	Chair
Elliot Millar	EM	SUEZ	EfW Operations Manager
Jackie Ward	JW	Cornwall Council	Head of Waste
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
Paul Wadley	PW	St. Stephen Parish Council	

Ref Note	A
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1.0	Welcome and apologies	
1.1	JC opened the meeting. Apologies were received from Ken Rickard, Tony Burge, Chris Lynn.	
2.0	Approval of minutes	
2.1	Minutes were adopted.	
3.0	Matters arising	
3.1	JW updated that the planning permission for the haul road states it was designed for CERC access and that it is currently at capacity, with the possibility of IMERYS traffic potentially being able to utilise the road. JC asked if the grit concerns had been taken into account on this road. JW answered that it has been noted and that access along the haul road by general HGVs is not being considered.	
	A community litter pick organised by St Dennis Parish Council was attended by SC and LT.	
	TB is investigating the options for external lights. EM added that outside lights are on automatic mode with only those needed for safety remaining on. SK asked if the lights can be angled to reduce the light. EM added there will be consultations with contractors for changes.	ТВ
4.0	Operational Update	
4.1	EM updated the group on the operations around the site. SK asked about the annual limit for waste received at CERC. EM answered that the annual limit is 240,000 tonnes and that the furnace runs faster to help manage the bunker levels during the plant shut down.	
5.0	Emissions Monitoring	
5.1	EM updated the group on the emissions data. JC asked why there are spikes in emissions. EM answered that there is a higher average because of the start-up process after the plant shut down. Emissions levels after during start up are managed by increasing or decreasing the level of lime.	
6.0	Health and Safety	
6.1	EM updated the group on health and safety data.	
7.0	Visitor Update	



7.1	LT updated the group on the visitor's centre and community engagement projects. JC asked if there are more or fewer groups in the Summer. LT answered that we have other groups such as Girlguiding groups instead of school groups, alongside the consistent adult groups.	
	LT invited all attendees to the beach clean planned at Perranporth beach on Saturday 7 October.	
	SK added that St Dennis ClayTAWC appreciated the SUEZ staff who volunteered to clear vegetation at the community centre.	
8.0	St Dennis and Nanpean Trust Fund	
8.1	JC updated the group on the support the Trust has given to groups in the area of benefit. JC added that it would be great to see more applications coming into the Trust. JC added that an AGM for the Trust is set to meet, with applications to be discussed there.	
	DC added that an application was going through using multiple grant sources, this method being useful for groups to access more resources.	
	A question about the area of benefit was revisited up by PW. The resultant conversation followed similar lines to the discussion which took place at the 30 January CERC Forum meeting. PW would like the area of benefit extended to the St Stephen-in-Brannel area. The conversation concluded with the advice being given by LT that the question should be taken to the Trust AGM later on in the week. Any decision about the area of benefit would need to be discussed and agreed by the Trust.	
9.0	Questions	
9.1	KR submitted comments. KR will have access to the minutes and the presentation will be emailed to all members of the Forum. LT read out his questions and SUEZs responses.	
	Considering the recent planned staggered shutdowns of both lines of the incinerator, meaning that only line working at a time, how will the normal amount of generated waste be treated, will a certain percentage have been transported to other disposal treatment sites, if it is, how much tonnage will that involve a week, and where and how will that be treated?	
	With regard to the recent incinerator shutdowns, it is obvious that some of our normally generated waste had to be treated elsewhere, how much (tonnage) did this involve and where was this waste treated? I have been informed by friends that some of our waste has been received at a site in Leicester, I would appreciate it if you could tell me how much tonnage of our waste was taken to Leicester and any other treatment plants, also how long did this practice go on	



for? Also I find the electricity produced and emission charts are still not up to date, is there a problem?	
<b>SUEZ response</b> : The waste that is delivered to the CERC during the shutdown is closely managed to ensure there is enough space for direct delivered Refuse Collection Vehicle waste. With one line operational at least 50% of the delivered waste is processed. During shutdown, the waste bunker level will continue to rise until it reaches a point where diversion of waste needs to be considered. There are many influencing factors to this decision process however, essentially as little waste as possible is diverted to the established contingency disposal points situated out of Cornwall. Around 21% of the waste we received during the shutdown, from all the residual household waste that was collected at the kerbside or delivered to the Household waste and recycling centres was diverted to landfill outside Cornwall.	
The emissions data on our website is appearing correctly. We are happy to provide Mr Rickard with technical assistance, either in person at his home, or online, or via a telephone call, at his convenience, so that we can show him how to access the data.	
Where and how will the collected food waste be processed?	
<b>SUEZ response</b> : Food waste will be collected from households on a weekly basis by either a dedicated food waste collection vehicle or within a compartment on the recycling collection vehicle. It will then be taken to a bulking transfer station before moving to an anaerobic digestor facility just over the county border in Devon.	
What is the Carbon Footprint of the incinerator? As my question was not answered in a positive manner, does this mean that Suez and Cornwall Council's officers are not aware of the incinerators carbon footprint?	
<b>SUEZ response</b> : We measure CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from our energy recovery facilities and report this information to the Environment Agency in the annual report. CO <sub>2</sub> emitted fluctuates depending on the composition of the waste being treated.	
Please find below CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the CERC for the last two years:	
2022	
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions 225,013 tonnes	
Biogenic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions 53.61%	
2021	
CO2 emissions 197,025 tonnes	
Biogenic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions 59%	
Whilst these figures look large, processing waste at the CERC has enabled us and Cornwall Council to move away from landfill disposal, a move which in itself	



11.1	Monday the 29 <sup>th</sup> of January 2024.	
11.0	Date of next meeting	
10.1	SK added that an update on the lighting situation would be good as Winter is a concern. DC asked if the PowerPoint could be sent out.	TB LT
10.0	АОВ	
	DC asked about the relevance of Biogenic carbon. LT explained that these emissions are the result of carbon generated from biological matter. DC added that the answer was not in layman's terms and some aspects did not need to be included such as the vehicle movements.	
	gives us a significant CO <sub>2</sub> saving. In addition, the plant and National Grid can benefit from the waste which cannot be recycled by electricity generated. At SUEZ, we are working nationally to reduce the carbon impact of managing our customers' residual waste by both reducing the carbon content of the waste itself and by investing in the development of technology which has the potential to capture the carbon dioxide in the future.	



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### 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	ТВ	SUEZ	Plant Manager
Jackie Ward	JW	Cornwall Council	Head of Waste
Keith Truscott	кт	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
1.0	Welcome and apologies	
1.1	Apologies from Patrick Daws and Ken Rickard. JC thanked SUEZ for holding an in-person meeting and introductions were made.	
2.0	Approval of minutes	
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.	
3.0	Operational Update	
3.1	<ul> <li>TB gave a presentation outlining the operational update.</li> <li>DC asked about waste tonnages.</li> <li>TB answered that the size of the plant links to the limits.</li> <li>KT asked if lorries from Devon use the CERC.</li> <li>TB answered that the North Devon contract comes here. Third party waste is usually local, with some from Exeter.</li> <li>KT asked if Cornwall produces enough waste for the CERC.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>KT asked if the mileage was a consideration.</li> <li>TB replied that the bunker has capacity to store items and then be taken to Connon Bridge in one trip.</li> </ul>	
	DC asked about the ratio of domestic to commercial waste. TB will provide this information in a slide for the next meeting. JC added that a tour may be beneficial so that the group can observe the process from start to finish.	ТВ
4.0	Operational Update	

0.2	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.	
9.1	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.	JC
9.0	St Dennis and Nanpean Trust Fund	
8.1	LT updated the group on the community engagement events that had taken place since 2020.	
8.0	News Update	
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.	
7.0	Visitor Update	
6.1	TB updated the group on the minor issues and near misses from February to April.	
6.0	Health and Safety	
5.1	TB updated the group on the emissions reports from February to May.	
5.0	Emissions Monitoring	
	TB confirmed that the roof works were completed in 2021. 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.	
4.1	TB updated the group on the roof issues from 2020. KT, JB and SK all observed the issues.	

	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. JW highlighted that it was good to see so much money being spent after not doing so for so long. JC commented that she had to go directly to groups and organisations to get them to apply.	
10.0	Questions	
10.1	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.	
	KR's comments are as follows:	
	"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.)"	
	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.	
	"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."	
	SUEZ response: We update the forum ahead of planned shutdowns and post an update on our website.	
	"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."	
	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.	
	JC stated that the Parish Council will distribute the Forum minutes on their channels.	JC
	<ul><li>JC highlighted that if we do not receive complaints, we cannot respond to them.</li><li>SK added that they did not notice any odours.</li><li>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</li></ul>	

 noticed. JC made a request for lavender deodoriser to be used.	
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.	
<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>TB answered that the road SUEZ uses is a council road.</li> <li>DC added that it is a historic problem. "Complimentary measures" guaranteed money to this project, but that money is no longer guaranteed.</li> <li>KT highlighted that the direct route to the A30 avoiding the villages is the quickest and fuel is being wasted.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>JC suggested a joint meeting with highways department.</li> <li>KT asked how policing it would work.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
A discussion was had about the possibility of trains delivering waste to the CERC. TB highlighted that train links were not viable and that the CERC only processes Cornwall's waste. KT asked if it was enough to keep going. DC added that train links were a possibility, not a reality as the CERC has A30 access.	
KT asked what percentage of Cornwall's energy is made by the CERC. 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.	
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. TB answered that most places import energy and that the CERC generates the energy for either domestic or commercial purposes.	
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". JC commented that battery storage applications may impact on the solar farms. DC added that battery storage was previously proposed with a consultation 12 months ago.	
AOB	

DC asked that the break down of total tonnages from municipal and commercial streams are discussed. TB and LT to action this.	LT/ TB
TB and KT discussed where the waste from Devon travels from.	
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.	
Date of next meeting	
Monday 30 January 2023	



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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	ТВ	SUEZ	Plant Manager
Natalie Chard	NC	SUEZ	Senior Community Liaison Manager

Ref	Note	Action
1.0	Welcome and apologies	
	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.	NC
1.1	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	



	Cornwall Council and that SUEZ are employed by CERL to run operations across all the household waste facilities in Cornwall.
2.0	CERC presentation – increase tonnage
	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.
	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.
	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.
	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.
	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%



	increase, but that kerbside waste alone showed a 10% increase compared with a normal increase of 0.5% allowed for population growth each year.	
	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.	
	PD stopped and asked if anyone had any questions.	
	DC then asked how long the dispensation is for and will the tonnage level revert back to 240,000 tonnes next year.	
	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.	
	DC then asked is the percentage of third-party commercial waste to domestic waste proportionally the same.	
	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.	
	DC then asked is 180,000 tonnes domestic waste.	
	PD stated that last year it was 154,000 tonnes and that 162,000 has been predicted for this year.	
	DC asked if there were any knock-on effects to any of the planning consents issued.	
	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.	
	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.	
	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.	
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	FG then asked if there is a larger amount of kerbside waste would SUEZ decline commercial waste.
	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.
	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.
	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.
	FG asked TB looking at the current waste coming in are you managing to get a blend that is easily mixable.
	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.
	FG asked that when food waste comes out will that mean it will give SUEZ more room.
	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.
	FG then asked where the food waste is due to go.
	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.
	FG asked would there be an application for a plant in the Duchy.
	PD stated that SUEZ would love to build a facility but that there is current commercially viable solution.
	DC asked why and then referred to issues at a similar facility in Fraddon.
	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.
	DC asked for an explanation of what the commercial waste stream contained that meant it had a higher calorific value than domestic waste.
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	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.	
	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.	
	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.	NC
	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.	
	FG asked that the minutes reflected the tonnages accurately and the scenario that has brought about the increase.	
	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.	
	PD explained that the contract with Devon benefits all parties, it is for around 40,000 tonnes of waste each year and until 2029.	
	FG added that the commercial waste that comes from campsites for example is surely the same make up as household waste.	
	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.	
	As there were no more questions at this point PD then went on to the second part of his presentation.	
2.1	CERC Presentation – Roof report and repairs	
	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	



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 the 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.