

BENEDICT WHARF NEWSLETTER

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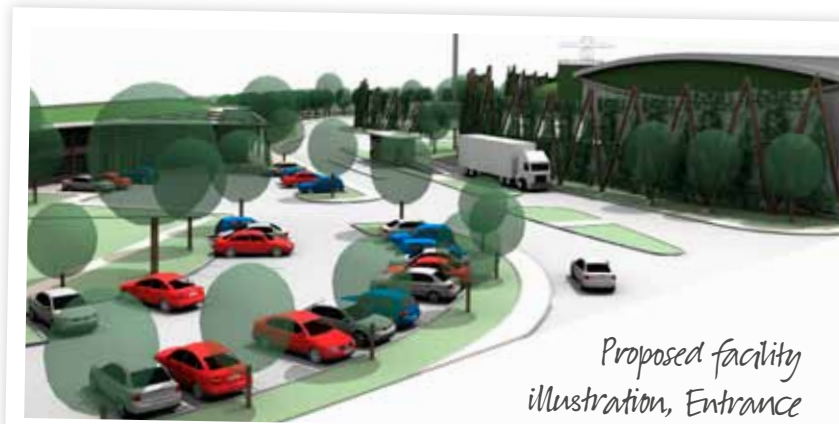
CREATING A MODERN FACILITY FOR A MODERN CITY

DECEMBER 2011

As you may know plans for an anaerobic digestion facility at Benedict Wharf, Mitcham, were approved by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

Following Merton Council's decision not to grant planning permission for our plans, we revised our proposals to take account of local concerns. These plans were submitted to the Greater London Authority, as the Mayor of London has the ability to determine planning applications, like ours, that are considered to be of strategic importance to London. The Mayor of London approved the plans on 12 October and a webcast of the meeting can be found on the Greater London Authority's website www.london.gov.uk

Now that we have planning permission, we will start work on the development in the New Year. We want to keep you involved every step of the way and overleaf you will find details of a community liaison group that SITA UK is proposing to set up, to keep the community informed about how our plans are progressing.



Proposed facility illustration, Entrance



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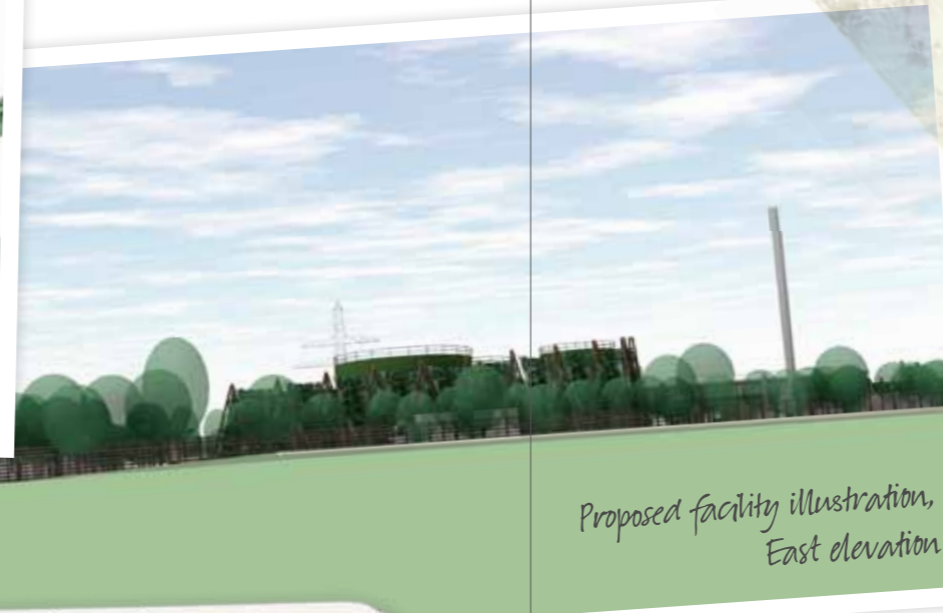
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*Proposed facility illustration,
view from the north*



*Proposed facility illustration,
East elevation*



What will be developed?

We will replace the current facility with:

- » An extended materials recovery facility, to separate up to 80,000 tonnes of recyclable material every year.
- » A waste transfer station to manage up to 40,000 tonnes of material a year.
- » An anaerobic digestion facility to process 40,000 tonnes of the capital's food waste per year.
 - » The anaerobic digestion facility will produce around 20,000 tonnes of compost / soil improver a year.
 - » The facility will also generate electricity and has the potential to provide renewable heat to local users, including the Wandle Valley Low Carbon Zone.
- » A visitor centre to allow children and members of the public to learn more about recycling and how we generate renewable energy from the waste we process.
- » A new administration section within the same building as the visitor centre.
- » £180,000 of investment for environmental improvements in and around the boundary of the site.
- » Demolition of the existing buildings and a thorough clean up of the land.

Next steps

Now that we have received planning permission from the Mayor of London, we can look towards building the new site. We are expecting work to begin in the early part of 2012.

The development will take a phased approach, with the new materials recovery facility being built first and the rest of the site being completed after this. The first thing we will need to do is demolish some existing buildings to make way for the new materials recovery facility. After these buildings are demolished the new building will go up and the materials recovery technology will be installed. The work on the materials recovery facility will take around a year and the site will continue to operate as normal throughout this period.

We want to be a good neighbour so we have taken a number of measures to minimise noise during construction and operation of the new facility. These include:

- » Restricted hours for demolition / construction activities.
- » Noise insulated buildings.
- » Specially designed equipment to reduce noise.

In the New Year we will also start some of the community improvements mentioned overleaf, including improvements to Hallowfield Way.

Community benefits

As part of the plans we have promised to deliver more than £180,000 of community improvements around the site. These include:

- » Improvements to the Baron Walk footpath and the junction with Church Path.
- » Softer looking style of security fencing.
- » Reduced tarmac and increased vegetation planting along Hallowfield Way.
- » Funding for Benedict Primary School to improve the section of palisade fencing at the south western corner of their playground.
- » Trees and plants to be introduced to the site.



Aerial view of the current facility

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

We want to keep you up-to-date with how our plans are progressing. As part of this we are inviting residents to join a Benedict Wharf community liaison group. The group will meet with SITA UK on a regular basis so we can update members on how our plans for the site are progressing and they can provide any feedback. Members can then go back to their communities and share this information and gather any questions to ask at the next meeting.

The group will provide a voice for the community to complement the work of elected members and would be independent to, but supported by, SITA UK, who would be responsible for any administration.

If you are interested in joining the proposed community liaison group, for information on the number of places and the process for joining, please contact Alison Bennett using the details below.

Contact us

For more information, please contact Alison Bennett at SITA UK on **01306 748400** or email **southeast@sita.co.uk**



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