



**Suffolk EfW Community Liaison Group  
Minutes**

Great Blakenham Village Hall  
Tuesday 21 June 2011  
6.30pm-8.30pm

**Attendance:**

Cllr Michael Blakenham (MB), Mid-Suffolk District Council  
Cllr John Field, (JF) - Chair  
Desma Girling (DG), resident  
Simon Harding (SH), Bury St Edmunds resident  
Derek Lockwood, (DL) resident  
Sophie Meudec (SM), resident  
Trevor Messenger (TM), resident  
Penny Pearson, resident  
Pamela Robinson (PR), Great Blakenham Parish Council  
Munaver Wafgstaff (MW), resident

**Observers:**

Manda Henry, (MH), Suffolk County Council  
Cliff Matthews (CM), SITA UK  
Anthony Durston (AD), SITA UK (minutes)

**Presenters:**

Daniel Smyth, (DS), RPS Group (Planning consultant to SITA UK)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Roy Barker (RB), Mid Suffolk District Council  
Cllr Lisa Chambers (LC), Suffolk County Council  
Shirley Fairburn, (SF) Gt Blakenham Parish Council  
Emma Smyth, (ES), SITA UK

Discussion	Actions
<p><b>1. Minutes and actions from the last meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes from the last CLG meeting were approved by the group.</p> <p>JF reported on the visit to an energy-from-waste facility in Portsmouth. This was arranged for the development control committee and JF also attended. JF noted that there were no issues of concern.</p> <p>JF commented that:  The energy-from-waste facility was located on an industrial estate. There were no odour issues of concern.  The waste bunker was full, but not overflowing.  There was no significant noise from the facility.  There has been one inversion incident causing a touchdown of emissions. (this has occurred on one occasion. The Environment Agency assessed this and it had presented no potential for harm).  The site was clean and tidy.  The ash area was damp – so dust was not a problem.</p> <p>The site is linked to the National Grid and produces around 18MW of electrical power</p> <p>Schools regularly visit the facility.</p> <p>There had been instances of noise issues in the commissioning phase, but these had been resolved.</p> <p>MW asked what the levels of background noise were like and was keen to understand decibel levels of the facility.</p> <p>DS agreed to point MW to the relevant part of the planning application where information about noise levels is contained.</p> <p>DS said that that the environmental health officer in Suffolk will set the level that the plant must achieve and the plant will be engineered to achieve this. In addition, the Environmental Permit, which will be issued by the Environment Agency, will confirm that the noise level set will be achieved.</p> <p>SM asked what is a reasonable level of noise.</p>	<p>DS</p>

DS said this is decided by the environmental health officer. Issues such as wind speed and direction can also have an effect.

#### Shrublands Hall

DS reported that discussions and a meeting had taken place with English Heritage who had concerns about the visual impact of the stack (chimney) on Shrublands Hall. Following the meeting, English Heritage had revised down their concern about the impact to views from the hall.

MB asked for clarification on the role of the Environment Agency (EA).

DS explained that the application for an Environmental Permit (needed to run an energy-from-waste facility) was submitted in January 2011. The Environment Agency is responsible for determining the Environmental Permit application. The EA will publish a draft permit for consultation independently of the planning process.

SM asked if meetings had taken place with the EA.

DS confirmed that meetings had taken place in Great Blakenham and had been advertised by both the EA the Parish Council.

DS said that there had been around 43 responses to the EA's consultation and the EA would again meet with members of the community before issuing the final permit.

SM requested that the group is notified of the EA consultation before it takes place. CM pointed out that the EA consultation is not controlled by SITA UK. The EA will be hosting a drop in session at Great Blakenham Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

MB asked about the potential for commercial and industrial waste. CM said that the facility had been sized to take all of Suffolk's residual household waste and there is also room for some commercial and industrial waste. CM said that SITA UK's primary target is to source all waste from Suffolk, however, the competitive nature of waste processing and the presence of landfill sites, means that the economic catchment of the plant may include commercial and industrial waste from Easter England. Economic factors –

namely the cost of transporting waste – would mean that it is not viable for waste to be accepted from far away. CM also confirmed that waste would not be brought in from London.

A discussion followed about the likely traffic levels to Mason's landfill site with waste being redirected to the energy-from-waste facility.

A discussion followed about the role of anaerobic digestion in Suffolk. CM said that SITA UK had taken part in a meeting about the development of an anaerobic digestion facility in the county. CM said that SITA UK is interested in a range of technologies and that Suffolk County Councils' waste policy includes a range of technologies for managing waste. CM also explained that anaerobic digestion is suitable for the biodegradable fraction of waste material.

Traffic – SH said that future lorry size could reduce lorries on the road by a quarter. DS said that the traffic surveys had not taken this into account and predicted numbers were based on the current size of vehicles.

A discussion followed about what community benefits could come from the development. The group agreed to discuss ideas before the next CLG meeting and to dedicate the next meeting to discuss ideas that could be put forward at the development control meeting on the 21 July 2011.

**Next meeting**

Next meeting (amended from original date) – Wednesday 20 July at 6.30pm.