

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

The community liaison group continues to meet, providing a constructive forum for a two-way dialogue with the local community.

The group, made up of parish, district and county councillors and local people, has been meeting each month since last autumn to discuss the key issues raised during the consultation. The group has also visited SITA UK's Kirklees facility, in West Yorkshire, to get a better understanding of how a facility operates and relates to the local community.

SITA UK has produced a number of fact sheets for the community liaison group which are available, along with minutes of the meetings, at www.suffolkefw.co.uk

If you are interested in joining, please let us know and we will put you on our database for the next vacancy.

BUSINESS OPEN MORNING

SITA UK is holding a business open morning on 17 June 2011 in Stowmarket. The event will allow Suffolk businesses to get a better understanding of how they can benefit from the construction and 25-year operation of the facility, including how they can become a registered supplier.

The open morning is for all Suffolk-based businesses, with priority for those closest to the former Highways Depot site. We would like to encourage businesses ranging from taxi firms and B&Bs to stationery and other suppliers to sign up to attend.

Attendees will hear about the opportunities available, the timetable for the development and meet the SITA UK team, including the main construction and civil contractors.

There is space for 100 delegates. If you would like to register your interest in the event, please contact us.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us:

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SUFFOLK ENERGY-FROM-WASTE NEWS

www.suffolkefw.co.uk

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AN ENERGY-FROM-WASTE FACILITY AT GREAT BLAKENHAM

JUNE 2011

SITA UK's proposal to develop a new energy-from-waste facility at Great Blakenham has continued to progress following the submission of the planning application in January 2011. This is due to be considered by Suffolk County Council's development control committee on 21 July 2011.

SITA UK has continued to refine the proposals and has been active in responding to queries from the community and the county council, as planning authority. This newsletter provides an update on work which has been undertaken since January 2011.

It also provides further information on how local businesses can attend our business open morning to find out about becoming a supplier for the construction and operation of the facility.

Proposals at a glance

The proposed energy-from-waste facility at Great Blakenham could:

- » Save the council and its taxpayers £350 million of additional expenditure over the 25-year life of the contract.
- » Save the equivalent of 75,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.
- » Use modern, highly regulated, proven technology to generate electricity from 269,000 tonnes of domestic and some business waste each year.

- » Generate 20MW of electricity – enough to power 30,000 homes – equivalent to a town the size of Lowestoft.
- » Recover energy from waste thus reducing dependence on fossil fuels to create electricity contributing towards Suffolk's aspiration to be the Greenest County.
- » Dramatically reduce the County's reliance on landfill.
- » Represent a £180 million investment in Suffolk and create around 43 permanent jobs and up to 250 temporary construction jobs. SITA UK will actively seek to employ local people and services (see back page for details of the Business Open Morning).
- » Potentially export heat to provide hot water and heating for local businesses.
- » Provide a visitor centre for school groups and members of the community to learn how to manage their waste more sustainably.



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Latest news

Over the course of the consultation period, it has become clear that there are three main issues of interest: transport and traffic, air quality and the visual appearance of the buildings.

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

SITA UK has undertaken a detailed transport study for the former Highways Depot site. This study concluded that the proposed facility, which is situated close to the A14, would represent an overall decrease in the traffic generated by the site, even with the growth of businesses in the Lodge Lane Industrial Estate.

We recognise traffic impact is frequently raised by local residents and we will continue to look very carefully at this issue.

NUMBER OF VEHICLE TRIPS IN AND OUT OF THE SITE EACH DAY

	Energy-from-waste facility	Highways Depot	Difference
Lorries	212	178	+34
Cars	96	502	-406
Coaches (for the education facility)	4	0	+4
Total	312	680	-368

DESIGN

The proposed energy-from-waste facility could set the design standard for similar buildings in the future according to the independent design watchdog, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

In its response to the planning application, CABE applauds SITA UK for commissioning world-renowned architects Grimshaws to design the building, describing them as 'a company with the reputation and expertise to deliver a design of the highest quality'.

It goes on to say 'This proposal for a new energy from waste facility for Great Blakenham has the makings of an outstanding new industrial building and a potential exemplar for industrial buildings of this kind'.

Grimshaws, famous for designing the Eden Project in Cornwall, wanted to make sure the building was 'in keeping' with the local environment by, for example, using angled louver panels at the top of the building to help it blend with Suffolk's famously open skies.

AIR QUALITY

All energy-from-waste facilities are required to operate under an environmental permit from the Environment Agency, which requires facilities to meet strict emissions limits set by the European Union under the Waste Incineration Directive.

The Environment Agency will only issue a permit if it is sure local people and the environment will be safe and protected. A draft environmental permit is expected from the agency in June 2011 and there will follow a further consultation before the final permit can be issued.

An Air Quality Assessment was undertaken over a 15-month period before the permit application was submitted. The assessment looked at the potential impact of the facility, associated traffic and any mitigation measures that might be needed.

The study showed that air quality in the area is currently good and would remain so when the facility is operating.

What other benefits would the energy-from-waste facility bring to the county?

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

As well as managing waste in a sustainable way, the project will create 43 full-time, long-term jobs. This will include a variety of roles such as management, administration, technical, engineering, maintenance and operational positions.

The project will also create jobs in associated industries such as: mechanical, electrical and engineering, welding and fabrication companies, scaffolders, test laboratories, shot blasters, industrial painters and metal finishing.

During the construction phase there will be 250 people employed on site, with many of these being drawn from the local area. Others will temporarily move in while they work on the project, and by doing so, will also contribute to the local economy.

In addition, there will be work for suppliers and sub-contractors.

TRAINING

SITA UK's project manager, Cliff Matthews, is forming links with local colleges to ensure the skills needed to run the facility are being developed locally.

Modern energy-from-waste facilities are operated, maintained and monitored to exacting standards. SITA UK places a great emphasis on developing and training staff. The Great Blakenham team will be a world-class skilled workforce, which will include apprentices and trainees who will have great opportunities for advancement within SITA UK.

SITA TRUST 

SITA UK supports communities across the UK through the SITA Trust.

SITA Trust is a funding organisation dedicated to making lasting improvements to the natural environment and community life. The Trust is a not-for-profit company and a registered and accredited environmental body that operates under the Landfill Communities Fund, distributing funds donated by SITA UK. In the last 13 years SITA Trust has supported more than 2,000 projects with a combined value of more than £74 million. The Trust is independent from SITA UK and has its own board, which decides which projects to support.

GOOD NEWS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

If planning permission is granted, the SITA Trust has announced that it will make funding available for community projects within a three-mile radius of the Great Blakenham site as soon as building work starts early in 2012 – normally, funding is not available until a site opens.

SITA Trust also runs other funding programmes that are not restricted to within three miles of a waste facility, which organisations in Suffolk can apply for now.

These include:

- » Young Person's Volunteering Fund
- » Enriching Nature – SITA Trust's fund for wildlife

Also, in late June 2011, SITA Trust will begin a new £1 million funding programme to enhance and protect Queen Elizabeth II fields across the country. This is an initiative to protect and create playing fields across the country. This new funding scheme is being supported by HRH the Duke of Cambridge.

You can find out about funding that is available from SITA Trust by calling the Trust direct on **01454 262910** or visiting their website – **www.sitatrust.org.uk**

