



South West Devon Waste Partnership Community Engagement Report – July 2011

MVV Umwelt's solution proposes a 245,000 tonne per annum capacity energy from waste facility located in North Yard, HM Naval Base Devonport, which is in the Weston Mill area of the Naval Base bordering Blackies Wood. The facility will be a combined heat and power plant providing environmentally sustainable electrical energy and heat to HM Naval Base Devonport.

MVV submitted its planning application to the Plymouth City Council Planning department in May 2011. The company has also applied for an environmental permit through the Environment Agency which was declared duly made in June 2011.

Provided planning and permitting approval is granted as scheduled, construction of the plant will begin in 2012, with operations commencing in 2014.

This report provides a summary of project related communication activities and written queries made between 08 April 2011 and 20 July 2011.

1. Communication activities

The **Incinerator Liaison Committee (ILC)** has been set up and 3 meetings have taken place so far in March, May and June. These meetings are attended by representatives from SWDWP, MVV, the Ministry of Defence and the Environment Agency. This committee was initially known as the Local Liaison Committee whoever a similarly named committee already exists linked to Devonport Naval Base so the name was changed.

11 April – **Plymouth Chamber of Commerce briefing.** The partnership along with MVV were invited by the Chamber of Commerce to present an update on the project and overview MVV's proposed long-term waste solution.

27 May – **MP briefing.** MPs were invited to a briefing on the project in the Council House in Plymouth; Alison Seabeck attended with Gary Streeter and Oliver Colville sending their apologies. South West Devon Waste Partnership provided an overview of the proposed North Yard solution and the planning application submitted by MVV.

The partnership also gave a separate briefing to Nick Harvey MP and Minister for Armed Forces at the Castle Centre in Barnstaple.

2 / 3 June – **All Councillor briefings.** Members of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council were invited to briefings in their area. These were held in the Council Chamber in Plymouth, Larkbeare House in Exeter and the Town Hall in Torbay. MVV also attended and provided an overview of their solution and the submitted planning application.

07 June – 16 June – **Exhibitions.** MVV held a series of public exhibitions in June 2011 in conjunction with SWDWP. These were held in 9 venues across Plymouth, Saltash and Ivybridge and approximately 450 people attended. MVV advertised the events in the local print and broadcast media along with libraries, shops and other public venues. MVV also published and sent over 20,000 newsletters directly to local residents notifying them of these exhibitions and updating them on the project and planning application.

Initial analysis shows that attendance at the exhibitions was lower than previously with 53 comment forms returned over the course of the events. Key concerns on the forms reflected previous exhibitions with traffic, emissions and impact on health, noise and appearance being the main issues. The appropriateness of the technology has also been questioned; MVV will seek to address these issues in future communications. A more detailed comparison of the exhibitions is provided in appendix 1.

IIW were invited and attended all exhibition events with a display setting out their main objections to the proposal. IIW also organised a demonstration and march outside the Guild Hall to coincide with the MVV exhibition there which was attended by around 30-40 people.

A class from Riverside Community Primary School attended the Tamar View Community Centre event before it was opened to the public. An officer from MVV and the Partnership talked the school children through the proposals.

17 June – **Dockyard staff briefing.** MVV and the Partnership held a briefing for workers within the Dockyard to provide information on the project.

05 July - **CHP Presentation** to professional associations of surveyors and energy assessors at Moorlands Links

08 July – **Presentation** to Torquay Boys Grammar School at the MVV office from MVV and the partnership. This allowed the 6th form pupils to see both the exhibition and 3D model available to the general public alongside receiving a detailed presentation on the North Yard project from the MVV planning manager.

2 Summary of written queries received

20 written queries have been received. The main concerns are around emissions, traffic, cost of the solution, the democratic process, ash produced and noise/light pollution. The partnership has responded to the all written queries received.

3. Media Enquiries and Liaison

Enquiries have continued to come in from various sources: Plymouth Herald, Heart Radio, BBC Spotlight and Radio Devon, who covered the exhibitions in considerable detail. The signing of the agreement for the Exeter energy from waste plant also generated some enquiries; coverage was focused on the county perspective rather than individual projects. The postponement of Devon County Council's planning committee to consider Viridor's planning application also sparked some media interest, but it was predominantly linked to the planning process rather than the partnership's current situation.

The partnership has been supporting MVV to write letters to the Herald to address some of the key and frequent concerns that arise in the letters page such as emissions, health and transport issues. In addition, the opportunity for the partnership to give a limited response (where appropriate) to some letters has been agreed with the Herald, so that both perspectives are printed simultaneously.

Appendix 1



Exhibition Comparisons Feb 2011 / June 2011

Attendance

Compared to the exhibitions in Feb 2011 attendance in June dropped by around 71%.

910 individuals attended the exhibitions in Feb and 268 in Jun ¹

For the individual venues there was a significant % drop in attendance as detailed below:

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Feb 2011</u>	<u>June 2011</u>	<u>% Drop</u>
Weston Mill Primary	96	46	52.08%
Watermark Ivybridge	40	8	80.00%
Gaynor Hall Keyham	51	13	74.51%
Guildhall Plymouth	339	60	82.30%
Community Centre Barne Barton	79	20	74.68%
Community Centre St Budeaux	215	89	58.60%
Main Hall Torpoint	50	12	76.60%
Community Centre / Guildhall Saltash	40	20	50.00%

Feedback

Only 14.9% of the attendees gave any feedback compared to 27.6% in the Feb exhibitions.

The main areas of feedback across both set of exhibitions both written and verbal were as follows:

- Traffic
- Impact of emissions on health
- Odour / Noise / Light pollution
- Visual impact
- Use of technology
- Ash disposal / transport of ash

These issues have been consistent across the duration of the project and were also identified as areas of concern prior to specific site selection.

Dockyard Briefings

Attendance at the dockyard briefings increased by almost 58%. There were 57 attendees in February and 90 in June.

Feedback forms were handed in by 12% of attendees in Feb and 4.4% in June.

Dockyard briefings are voluntary which indicates an increase in interest around the project and its potential impact within the North Yard and the dockyard in general.

¹ Figures exclude briefings held in the dockyard – please see section on dockyard for further information