



## **South West Devon Waste Partnership**

### **Communications and Community Engagement Report** **July 2011 to October 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 21 July 2011 and 17 October 2011.

#### **1. Communication activities**

The **Incinerator Liaison Committee (ILC)** was set up in March 2011 and meetings have continued, attended by representatives from SWDWP, MVV, the Ministry of Defense and the Environment Agency. MVV and SWDWP took a group from the committee to visit an Energy from Waste plant in operation in Sheffield on 17 October 2011. This plant is similar to the proposed facility both in size and setting and is well established in the local community.

14 September – **Presentation to Team Plymouth.** Senior Plymouth City Council managers received an overview of the proposed solution, the benefits this solution offers, and its importance to both the council and the dockyard. Attendees were also given the opportunity to read through the MVV newsletter and peruse the 3D model of the facility. This information was also made available in the foyer of the Civic Centre for the general public throughout September and October.

16 September– **MP briefing.** Local MPs were invited to an update briefing on the project in the Council House in Plymouth: Alison Seabeck, Gary Streeter and Oliver Colville attended. The Partnership provided an overview of the proposed North Yard solution and MVV summarised on the further information submitted under the Regulation 19 planning request. The 3D model was available for the MPs to help visualise the proposal.

16 September – **All Councillor briefing.** Members of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council were invited to a briefing on the project in the Council House in Plymouth. As before, the Partnership provided an overview of the solution, with MVV presenting further information submitted under the Regulation 19 request. The 3D model was also made available.

Prior to this briefing all Councillors were also sent a written communication paper providing information and clarification on several aspects of the proposed solution including ongoing

recycling commitments and an explanation of how PFI funding works. This is attached for your information.

16 September - **Joint Working Committee site visit.** A site visit was undertaken to allow the new members for the committee to familiarise themselves with the chosen site.

29 September - **Devon Environmental Services Managers Group meeting.** The partnership gave a presentation to the senior environmental managers for the Devon Local Authorities on the proposed solution. This was followed by a subsequent meeting in October with district councils in the partnership area outlining the requirements of service delivery. This was the first of a series of meetings that are required to allow a smooth transition for all councils to the new system of waste disposal.

14 October - **Presentation to the Devon and Cornwall Business Council.** The partnership along with MVV gave a presentation to the D&C Business Council in the Arundell Arms, Lifton, Devon on the solution and the wider benefits it can bring to the region.

17 October – **ILC Sheffield visit.** A group of committee members and representatives from SWDWP, MVV and the MOD visited an operational EfW facility in Sheffield. This visit was aimed at helping the committee to gain a better understanding of what an EfW looks like, how it operates and how it fits in with the local community and environment.

The new edition of the MVV Devonport Update was produced in October and this has been distributed to the households in the surrounding areas covering 18,796 addresses, plus 483 commercial and business addresses. Newsletters were also sent to those who responded by filling in contact details at public exhibitions, members of Plymouth, Devon and Torbay Councils, MPs, town councils, Plymouth libraries, community centres and schools.

## **2 Summary of written queries received**

Five written queries have been received by the partnership. 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.