



South West Devon Waste Partnership

Communications and Community Engagement Report **January 2012 to April 2012**

MVV Environment'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.

Further to the announcement in our last report of planning application approval, the planning permission document has now been formally issued and following the fulfilment of the pre-commencement conditions, MVV has commenced their site preparation works in phase 1 of their construction programme. These works are essential to separate the site from the Dockyard, providing the requisite security and include a new access road and services for the site.

The environmental permit application has also been successful and the permit has now been formally issued by the Environment Agency allowing the operation of the facility once construction is complete.

A new opposition group has formed: PlymWin, an offshoot of IIW. An initial application for an injunction by the group to halt the preliminary works on site, was rejected but legal proceedings to request a Judicial Review of the planning permission are still underway. This will require further communications support as it is likely to attract national media attention.

The majority of recent opposition activity has been focused on MVV's application for the Incinerator Bottom Ash processing facility at Buckfastleigh. An advertisement by the local opposition group was criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority as portraying the application and process incorrectly. The planning application has attracted substantial coverage in the local media, but it has not gone into the wider press.

This report provides a summary of project related communication activities and written queries made between February 2012 and April 2012.

1. Communication activities

Following planning and permitting approval the Partnership website has been updated and communication activities have concentrated on supporting MVV communications.

The **Incinerator Liaison Committee (ILC)** meetings have continued, attended by representatives from SWDWP, MVV, the Ministry of Defence and the Environment Agency. Several members on this Committee have recently resigned following the planning and permit approval but it is hoped that this Committee will be able to provide a valuable liaison and communication function now that construction has started on site.

Construction newsletter – MVV prepared and distributed a newsletter to the immediate local community detailing the phase 1 planned works. Copies of the newsletter were also emailed to the local ward councillors, members of the Joint Committee and Plymouth City Council Leader.

MVV have also appointed a **Community Liaison Manager** who is already in post and working

with the local community to address their issues and ensure they remain informed and involved.

Briefings on the project and the IBA application have been prepared for councillors and MPs; MVV has undertaken separate MP briefings in this regard.

Liaison has continued with the Environment Agency to align communications. The Environment Agency has also briefed Members following the award of the Environmental Permit.

2 Summary of written queries received

4 written enquiries have been specifically received by or referred to the partnership. The main concerns have related to emissions, traffic, cost of the solution, ash produced and visual impact. The partnership has responded to the all written queries received.

3. Media Enquiries and Liaison

Much of the media focus has been brought about by developments at neighbouring sites, such as Cornwall and Exeter, with updates being provided on the Plymouth development. Enquiries have come from the BBC, ITV, Western Morning News, Spotlight and Plymouth Herald as well as various trade magazines.

The BBC is currently interviewing residents about the issue being an election platform; the partnership has provided background information but no interview to date, given that purdah is in force in Plymouth.

The planning application for MVV's IBA facility at Buckfastleigh will be heard on 25 April at Development Management Committee at Devon County Council. This application is likely to attract media attention and the partnership will prepare an appropriate response.