

**STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
([www.stonehousecommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.stonehousecommunitycouncil.co.uk))

**Chairman:** George Smith

**Secretary:** Robert Freel

**Email:** stonehousecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

**Questions for Viridor meeting 9 March 2021**

	Question	Answer
1	Who initiated the contact to make the application? – SLC, Mr. Hamilton or others.	Viridor initiated their own pre-application discussions with South Lanarkshire Council on November 2019 which took place at Council offices in Hamilton. In addition to this, a follow up meeting was held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at Dunbar ERF where officers were provided a tour of the Facility.  It is our understanding that Hamilton's have maintained on-going dialogue with Officers at South Lanarkshire Council following approval of the Scotgen Application in 2011.
2	Did Viridor explore other potential sites in South Lanarkshire? How many.	Circa. 440 sites were assessed and full details of the alternative sites considered will be set out within an Alternative Sites Assessment which will be included in our planning application.
3	Were other sites in South Lanarkshire offered by SLC as an alternative site.? How many and what were they.	We have had no discussions with South Lanarkshire Council regarding the sale of any of their land holdings.
4	What is the attraction of the proposed site?	The land at Dovesdale Complex benefits from a 'live' planning permission for Energy from Waste Facility therefore the principle of this use has previously been accepted in this location.  The site also benefits from excellent connections with the strategic highway network and is appropriately distanced from any sensitive residential receptors. Scottish Planning Policy recommends a 250m buffer zone from any sensitive residential receptors for this type of development.
5	Why did Viridor not want to use the existing planning permission	The existing planning permission is for an Energy from Waste facility utilizing gasification technology. Viridor is proposing to use different technology which requires a significantly larger building. A change in technology and building design would require a new planning application to be made and after considering the site of the existing planning permission it was determined that the Overwood Farm site would be more suitable as it is in a less prominent location and would therefore help to minimize any landscape and visual impacts.
6	Did you have a site meeting at Dovesdale/Overwood with Officers of the	No, Viridor has not attended any site meetings with Planning Officers from South Lanarkshire Council. As detailed in our answer to Q1, Viridor has previously met Planning Officers at their offices in Hamilton.



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	Planning Department?	
7	At any time did the Planning department suggest that the site at Dovesdale would be more suitable to Overwood.?	<p>Viridor has not had any such conversations with Officers at South Lanarkshire Council.</p> <p>It is our understanding that pre-application advice was sought by Hamilton's several years ago, prior to Viridor's involvement in this project, and during these pre-application discussions several site options were discussed including the site at Overwood Farm.</p> <p>It was collectively agreed by both Hamilton's and Viridor that the site at Overwood Farm provided the best opportunity to minimise any landscape and visual impacts.</p>
8	Why have you gone for planning permission at this time during a Pandemic and when there can be no public meetings?	<p>Due sophisticated nature of a Viridor energy recovery facility, the construction programme alone can be up to three years, and that is why we are acting now, to ensure there is the waste infrastructure in place to help meet the Scottish Government's 2025 landfill ban and crucially playing our part in diverting this waste from landfill.</p> <p>Viridor places great importance on public consultation across all our proposals, and that is why it has been vitally important from the outset to follow, and indeed go above and beyond, the Scottish Government guidance regarding pre-application consultation that has come into effect due to the current Covid-19 situation. By closely following this guidance, we have developed a comprehensive engagement programme that will ensure all those with an interest in our proposals have the opportunity to view, question and importantly provide feedback on our plans.</p> <p>To date, our project website has had nearly 2,000 unique visitors, and for those without access to the internet, we have provided a freephone telephone number to so that direct contact can be made with the project team to request hard copies of the consultation materials and importantly ask questions or provide direct feedback.</p> <p>We hope, and are committed, to be able to meet face to face as and when restrictions are lifted. We are also keen, as mentioned, to arrange tours for the local community of our existing Dunbar ERF when it is permitted to do so.</p>
9	There are many companies listed under the Viridor group. What	At this stage, we expect Overwood ERF to operate within Viridor Energy Limited.



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	company within the Viridor group will operate and run the facility? i.e. Viridor Clyde valley, Viridor Glasgow, Viridor Energy.?	
10	Are you aware of the Campaign against this facility - and do you intend meeting with them?	We are aware of the Dovesdale Action Group and have already met with members of the group (23rd Feb). We hope to continue these meetings and will always be available to answer questions and address concerns that the group may have.
11	When do you intend to submit the planning application?	Late Spring/early Summer 2021 subject to progress on our environmental assessments and designs.
12	Can you explain the revoking of the CRRRF plant permissions and the subsequent legal agreement between all parties?	<p>A three-party Section 75 legal agreement would be signed between Viridor, South Lanarkshire Council and Hamilton's which would revoke the extant consent.</p> <p>This will be set out within our Planning Application. This legal agreement will need to be signed by all parties involved prior to the planning permission for Overwood ERF being issued.</p>
13	Your PAN indicates that Heat via Steam or Hot water could be exported to local users. Has this been explored locally or is it just a throw in comment.	<p>As part of our Planning Application and PPC Application, we will be submitting a Heat Plan which identifies potential heat users within the local area. This will include both residential and commercial/industrial uses and will make an assessment on the amount of heat that may be required for export.</p> <p>Overwood ERF will be designed to be CHP-ready which means that the equipment and technology will be installed into the ERF to ensure that heat can be exported should an appropriate end-user be identified either now or in the future.</p> <p>Viridor is keen to find opportunities within the local area to export heat from Overwood ERF and are working with various parties to explore its options. Viridor recently formed a partnership with expert heating provider Vattenfall to find and develop heat export opportunities using heat from their fleet of ERFs around the UK. More details can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
14	The application indicates 30.7MW of electricity will be generated to the national grid. Is this a monthly or annual figure?	This is an annual figure.



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15	Why put it back to the grid if it could benefit the community, especially if you indicate it could power 82,200 homes.	<p>The electricity generated by Overwood ERF is exported directly into the grid and then it is subject to distribution by the local grid operator, SP Energy Networks.</p> <p>Viridor is not a licensed energy provider which is why direct connections are not provided to homes and businesses within the local community.</p>
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	Question	Answer
16	What remuneration rate does Viridor obtain from the 30.7MW put back to the grid.	The price per unit of electricity which Viridor is paid for exporting electricity into the grid will be negotiated with SP Energy Networks prior to the commencement of operations at Overwood ERF. At this stage, no price has been agreed between both parties.
17	<p>A new substation will be created on site, can you advise the location and what route will your underground cable route take to connect to the grid.</p> <p>Is this a dual ownership substation</p>	<p>A new substation will be built on site adjacent to the ERF building. From here an underground cable will link the substation with the Strathaven substation. The underground cable will follow the route of the public highway.</p> <p>The on-site substation will be under dual-ownership with SP Energy Networks. .</p>
18	What are the proposed Emission Value levels for this plant, are they the same as Dunbar.?	<p>Emission Limit Values for Overwood ERF will be lower than what they are for Dunbar ERF as new limits have recently been set by SEPA.</p> <p>Emission Limit Values for Overwood ERF are provided in a separate document.</p> <p>Our ERFs operate well below their permitted Emission Limit Values – as an example please find attached a copy of the Annual Environmental Report for Dunbar ERF for 2019.</p>
19	Who is your proposed independent certified emissions monitoring contractor?	The independent certifier has not yet been appointed. This contract will be



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		awarded prior to operation of the ERF at Overwood.
20	Does the stack flare off gas, or does this only happen in an emergency and what processes are in place for a critical situation?	There is no requirement to flare off gas at an ERF either during normal or abnormal operating condition. Gases are not built up and stored at an ERF in the same way that might happen at an Anaerobic Digestion Plant for example. Any process gases are released via the stack after they have been treated to the correct levels.
21	What is the life span of the plant and will this mirror your proposed lease with Wm Hamilton's for the ground.	<p>As part of the procurement of Overwood ERF, the contractor appointed to build the facility will usually certify that the buildings and technology have a design life of 25-30 years, subject to a robust maintenance programme of course. If essential parts are required to keep the ERF operational then this will be undertaken by Viridor.</p> <p>Viridor will be making a planning application for a permanent planning permission and will not be seeking any associated limits on the life of the plant.</p> <p>Viridor will continue to monitor market conditions and assess the need for the ERF well in the future. Should market condition dictate that the ERF is no longer required then Viridor will need to make a commercial decision at that time on its next steps.</p>
22	Can you explain how this plant supports the circular economy?	This facility recovers energy from waste that cannot be recycled and would ordinarily be landfilled. If non-recyclable waste were disposed at landfill, over time it would break down and release methane into the atmosphere which has 20-30 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. In addition to this, very little energy is recovered at landfill sites and



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		<p>the waste remains in-situ for hundreds of years thereafter.</p> <p>Ash created as a by-product by the ERF can be taken offsite for reuse as an aggregate within the construction industry.</p>
23	How do you treat bottom ash residue and are there companies in Scotland that can treat it?	Ash produced across our ERF fleet is reprocessed and recycled, where possible, often for use in the construction industry. Plans for ash produced at the Overwood ERF are not yet determined and Viridor is currently engaging with the market to find an appropriate recycling opportunity for this product.
24	Do your plans have any effect on the Landfill at Overwood farm which has just applied to extend its operating licence for another 30 years.	No. Viridor has no links with the existing landfill at Dovesdale Farm.
25	Community Benefit – We are aware of your job creation on site however what are your proposals regarding any community benefit to be paid to the village?	We are in the early stages of developing a Community Benefit Package linked to the future operation of the Overwood ERF. As this progresses, we will look to keep the village updated and would welcome your input into this.

Question not asked:

**What odours are associated with waste bunker and how do you mitigate them?**

All wastes received at the facility will be unloaded inside an enclosed waste reception hall. The waste reception hall and waste bunker area will be retained at negative pressure. Air from the waste bunker area will be used as combustion air within the process. Negative pressure within the waste reception areas will minimise odorous emissions escaping the Facility.

Once operational, amenity issues such as odour would be controlled through the site's Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Permit, which will be issued and regulated by SEPA.