

# Tilbury Liaison Committee: Minutes: Summer 2014

<b>Date</b>	19:15, Wednesday 13 August, 2014
<b>Location</b>	Tilbury Community Association, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AA
<b>Attendees</b>	Rodney Barnard-Hill, Tilbury Community Forum (RBH) Tessa Dallyn-Roberts, Thameside Community Forum (TDR) Len Orpin, NGAGE (LO) Greg Ewing, ESB (GE) Michael Colley, ESB (MC) Dirk van den Esschert, BDI (DvdE) Alex Doel, Bellenden (AD)
<b>Minutes</b>	David Hendy, Bellenden (DH)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Bukky Okunade, Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward Cllr Clare Baldwin, Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward Felicity Drewett, Highways Agency Matthew Gallagher, Thurrock Council Paul Zanin, Tilbury Green Power

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## 1. Welcome

Alex Doel (AD) welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. LO noted that he was referred to as "Lee" on the Agenda and asked for it to be amended.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Okunade (Labour, Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward), Cllr Baldwin (Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward), Felicity Drewett (Highways Agency), Matthew Gallagher (Thurrock Council) and Paul Zanin (Tilbury Green Power).

TDR said that plenty of notice should be given to ensure councillors were able to attend.

### 3. TLC purpose/Terms of Reference

AD requested that the group review the Terms of Reference (attached) for the meeting, and stressed that the purpose of the Tilbury Liaison Committee was to review the construction and operation of the Tilbury Green Power Project. The Terms of Reference were agreed by the group. AD noted there was a typo in article 1.3 of the terms of reference and said that it would be amended.

LO queried why the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC) was included in the terms when it no longer existed. DH clarified that this was because TTGPDC still existed at the time the Unilateral Undertaking was approved.

### 4. Appointment of Chair

AD informed the group that Tilbury Green Power (TGP) would be appointing him as Chair for the group, and confirmed with those present that they had no objection.

### 5. Publication of minutes/details of members on website

AD explained that the Tilbury Green Power Project website was available at [www.tilburygreenpower.co.uk](http://www.tilburygreenpower.co.uk), and announced that agendas and confirmed minutes from the TLC would be published on the website in the interest of transparency.

AD asked whether all members of the group representing recognised community groups were comfortable being listed as members of the TLC on the website, and whether they were comfortable with the publication of their organisation's contact details. All members confirmed that they were.

**ACTION:** Bellenden to update Tilbury Green Power Project website with agenda, list of group members/contact details and minutes of the meeting (once confirmed).

### 6. Presentation: 'The Tilbury Green Power Project' (TGP)

DvdE introduced a presentation on the renewable energy policy context, the background to Tilbury Green Power Limited (including the various members of the consortium), the history of the site and the planning process to date – and the projected construction timetable for the project moving forward. GE stressed that the group were unlikely to see construction on the site itself until March/April 2015 at the earliest. He explained that ESB were due to take financial control of the project in October.

GE spoke about the functionality and design of the plant, explaining that the build process would take place in two phases; with the first phase – which would process waste wood to generate energy – generating a maximum of 42MW of power. The second phase – to be constructed at a later date – which would utilise Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF), would generate a maximum of 18MW, meeting the total licensed generating capacity of the Tilbury Green Power Project of 60MW.

GE explained that the generated electricity would feed into the National Grid, and would be linked to the Tilbury Sub-Station on the east side of Tilbury Docks.

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The presentation also included detailed on the noise impact of the plant, the operational activity levels, and the design of the second phase of the project.

**ACTION:** Bellenden to upload presentation slides to the Tilbury Green Power Project website.

RBH asked what the emissions from the finished generating station would be like. He stressed that the site was close to a school.

GE explained that the generating station was designed to minimise emissions, and would need to meet rigorous targets set by the Government. He said that there would be a range of measures in place – including scrubbers, dispersion of the plume and filtering involving active carbon, lime and urea – to ensure that these targets were met; and if they didn't ESB would receive a substantial fine.

LO asked what measures were being taken to ensure that large quantities of wood were stored safely, and to ensure that there wouldn't be a sudden increase of wood being hoarded in other areas of Tilbury.

GE replied that ESB were strongly aware of the dangers of storing large quantities of waste wood, and explained that the project was in regular contact with Tilbury's fire services to ensure that they had the best possible procedures in place to prevent any problems. He explained that they would be using infra-red technology to spot any 'hotspots' in the wood storage before they became dangerous, and that security would be extremely tight to prevent arson.

The continual operation of the plant would also prevent danger, with 800 tonnes of wood being processed each day – preventing large quantities of material being stored for long periods of time. He also explained that the fuel storage facilities – which would hold processed wood – would be equipped with foam suppressant equipment.

Finally, he indicated that the vast majority of all waste wood fuel would be delivered directly from local authorities (mostly Thurrock Council), and so it was extremely unlikely that there would be a build-up of unmanaged wood storage in Thurrock.

TD enquired where the power from the project would be fed into, and GE confirmed it would be delivered into the local power grid. LO also asked how much power 60MW actually represented, and DvdE replied that it would power 100,000 homes – equivalent to 100/150 wind turbines.

LO asked where the water required for the project would be sourced, and GE confirmed that the water would be sourced locally, cleaned extensively and constantly recycled.

LO asked what the operational life of the project was currently planned to be, and GE replied that the generating station would be running for at least 20 years; but that ESB would normally aim for a lifespan of 35 years. He noted that there was an ESB-owned project in Ireland that had been operational for 50 years.

TD asked where the waste metal recycled from the wood fuel would go once it had been used. GE confirmed that the metal would be separated from the wood, collected into fragments and recycled off-site.

### **7. Local employment opportunities (TGP)**

DvdE introduced a presentation on the Local Jobs Strategy for the project, which had been agreed with Thurrock Council, explaining that this was a condition of the scheme being granted planning consent. He explained that there were two different teams required. The construction of the project would require 250 construction workers, and the operational phase would require a small team of approximately 20 people.

TD asked how ESB would ensure that the jobs for the project went to local residents, rather than those that had only recently moved to the area – and what the extent of the commitment to local employment actually was.

GE responded that the project team would be working through a number of channels to ensure that local recruitment would be as high as possible, and that ESB had a corporate commitment to maximise this figure. However, he indicated that although every effort would be made, there were a number of very complex jobs – such as the construction and installation of the custom boiler for the project – which would require engineers from outside the United Kingdom to be employed.

He stressed that ESB was looking to be a long-term member of the local community, and that they were committed to being a good neighbour. He also pointed out that all workers on the project would be based in the local area and would provide a boost to the local economy – particularly during the 22 months of construction work. He also pointed that the local industrial character meant that the project was likely to find the required skills in the local area.

**ACTION:** ESB to confirm at next meeting their corporate policy on local community engagement

### **8. Construction timetable (TGP)**

GE introduced a slide on the construction timetable for the project, explaining that the overall programme would be 29 months and construction would require a 22 month programme of activity from the moment the first major construction on the site began. He said that the last five to six months would be spent 'fine-tuning' the completed project. The first 'test-firing' of the project would take place in month 23/24 of the timetable.

### **9. Date of next meeting**

AD suggested that the next meeting of the TLC could take place on Wednesday 12 November, and the group confirmed that this was acceptable. He also confirmed with the group that the venue – the Tilbury Community Association – was also acceptable.

**ACTION:** Bellenden to confirm date of next meeting and circulate agenda in late October

### **10. Any other business**

TD asked whether ESB had any commitment to funding for the local community. GE and DvdE confirmed that there was no requirement in the planning permission for any funding. GE explained

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that despite this, ESB was committed to being a good neighbour, and would look to understand if it could engage with the local community once they had taken financial control on the project later in the year.

AD suggested that community engagement would make a good topic of discussion at the next meeting, and GE confirmed that a community representative from ESB would attend. He discussed the possibility of the members of the group providing brief presentations on the local community to inform this work, and the group agreed.

**ACTION:** ESB to review potential for community engagement, and community representative from ESB to attend next meeting.

**ACTION:** Bellenden to include presentations from local community groups on next meeting's agenda