



Operator Liaison Group

Medworth CHP Ltd

Date and time of meeting: Thursday 23rd April 2026, 5:00-6:30pm

Venue: Oasis Community Centre
St. Michael's Avenue, Wisbech PE13 3NR

Present:

MVV (Developer/Operator)	Community/education organisations
• Gary Parkinson (Construction Manager) – GP • Jane Ford (Communications and Community Relations Manager) – JF • Courtney Fabela (Project Administrator) – CF • Andy Houghton (Community Liaison Manager) – AH	• Chris Stevens (Wisbech Community Development Trust) – CS • Marija Lysak (Support Cambridgeshire) – ML • Dal Roy (Wisbech Society Preservation Trust) – DR
Host Authorities/Regulator/statutory bodies	Residents
• Deborah Jeakins (County Planning, Minerals & Waste, Cambridgeshire County Council) – DJ • Environment Agency officer – EA • Andrew Dudley (Planning Enforcement Lead, Fenland District Council) – AD • Jade Allen (Planning Enforcement Team, Fenland District Council) – JA • Fred Leach (Walsoken Parish Council) – FL	• Wayne Cooke (resident) – WC • Alan Wheeldon (resident/WisWIN) – AW • Saxongate Residents representative – SR • Roy Gerstner (Whittlesey Town Council, representing the community) – RG

Item:	Notes:	Action(s):
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies	Apologies received: • Tim Marks (Head of Planning, MVV) • Paul Carey (Managing Director, MVV) • Scott McKie (Operations Manager) • Mike Turner (Managing Director, MVV) • Annette Williams (Wisbech Schools' Partnership) • Gena Ribeiro (Fountain Frozen) • Paul Sharman (North Level District IDB) • Chris Dawson (Norfolk County Council) • Keely Sargeant (Hair World) • Mervyn Sargeant (Hair World) JF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves for the benefit of new members joining for the first time. DJ confirmed CCC's role as the Relevant Planning Authority for discharging the DCO Requirements. AD and JA confirmed FDC's role as the Relevant Enforcement Authority for any breaches of planning control on the site. Annette Williams will be retiring from her role as co-ordinator for the Wisbech Schools Partnership; she will be replaced by Carly Hain who will receive future invitations to these meetings.	JF
2. Confirm/update agenda	There were no additional items to discuss or changes to the agenda.	

3. Construction update (MVV)	GP shared construction site progress photos since the last meeting. Main activities include: • Completion of secant piling for tipping bunker walls • Installation of box culverts for IDB drain crossings • Creation of temporary and permanent ponds • Commencement of excavation of the tipping bunker <u>Questions on site activity to date</u> AW asked what is running inside the box culverts. ➤ GP confirmed that they are just for water and ledges will be installed internally along one edge for mammals. SR asked whether any recycled aggregate is currently being used on site and whether any topsoil removed from site was contaminated with non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed. ➤ GP confirmed that no recycled aggregate is currently being used on site. ➤ GP confirmed that pre-construction surveys showed no evidence of Japanese Knotweed; some suspicious looking plants were identified in the early stages of digging the ponds but this was also proven not to be Knotweed. ➤ GP added that there is a discharge agreement with the IDB. The ponds act as storage before discharging surface water at green field run off rate into the IDB ditches; siltbusters are installed and the discharge point is metered. ➤ GP noted that third party water sampling is being conducted by consultancy firm, Wiser, and that there has been an improvement in water quality in the ditches since construction work commenced. ➤ EA noted that the operational Permit is not active yet. Forthcoming construction activities will be: • Main site ○ Blinding of the waste bunker to allow reinforcement works and concreting ○ Slipforming of concrete walls, which marks the start of structures coming up out of the ground (planned for mid to late summer 2026) • Section 278 works (New Bridge Lane access improvements) ○ Pre-commencement documentation is ready to submit to CCC ○ First activity will be creating the new bellmouth entrance to site (planned for mid-summer 2026) ○ Alternative pedestrian access will be created to maintain non-motorised user access ○ Widening works along New Bridge Lane from Cromwell Road ○ Traffic lights and works on Cromwell Road are planned for late winter 2027 ○ The grid connection route is at detailed design stage	
4. Host Authority update (CCC/FDC)	DJ stated that a pre-construction site visit had been conducted in conjunction with FDC's Environmental Health Officer. A monitoring visit was conducted today with the FDC Enforcement officers and the improved condition of water in the ditches was noted.	

	DJ provided an update on the Public Rights of Way and Non-Motorised Users (PRoW/NMU) funding from DA, who presented at the last meeting: • Liaison is ongoing with the council's delivery team • Communications planning is in progress • A section 106 project manager has been appointed (it should be noted that their remit is wider than just MVV's commitments and money has not been diverted from the PRoW/NMU money to fund this post) • A new Rights of Way officer will also be joining the council (again, this post will not be paid for out of the s106 money) • Consultation with Members and District Councils is planned CCC are placing the relevant documents on their website, as they are discharged; these can be viewed (with the most recent at the top) here: Simple Search / https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/ putting 'Medworth' into the search field. <u>Questions on planning matters</u> CS asked whether consultation on PRoW/NMU would be open to community groups. ➤ DJ advised that contact should be made directly with the Public Rights of Way team: Daniel.Ashman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk DR asked whether the new officers are in addition to the existing team. ➤ DJ confirmed that they are.	
5. Regulator update (EA)	EA confirmed that another site visit for officers will be arranged. The slides that were presented at the last meeting will be available once internal approval is received. JF asked whether everyone was happy for the minutes from the last meeting to be circulated/uploaded to MVV's website without the EA appendix and this was unanimously agreed.	JF
6. Other organisations update (CCF)	AH provided an update on the community fund on behalf of CCF, following a recent meeting with VA: • CCF are currently recruiting Panel Members to distribute the fund • Suggestions from the OLG are welcomed as CCF are looking for a diverse and representative group of people, including young people, to make up the panel • The aim is to have the panel in place by July <u>Suggestions and questions on the community fund</u> SR suggested contacting Clarion Futures. ML suggested the Fenland Youth Network and circulating on social media. Support Cambridgeshire can offer workshops to help groups apply for the funding as well. FL stated that VA had given a presentation at Emneth where they asked about the possibility of a 'job share' for Panel Members – more information is still awaited on this point. RG asked whether the 5km radius of benefit could be extended if other areas (e.g. Whittlesey) were affected.	VA

	➤ DJ pointed out that the geographical area of benefit is clearly defined in the section 111 agreement. ➤ JF added that the intention is to spend the money on community projects within the geographical area of benefit and that the Fund Panel can review that area if they find that they are unable to allocate the funding. <u>Post-meeting note</u> For the avoidance of doubt, the s111 discharge document (on which the operation of the Community Fund is based) states the following: 3.3 Geographical Area of Benefit 3.3.1 <i>The Geographical Area of Benefit has been defined as a 5km radius from the centre line of the chimneys of the Authorised Development, see Figure 3.1. Where such an imaginary line dissects a community, street or other cohesive unit, this may be waived to include that whole community, street or other cohesive unit.</i> 3.3.2 <i>The Geographical Area of Benefit may be reviewed by the Medworth Community Fund panel.</i> 3.3.3 <i>The Geographical Area of Benefit may only be altered through consultation with and approval from the Developer and Cambridgeshire County Council (as signatories to the section 111 agreement).</i> To avoid misunderstanding, please note the following clarifications: 1. The aim of the fund is to benefit those communities closest to and most impacted by the development (construction and operation of the Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility) 2. The geographical area of benefit is based on the location of the facility and not on the source of the waste it treats 3. If the fund panel are unable to spend the money within the stated geographical area of benefit, MVV may propose a small increase in the radius of the imaginary circle around the facility which the Council would need to approve 4. Whittlesey, which was specifically named, is 10km as the crow flies from the southern end of Wisbech (where the facility will be located) so it is unlikely to be included in any future expansion of the current geographical area of benefit CS stated that FDC don't want their waste to come to MVV. ➤ JF explained that FDC are the collection authority for waste, but that CCC are the disposal authority. This means that FDC are responsible for ensuring waste is collected from households and businesses; CCC secure the contracts for treatment/disposal of the waste. RG asked whether the planned changes to council boundaries in 2027 will affect this. ➤ DJ confirmed that a unitary authority is likely to be formed but, regardless of the shape of the council, the public tender process for contracts (including waste treatment) will still stand and will need to be followed no matter what. DR noted that there are independent councillors at Town and District level who will signpost applications to the community fund. He will speak to the Nature Recovery Group. ML offered to promote youth membership of the Fund Panel through the schools' volunteering network – this was welcomed.	DR ML
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	FL noted that application deadlines and meeting dates had already been fixed, with panel recruitment and due diligence training needed before the first panel meeting. AH stated that MVV also have a small sponsorship policy for local groups and organisations, which is awarded in spring (May) and autumn (November). There is a simple application process for amounts up to £1000, with an overall annual budget of £4000. The next deadline for applications is 30th September 2026; please contact Andy for more information (andy.houghton@mvvuk.co.uk)	AH
7. Questions	<i>A number of questions have been included in the relevant sections above as they relate to the flow of the discussion. Answers are marked with arrowed bullets.</i> CS asked whether any air quality monitoring results have been received yet. ➤ JF confirmed that the first quarterly report has been received and shared with the councils. MVV will put the reports onto their website: Consultation and planning document downloads SR asked whether FDC will share the report as well. ➤ JF confirmed that they have been provided with a copy (2nd March 2026).	JF
8. Any other business	AW: National Grid are going to run high voltage transmission cables from Grimsby to Walpole, a total distance of 140km/87 miles. They have taken over two massive fields at West Walton, presumably to hold construction equipment and materials. As MVV are also joining the National Grid at this point, will this project affect progress? ➤ GP confirmed that MVV's grid connection will be at Walsoken, not Walpole, so won't be affected by other development at Walpole. ➤ DJ stated that the upgrade to the electricity distribution network is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) so all information about it will be on CCC's website. SR asked that the point raised at the last meeting about baseline soil sampling be kept on the minutes for ongoing consideration. ➤ JF confirmed that soil sampling is ongoing at MVV's Baldovie Facility in Dundee. <u>Outstanding question (from previous meeting)</u> <i>Would you consider chemical baseline testing now, for example in eggs and soil, to establish a baseline for future comparison and help identify whether pollution might already be present from other sources?</i> ➤ PC confirmed that MVV undertake off-site soil sampling at Dundee. <i>Would you consider it now?</i> ➤ PC stated that MVV would look into this. DJ noted that it would be helpful if members of the group could let MVV know in advance of any statutory attendees they would like to attend – for example, Highways colleagues in relation to the section 278 works. If they are not able to attend in person then Teams remains an option to ensure questions can be answered by the officers dealing with specific matters.	PC/MVV All

9. Date, time and location for next meeting	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at the Construction site offices (end of Algores Way) from 5pm. Please note that we will need to provide site security with a list of attendees – this is for safety reasons and your names will not be held on record for any other purpose. Please confirm your attendance by emailing Jane: jane.ford@mvvuk.co.uk	
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