

## Meeting record

Subject	Eco Park Community Liaison Group
Date	Monday 07 October 2024
Location	Eco Park, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Recorder	Will Hamill

## Present

Name	Initials	Organisation	Title / Role
Ken Snaith	KS		Resident, CLG Chair
John Flounders	JF	SUEZ	Plant Manager
John Seaman	JS		Resident
Peter Hughes	PH		Resident
Buddhi Weerasinghe	BW	Surrey County Council	Cllr., Lower Sunbury and Halliford
Richard Watkins	RW	SUEZ	Environment and Industrial Risk Manager
Sandra Dunn	SD	Spelthorne Borough Council	Cllr., Halliford and Sunbury West
Karen Howkins	KH	Spelthorne Borough Council	Cllr., Laleham and Shepperton Green
Gareth Swain	GS	SUEZ	Regional Manager
Will Hamill	WH	SUEZ	Regional Communications Manager
Carl Philips	CP	Shepperton RA	Chair
Paul Thompson	PT	LOSRA	Chair

1.0 & 2.0	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
	<p>KS welcomed the group and opened the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Richard Parkinson, Andrea Koskela, Malcolm Robertson, Derek Ferguson and Nigel Spooner (with Paul Thompson, PT, attending in lieu in his capacity as LOSRA Chair).</p>	
3.0	<b>Approval of minutes from previous meeting</b>	
3.1	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May were agreed, subject to one amendment: JS noted that he had referred to the idea of an “official opening” for the Eco Park rather than an "open day" in section 9.0, AOB (the updated version has been uploaded to the SUEZ Surrey website). GS advised that this is still under consideration and will be revisited in 2025 if appropriate.</p>	
4.0	<b>Matters arising</b>	
4.1	<p><u>Use of Windmill Road/diversion</u></p> <p>KH raised concerns about lorries using Windmill Road due to the recent diversion. GS explained that this road diversion falls under the jurisdiction of Surrey Highways, which directs all vehicles including SUEZ on highways matters.</p> <p><u>Clarification on criteria for reuse shops</u></p> <p>GS provided clarification on what constitutes reuse, explaining that items deemed to have potential value are put in the shop. He noted that opinions on what has value is subjective and may vary. We have controls for how we select stock in the shops which is shaped around trading standards guidance.</p> <p><u>Footpath</u></p> <p>It was agreed to defer the discussion of the footpath to a later point in the meeting.</p> <p><u>BESS planning application</u></p> <p>Members asked for an update on SUEZ's view of the BESS planning application. GS confirmed that it is still with the SUEZ planning team and that there are no updates at present. CP stressed that residents are concerned about this issue and urged SUEZ to take the proposals seriously.</p> <p>GS assured the group that the SUEZ planning team are reviewing the proposal thoroughly, and their feedback will be forthcoming. KS also noted that SUEZ should be given more time to review the proposal in full.</p> <p>SD said that as the contract manager, GS should have some input in the planning process. GS explained that while planning is outside his area of expertise, he would ensure that members' concerns were communicated to the planning team. It was agreed that GS would follow up with the planning team and seek more information to report back when available.</p> <p>PT inquired whether other SUEZ sites have BESS facilities. GS said this information does not fall under his responsibilities, but the planning team will consider all factors as appropriate in relation to the BESS application at Charlton Lane.</p> <p>Our planning and environmental/industrial risk teams have reviewed the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site application, noting the local objections from residents.</p> <p>From a planning perspective, we have concerns around traffic and access as the proposed entry for this development is via the Eco Park entrance, passing Ivydene Cottage and the surrounding landscape area. The increased vehicle traffic during the</p>	GS

40-week construction phase raises safety concerns, with an estimated 4-8 commercial vehicles daily. During the operational phase, traffic will decrease to two additional vehicles twice a month. While this is minimal, we have recommended added signage or lane markings at the junction entering the Eco Park for clarity.

The access track is also currently 2.3m wide, built with compacted aggregate, and surrounded by new grass and tree plantings. The application does not specify any track upgrades to support 16.5m articulated lorries, which we believe are necessary. Therefore, clarification on potential upgrades is needed, which we have requested.

From an environmental and risk perspective, our main consideration is fire safety. We note the inclusion of an Outline Safety Management Plan, which presents an initial appraisal of risks and the document identifies in its conclusion that there will be further detailed assessments and evaluations of risks through the detailed design process. We note that the strategy allows for future consultation and engagement with relevant consultees and stakeholders. As the operator of the adjacent Eco Park, SUEZ has requested that we are invited as a stakeholder to be involved in this process. We further note that, should the application be approved, a planning condition would require the submission of an updated Safety Management Plan. SUEZ has requested that we are consulted on such a condition and given the opportunity to review and comment on further iterations of the Safety Management Plan.

Ivydene Cottage

JS asked if the Ivydene redevelopment would result in a reduction of vehicle movements. GS explained that while the improvement in reuse facilities would benefit the environment, any concerns regarding the light traffic using any new facilities should be raised during the planning process.

KH asked whether the 2018 planning permission for the Ivydene site had been enacted. GS confirmed that it had. KH also queried how the Ivydene redevelopment might affect the BESS site. It was mentioned by members that Surrey County Council had raised no objections on highway grounds. It was agreed that updates on Ivydene would be covered later in the meeting.

**5.0 Operational update**

**5.1 Gasifier**

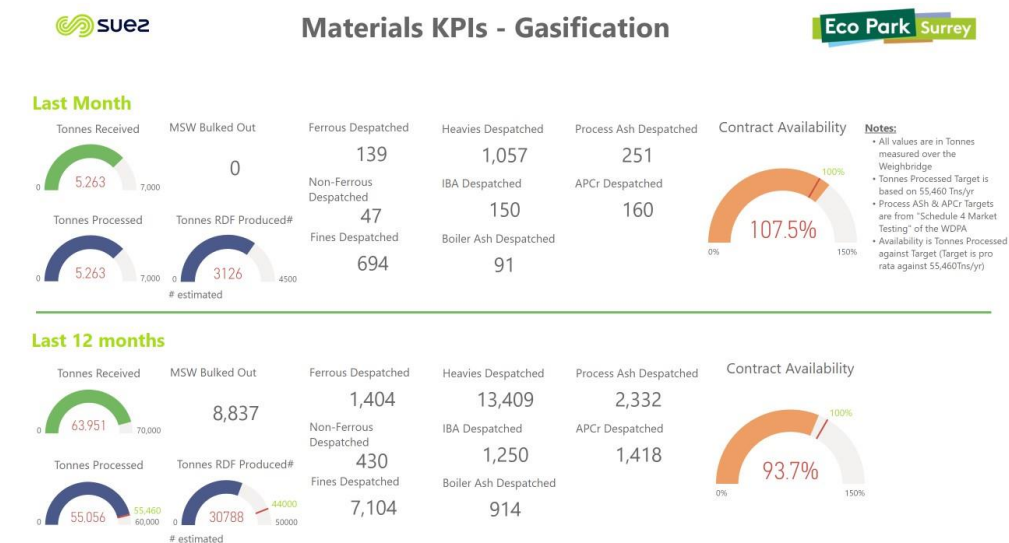


Figure 1

JF provided an update on gasification performance up to August, noting that the plant is currently undergoing a September shutdown.

PH asked why contract availability exceeded 100% contract availability. GS explained that the annual target is divided by 12 to give a monthly target and this occurs when more than 1/12th of the annual target tonnage is processed in a month, with the September shutdown balancing the annual performance.

JF confirmed that the year-to-date availability currently stands at 93.7%, and he expressed satisfaction with the overall performance of the facility.

5.2

**Anaerobic digestion**

JF reported that the anaerobic digestion facility is performing well, processing all available food waste from Surrey County Council. Year-to-date contract availability stands at 84.1%.

GS noted ongoing additional efforts were required by SCC residents to extract more food waste from the residual waste stream.

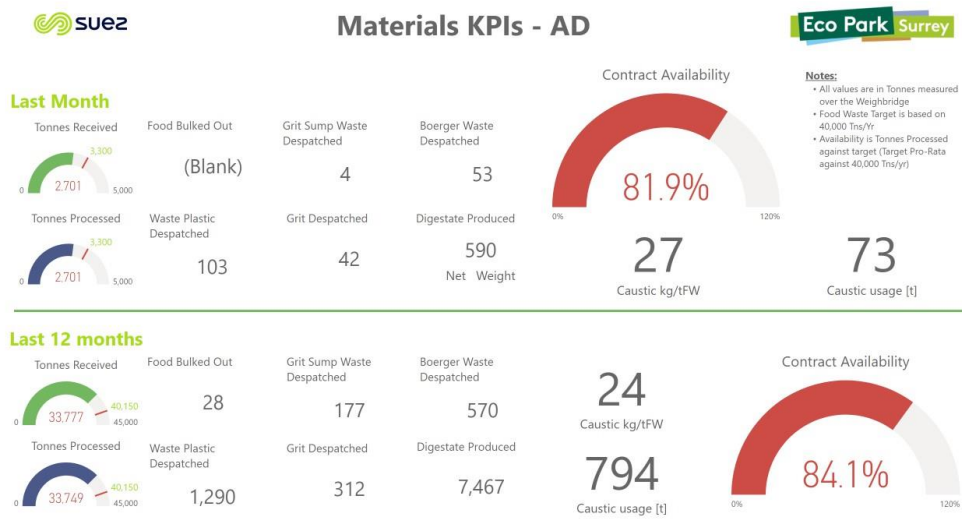


Figure 2

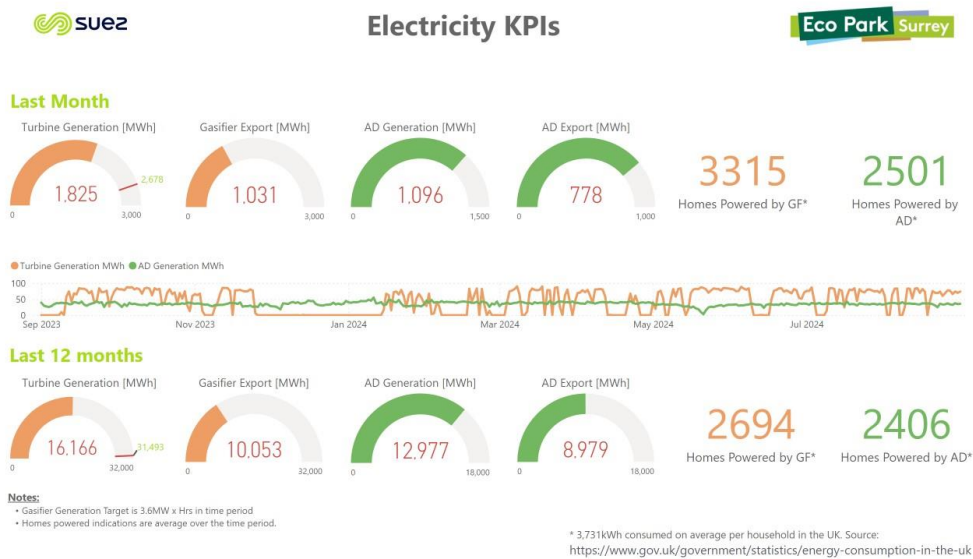
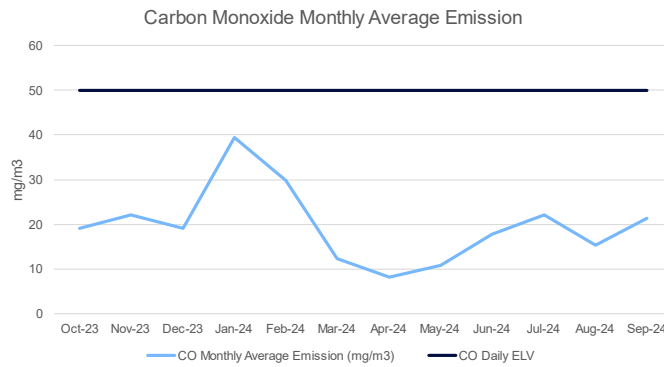


Figure 3

KH asked whether AD is more cost-effective than gasification. JF explained that the two processes are difficult to compare as one is a biological process and the other is

	<p>mechanical. PH added that while there was early scepticism about the gasification facility, the technology had since proven successful in practice.</p> <p>KH inquired whether the gasifier had restarted. JF confirmed it was currently in the warm-up phase after the programmed shutdown.</p> <p>Regarding a fire alarm that had gone off earlier in the day, JF said it was caused by a faulty sensor, which has since been replaced.</p> <p>BW asked about energy production targets. JF explained that the facility has a processing target, not an energy target, but he confirmed that internal key performance indicators (KPIs) are being exceeded.</p> <p>KH requested the specific date when the gasifier would resume processing waste. JF confirmed that it was scheduled to restart on 8th October.</p> <p>KS asked if any improvements had been made during the shutdown. JF reported that a double sprocket on the feed system had been installed, which is expected to improve resilience in the feed system and improve efficiency.</p>	
<p><b>5.3</b></p>	<p><b>IBA Spillage</b></p> <p>JF explained that there had been a recent spillage of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) on the road due to a vehicle tailgate failure, but it was cleaned up promptly.</p> <p>KS asked why glass was present in the spillage. JF explained that while pre-treatment aims to remove contamination, some materials inevitably remain and some glass is part of this fraction.</p> <p>CP asked whether human error had contributed to the spillage. JF clarified that it was a mechanical failure surrounding the closure mechanism of the tailgate, with additional physical and technological checks put in place to prevent a recurrence.</p> <p>KS inquired whether IBA contains hazardous materials. JF confirmed that while IBA dust can be hazardous, the bottom ash itself is safe once it is on the ground. He added that there are ongoing efforts to prevent residents from putting Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) into black bags, as this can lead to hazardous contamination materials in the ash.</p> <p>RW confirmed that the Environment Agency had been notified of the spillage, though there was no formal requirement to report it.</p>	
<p><b>5.4</b></p>	<p><b>Emissions limits</b></p> <p>RW provided an update on emissions compliance, confirming that all readings were within permitted limits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOx – Nitrogen Oxides</li> <li>• SO2 – Sulphur Dioxide</li> <li>• HCl – Hydrogen Chloride</li> <li>• TOC – Total Organic Carbon</li> <li>• CO – Carbon Monoxide</li> <li>• NH3 – Ammonia</li> <li>• TPM – Total Particulate Matter</li> </ul> <p>RW was asked why there was a CO spike in January of this year. JF explained that it was likely caused by the startup of the gasification plant.</p> <p>RW also clarified the role of ammonia when asked by members, explaining that it is used to treat nitrogen oxides in relation to the anaerobic digestion process.</p>	

## Emissions monitoring – CO



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Figure 4

5.5

## Complaints

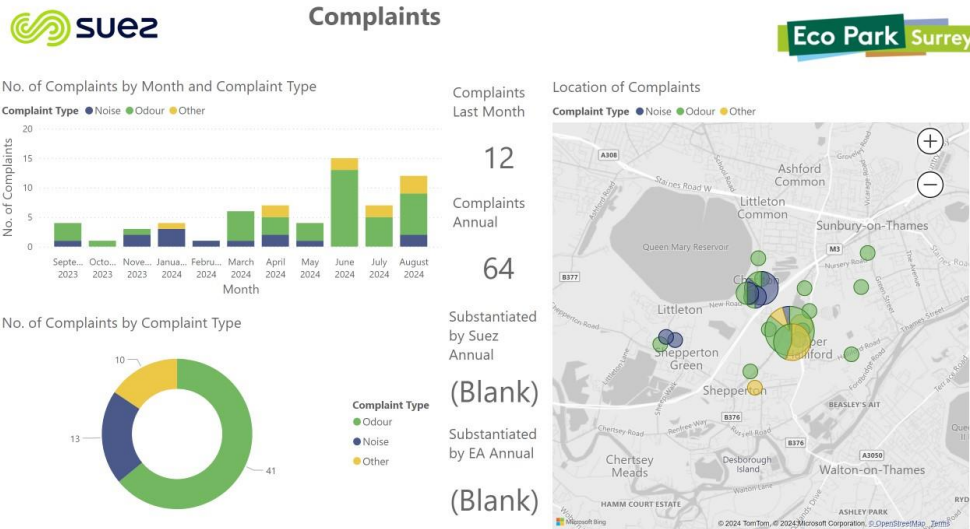


Figure 5

JF reported that there had been 12 complaints in August, none of which were substantiated by either SUEZ or the Environment Agency.

RW noted three complaints in September, all of which were investigated but not substantiated.

CP observed that odour complaints could be tied to public perception of the site, though improvements in recent years had likely helped. RW reassured members that every complaint is taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.

BW asked whether the number of odour complaints had decreased over time. JF and RW confirmed that the numbers had significantly reduced compared to previous years.

CP mentioned that the Eco Park had rarely been raised at any recent resident meetings, even with 100 people in the room. RW added that investigations by the Environment Agency into complaints have consistently found no issues.

	<p>PH asked if any odour complaints had ever been upheld. RW mentioned one case from last year that had been traced back to a specific event.</p> <p>KH, SD and BW each shared recent experiences of odour. It was mentioned that a localised odour can occasionally be expected on site and that we take every step to mitigate off site impact. Members were reassured that it remains within expected levels and under control.</p>	
5.6	<p><b>RBF and CRC Operations</b></p> <p>GS provided an update on Reuse and Bulking Facility (RBF) operations, noting the intake of green waste from Runnymede and ongoing Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) processing.</p> <p>JS requested data on vehicle movements for the facility, and GS agreed to provide this for September at the next meeting.</p> <p>SD asked about what happens to clothing items. GS explained that textiles are sent to a recycling facility in Tipton and recycled accordingly.</p> <p>GS also confirmed that Community Recycling Centre (CRC) operations are running smoothly and highlighted that Surrey's reuse shops have played a critical role in diverting nearly 1,000 tonnes of material into Reuse.</p> <p><u>Ivydene Redevelopment</u></p> <p>In the absence of RP, GS gave an update on the redevelopment plans for Ivydene, which will become a reuse hub. He explained that the scheme is currently going through final elements of the design process, with the planning application expected to be submitted in Spring 2025.</p> <p>KH asked whether the current building would be demolished, and GS confirmed that it would be replaced with a purpose-built facility.</p> <p>GS reassured members that he was sure SCC would want the local residents to be involved during the planning process.</p> <p><u>Diversions</u></p> <p>GS reiterated that SUEZ does not have control over traffic diversions, in Charlton Lane or Surrey which are all managed by Surrey Highways. He promised to include contact details for Surrey Highways in the minutes, so that members could raise their concerns directly.</p> <p>You can report any issues here: <a href="https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/">https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/</a></p>	<p>GS</p> <p>WH</p>
6.0	<p><b>Communications</b></p>	
6.1	<p>WH provided an update on the Surrey Revive Community Fund, reporting that over £17,000 in grants had been awarded as part of the latest funding round.</p> <p>Members asked for details on the application process and criteria for applying so they could pass the information to local charities. WH agreed to provide this and further detail can be found below. Details of the next funding round will be shared with CLG members once confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Fund is to help improve community life and support the people and environment of Surrey.</li> <li>• Organisations that are developing community, health and wellbeing and environmental projects in Surrey can apply for grants of up to £3,000, with the total amount available announced at the start of each funding round.</li> <li>• All applicants will need to be formally constituted and must be not-for-profit organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>WH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not already registered on the ActionFunder platform, charities are required to sign up at: <a href="https://app.actionfunder.org/sign-up">https://app.actionfunder.org/sign-up</a></li> <li>• Projects that match the Revive Community Fund criteria will be shortlisted and then reviewed by representatives from SUEZ and Surrey County Council who will award the funds.</li> </ul> <p>To indicate how charities can benefit from funding, WH previewed the teaser for a new promotional video featuring Weybridge Beekeepers, which can be viewed at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hcHgV8HJ5Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hcHgV8HJ5Y</a></p> <p>WH mentioned SUEZ's involvement in creating artwork at HMP Downview, which is part of a rehabilitation programme.</p> <p>JS asked whether SUEZ shares these initiatives with other companies, and GS confirmed that best practices are shared across the industry.</p> <p>WH also mentioned a recent engagement with the National Women's Register in Reigate to explain SUEZ's role in the county.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p><u>Footpath</u></p> <p>WH raised a question from AK about the temporary closure notice for one of the Eco Park's footpaths (Footpath 86), currently subject to landscaping works. It was asked why this was the case and how long it would take to complete before being open to the public.</p> <p>GS explained that Footpath 86 across SUEZ controlled land is a permissive path, while the railway footpath (Footpath 70) is a public right of way.*</p> <p>GS stated that landscaping of Footpath 86 is due for completion in winter, and should reopen by March 2025, agreeing an action that a member of the planning team will attend the next meeting to provide an update on this.</p> <p><i>*Correction: At the following meeting of the CLG on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025, it was confirmed that Footpath 86 is also a public right of way*</i></p> <p><u>Scout's area</u></p> <p>BW inquired about the scout area and retarring of the road. JF confirmed that while SUEZ had fulfilled its obligations to improve lighting, M+W, which was responsible for retarring, is no longer involved. JF explained that a quote had been received for £30,000 which is beyond SUEZ's budget.</p> <p>BW asked if JF could confirm what SUEZ could contribute and he will scope out the possibility of alternative funding options to fill the gap.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>JF/BW</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Peter Hughes stated that he would like to resign from the group as he felt that its work had been done. He stated that there were some misgivings on the installation but the operation had now proved itself to be a reliable operation with emissions well controlled and that the performance of the plant significantly reduced the requirement of the group and that its work was done.</p> <p>PH left the meeting.</p> <p>Following PH announcing his resignation from the CLG, GS thanked him for his significant contributions to the group over the many years and wished him every good wish for his retirement. It was agreed to send a letter of appreciation on behalf of members.</p> <p>JS asked about the swale from the filtration pond and whether any issues had been experienced as a result of the significant amount of recent rainfall. JF confirmed there</p>	<p>GS/ WH</p>



	<p>were no issues.</p> <p>KH raised concerns about a gully near the scout area and motorway, which had recently filled to the top with water due to heavy rainfall. JF confirmed that this issue falls under the responsibility of Surrey Highways and suggested raising it with them.</p> <p>KH asked where the Eco Park is connected to the National Grid, and JF pointed out where it is to clarify. She also inquired about the recent shutdown, and JF explained that it was part of a routine two-phase maintenance plan.</p> <p>CP reiterated concerns about the BESS proposal and urged that the planning team continue its review of the project.</p> <p>When the date of the next meeting was discussed, members expressed concern about moving to two meetings in 2025 as discussed at the CLG in May. The intention put forward by SUEZ was to reflect the evolved nature of the CLG given the Eco Park is now fully operational performance is consistent and is less contentious among residents as reported about the other key issues now raised in local meetings.</p> <p>However, it was acknowledged by GS that there were matters to discuss in the months ahead, particularly on the footpath.</p> <p>As such, it was agreed that three meetings would be scheduled for 2025, each lasting one hour only, with the Terms of Reference updated accordingly by WH in time for the next meeting.</p>	WH
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
9.1	The next meeting will be held on 3rd February 2025, from 2-3 pm.	