



**Holyrood RC Secondary School
Parent Council
9 October 2012**

Meeting with Martin Grey of Viridor regarding the proposed
Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre at Polmadie

Audrey Harrison (AH) as chair of the Parent Council (PC), welcomed Martin to the school and explained the background to the request to have him present. The PC had been approached by some parents who are concerned about the above development and as this was the first the school had heard of the proposal, AH had contacted Viridor as the appointed provider of the service to meet with the PC to give the background to the project, explain the consultation process, and how Viridor can assist in consulting with the wider parent forum.

AH also explained that Debbie McKenzie as Community Rep of the PC has contacted the local Councillors to express our concern at the lack of consultation with the school.

Martin explained that Viridor had consulted all G42 post code houses by way of a mail drop advising of the project and inviting them to consultation meetings. A series of newspaper advertisements were also taken out and public meetings were held in the city centre and at Toryglen Football Facility. This is over and above the normal requirements under planning applications; however, he did acknowledge that it was an oversight not to communicate the proposed development to the school.

As background to the project, Martin explained that after a lengthy consultation processes Glasgow City Council appointed Viridor to build and run the new Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre. At present 74% of Council waste is taken to landfill and under new government regulations this had to be reduced to 5%.

The current buildings will be demolished and the current 'blue bin' recycling facility and transport depot will relocate. The new site will only deal with the 'green bin' waste. The plant is not a 'mass burn furnace' and will not house an incinerator.

It is an energy from waste facility and Martin gave a presentation on how this works. There are 3 steps in the process:

- 1 Smart material recycling facility – which separates out the waste
- 2 Anaerobic digestion – removing steam from the waste for conversion into green energy
- 3 Advanced conversion facility – creating a synthetic gas which is converted into energy.

The site will be operated by Viridor on behalf of GCC for 25 years and ownership is then returned to the Council.

The project is currently at the planning application stage and if it does not go ahead then the Council will require to pay penalties to Viridor.

The window for objections to the planning application has now closed however any concerns can be raised via local councillors.

The facility will provide jobs to local residents including apprenticeships and Viridor will run an environment competition for local primary and secondary schools. There will also be an education facility at the plant.

AH asked why, if the G42 postcode was consulted, how the school which is within the G42 postcode was missed along with other primary schools in the area?

Martin apologised and said he was disappointed the school was missed.

PT asked who decided the venues for the consultation meetings. Martin said Viridor in consultation with the Council agreed on the venues.

LB said that the school had been caught on the hop, and that had the school been consulted, Viridor would have reached the parents of over 2000 young people who are rightly going to be concerned about the environmental impact of the new development.

The main concerns about the new development are air quality and traffic movement. Martin explained that in comparison to the current buildings at Polmadie the new site will be a massive improvement and as a result of the process at the new site there will only be around 5% of waste taken to landfill site. The traffic is only expected to increase by around 7 lorries a day and these will enter the site via the motorway slip road. The Council are currently looking at the road management around the site/ Aikenhead Road.

Martin explained that to operate the site they will require an environmental certificate from CEPA and emissions are very closely monitored 24/7. CEPA also carry out unannounced visits to carry out tests.

The operating permit application is open for consultation for 28 days on the CEPA website.

BM asked how tall the buildings are? Martin was unable to give exact sizes but said there will be tower roughly the same height as the present one and the buildings are roughly 2/3 storey high. From a fire safety point of view each part of the facility can be closed down independently.

AH expressed concern that the lack of consultation with the school, and other local businesses like Asda, has naturally aroused suspicion. As a PC it is now our job to communicate the proposal to the wider parent forum.

Viridor have offered to hold a meeting for parents or hold drop in sessions in the school for parents to answer any questions parents may have.

Discussion took place on the role of the PC in the consultation process with parents and AH agreed to contact Kathryn Farrow at the Council for advice on the role of a PC in this type of situation.

LB agreed to contact the Education Department on the best way to communicate with the wider parent forum.

LB, AH, PT and Martin will consult and agree the best way forward and this will be communicated to PC members and then the wider parent forum.

AH thanked Martin for attending.

E Stewart
9/10/12

