

# Biffa Press Release

15/12/2009

## Biffa lodges planning application for Leicestershire energy plant

A formal planning application for an energy recovery facility has now been lodged with Leicestershire County Council

Biffa, the company behind the scheme, say that if approved the state of the art energy facility will generate 21 MW of electricity - enough to power 42,000 homes - as well as being able to deal with Leicestershire's residual waste.

Biffa is one of three companies shortlisted by Leicestershire County Council for the contract to deal with residual waste left over after recycling and composting.

The proposed site at the old Newhurst Quarry in Shepshed, adjacent to junction 23 of the M1, already has planning consent for landfill but this will not be developed if consent is granted for the new energy facility.

The planning application has taken into account issues and suggestions raised by local people during Biffa's community consultation process.

According to project manager Mary Tappenden, "We have had much discussion regarding the flue stacks, the size, colour and design of the buildings, traffic and the eventual use of the old quarry void. Our plans, detailed in the application, have taken these points into consideration.

"However, details of the scheme can still change and are subject to the formal County Council consultation process."

### **Stack design**

The original design showed a complex helix system around the stacks. According to comments from the community this made the stacks more obvious so the helix has been removed. The height of the stacks needs to remain the same.

At the request of the liaison group several different options were investigated for the colour of the buildings. All the options have been included in the planning application and whilst this seeks consent for the original colour, Biffa says it will discuss this further if required.

The access into the site on the A512 is to be improved as in the existing landfill approval. Traffic lights will be installed with priority to vehicles on the main road. A ghost island for turning right into the site will also be added. There will be an agreed exclusion zone in Shepshed for heavy goods vehicles.

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## **Possible water park.**

Through the public consultation process local people were asked to put forward suggestions for the restoration of the old quarry void. Most selected some form of water-based recreation area.

Mary Tappenden explains. "There is a lot of interest in this and we want to do what's eventually best for the community. However, at the moment we will have to soften the edges, allow it to refill with water and undertake an element of restoration. But safety will be a prime consideration.

"Depending on the outcome of the planning process we hope to come back with proposals for public access and the use of the site as a recreational facility at a later date."

## **Details on website**

Anyone interested in viewing the full planning document as well as looking through an easier-to-read non technical summary can access this on Biffa's website at [www.biffa.co.uk/newhurst](http://www.biffa.co.uk/newhurst)

In addition to being able to deal with the 180,000 tonnes per annum of household waste required under the County Council's contract, Biffa's facility will have extra capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum to allow it to handle residual waste generated by businesses and industry in Leicestershire.

Biffa says the plant will comply with the environmental requirements of the European Waste Incineration Directive and its operation will be strictly regulated by the Environment Agency.

It will utilise proven, best available technology that will be provided by international thermal technology company Von Roll Inova who have built nearly 400 energy recovery plants across the world. The system reduces the volume of waste that would otherwise go to landfill by up to 95% as well as making a significant contribution towards the country's growing energy needs.

200 to 300 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase, which will take approximately three years. Biffa have a policy of employing local people where possible and around 40 operational staff will be needed on a full time basis after the plant becomes operational.

Further press information from  
**Biffa on 020 8789 9651.**