

# ROOKERY SOUTH NEWS

Winter 2018/19

## Rookery South Project Underway, With Many Local Opportunities on the Horizon

Following the recent High Court judgment, which upheld the Environment Agency's decision to grant the project an Environmental Permit, the Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) is now moving into its three-year construction phase.



Tom Koltis

"Given that the facility's permit has been upheld by the High Court, together with the project's planning permission and all other permits required to start the build phase, we'll be moving forward to full construction early in 2019," said Tom Koltis, Covanta's Executive Director of Corporate Development for the UK and Europe. "We understand the concerns of some residents in the area about the Rookery South ERF and want to assure people that the facility will be safe. Energy-from-Waste facilities like the

ERF are widely used by the most advanced countries in the world as the proven, sustainable alternative to landfill."

With transparency at the forefront, Covanta has been attending numerous public meetings in the area, including two local authority Overview & Scrutiny committees, a project update presentation with several Bedfordshire Rotary Clubs and meetings with the Bedfordshire Chamber of

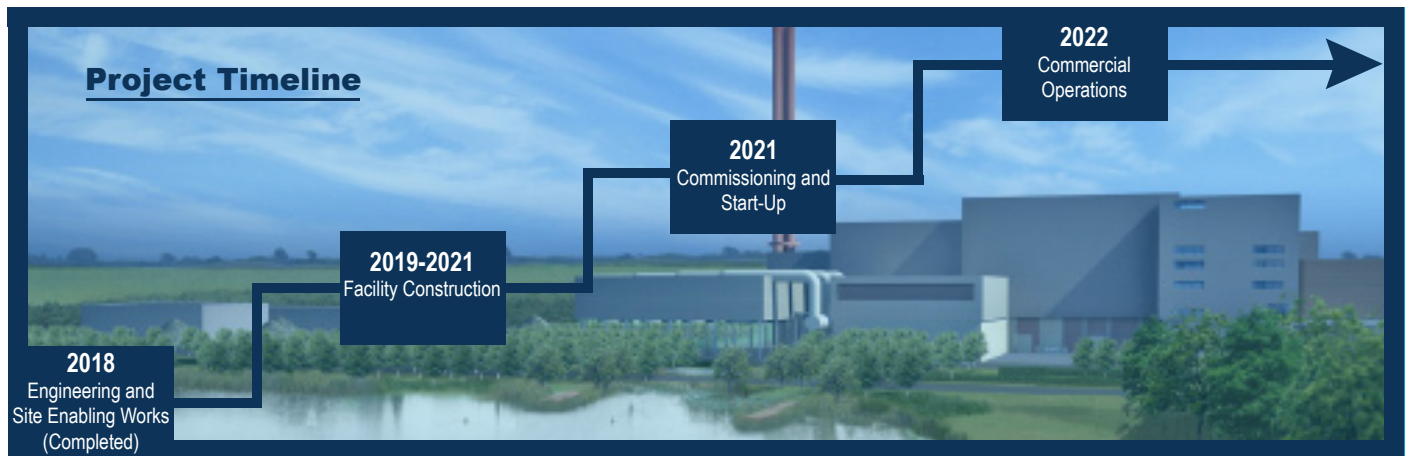
Commerce as the project team look to maximise supply chain opportunities with local businesses. The Rookery South project will bring significant economic investment and community benefits for people living and working in Bedfordshire.

"With businesses across Bedfordshire experiencing uncertainties, our county is fortunate to have Covanta and other global developers wanting to invest in our corner of the UK," said Justin Richardson, CEO of the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. "The Rookery South facility is a great opportunity to create long-term supply chains during the plant's construction and operational phases. We look forward to working with Covanta and its project partners to get the best economic advantage for Bedfordshire."



Justin Richardson

During the facility's construction, more than 300 jobs will be created. Covanta has developed a Local Employment Plan that will target local employment, suppliers of materials, services, and training for employees. In addition, more than 50 permanent jobs will be created when the facility comes online in 2022. Importantly, Covanta, its principal contractor and all subcontractors will recruit locally wherever possible.



## Eligibility Date for Rookery South Community Energy Initiative Extended

After the last issue of *Rookery South News* hit doormats, Covanta received many queries about the Rookery South energy subsidy scheme (now called the Rookery South Community Energy Initiative) which can benefit around 9,000 local homes\* with reduced energy bills once the facility is operational. With this good level of interest and the delay to the start of full construction due to the Judicial Review process, Covanta is amending the eligibility criteria when the scheme opens for applications in mid-February 2019. The previous criteria included a cut-off date of 30 April 2018 and would not have included residents who recently moved to the area. The new cut-off date has been extended by Covanta and residents now need to have been living in their property before 31 December 2018 to qualify.

Covanta has appointed the independent UK-based charity, GrantScape, to manage this innovative scheme, as they have broad knowledge of managing community benefit schemes within the waste and recycling sectors. Further information on the Rookery South Community Energy Initiative is available on the GrantScape website - [grantscape.org.uk/fund/rscej](http://grantscape.org.uk/fund/rscej) and also on the Rookery South website - [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk). GrantScape will begin publicising the start of the application phase in local press and hosting information events in the Marston Vale area in 2019.



\*Households in the parishes of Brogborough, Wootton, Cranfield, Marston Moretaine, Houghton Conquest, Millbrook, Stewartby and Lidlington will be able to apply.

For further information or to contact us, visit: [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk)

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## Improvement Works on Green Lane

Following detailed discussions with highways authorities, Covanta and its construction contractor, Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), has begun improvement works on Green Lane in Stewartby.

The works will take approximately six weeks to complete and will widen a section of Green Lane at the site entrance to the Rookery South ERF. A 'ghost island' is also being installed which will separate construction vehicles turning right into the Rookery South site from the through traffic. This also ensures that construction traffic will not travel through Stewartby village.

For the safety of all road users, HZI and their contractors were required to put a full road closure in place. Alternative diversion routes are in place whilst the works are carried out. Further details are provided on the project website - [rookerysouth.co.uk/news](http://rookerysouth.co.uk/news). HZI has also written to local residents and businesses in advance to give people time to plan ahead.

Covanta and its contractors appreciate the patience of the community while this work is carried out. For further information on the Green Lane works please contact HZI's Site Management on 01252 302214 or alternatively email [rookery-project@hz-inova.com](mailto:rookery-project@hz-inova.com).



## Your Questions Answered

Below is a selection of questions and responses from recent enquiries to the Rookery South website. Please visit the project website to view a full list of Frequently Asked Questions.

### Why is an Environmental Permit needed to operate an Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility?

An Environmental Permit regulates the way all UK EfW facilities operate and sets strict requirements in line with EU and UK legislation.

### How can I supply goods and services to Rookery South?

Covanta and its principal contractor want to source locally wherever possible. Soon, supply chain opportunities will be published on the Rookery South website and in local media. The principal contractor will also host events so that potential vendors can meet with procurement specialists before contracts are put out to tender.

### Will the Rookery South ERF import residual waste from across the UK or from Europe?

No, the facility will process non-recyclable municipal, commercial and non-hazardous industrial residual waste from within a radius of around 60 miles of the ERF.

## Helping to Warm Bedford's Homeless

As the cold weather tightens its grip this winter, homeless people are among the most vulnerable in society. With Bedford having some of the highest levels of homelessness in the UK today, Covanta chose to make a £5,000 Christmas donation to support Bedford's SMART Prebend Centre's 2018 CRIB appeal, which will help the organisation continue its outreach work in supporting those in need.

"We very much appreciate the generous donation from Covanta and their interest in our charity," said Anita McCallum, Chief Executive at SMART Support Services. "The money will go a long way to support our work and to prevent further homelessness."

Covanta is proud to make this contribution to Bedfordshire and will continue to make further donations and community funding available for many years to come.

### SMART! Prebend Centre SUPPORT BEDFORD'S HOMELESS CRIB APPEAL 2018

#### Top Five Areas of Support:

1. Rough Sleeping
2. Finances/Budgeting
3. Drug and Alcohol Problems
4. Undiagnosed Mental Health Issues
5. Diagnosed Mental Health Issues

#### Top Five Ways of Support:

1. Assisting service users register and access surgeries
2. Harm-reduction advice for drug and alcohol use
3. Assisting service users access temporary accommodation
4. Helping service users access mental health services
5. Supporting service users in acquiring income and benefits



## Covanta: Corporate Citizen of the Year and Global Sustainability Winner

In late 2018, Covanta was named Corporate Citizen of the Year at the NJBIZ 2018 Business of the Year awards in recognition of its work in the community where the company operates.

The company was also recognized with the 2018 Sustainability, Environmental Achievement & Leadership (SEAL) Award for its leadership in providing communities with the safe and secure destruction of unwanted and expired medications.

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## Contact Us

Should you have any project-related questions, please contact the Rookery South team via the project website at [www.covanta.rookerysouth.co.uk](http://www.covanta.rookerysouth.co.uk)  
For further information on the Green Lane works please contact HZI's Site Management on 01252 302214 or alternatively email [rookery-project@hz-inova.com](mailto:rookery-project@hz-inova.com)

For any day-to-day concerns or questions on the forthcoming construction works, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 6039 or email [mwapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mwapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) as they work closely with the Rookery South project team to address any issues that may arise.

For further information or to contact us, visit: [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk)

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