

# ROOKERY SOUTH NEWS

Summer 2018

## Covanta Welcomes Opportunity to Discuss Rookery South with Neighbours

At the invitation of Bedford Borough Council, Tom Koltis, Covanta's executive director of European Development and representatives from the Environment Agency, attended a meeting of the Council's Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held recently at Stewartby Village Hall. The meeting, which was open to the public, provided council members and local residents the opportunity to pose questions on the Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) directly to Covanta.

"We appreciate the invitation and the opportunity to answer questions and address concerns of local residents," said Mr. Koltis. "We are committed to transparency on the project and look forward to continued dialogue and discussion with our neighbours."

For those unable to attend the meeting, a document has been posted to the Rookery South website with Covanta's responses to questions posed in advance by the committee. Additional questions from members of the public have also been added to the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Rookery South website. If you have a question on the project, please feel free to email us by clicking on the 'Contact Us' tab on the [Rookerysouth.co.uk](http://Rookerysouth.co.uk) website.



Tom Koltis answering questions at Stewartby Village Hall

## Project Update - Construction of Site Access Road Nearly Complete

Construction of the main access road from Rookery North down to the ERF construction area in Rookery South pit is largely complete, with over one kilometre of highway standard tarmac road in place. The next stage involves connecting the new access road with Green Lane, which will begin this autumn.

Known as Section 278 Works (a legal agreement with local authorities under the Highways Act), the project involves widening Green Lane and installing a 'ghost island' painted on the road. This 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, which has been a concern raised by local residents.



The newly constructed access road into Rookery South

The Section 278 Works project will require the temporary closure of one side of the road on Green Lane between Stewartby Way and the level crossing. Temporary traffic lights will be in operation to minimise disruption and maintain the safety of all road users. The work is anticipated to last for approximately six weeks. Further updates on the exact timing of the work will be provided in the near future.

### Green Lane Road Works

**When:** Autumn 2018

**Duration:** Six Weeks

**Summary:** Short-term closure of one side of Green Lane between Stewartby Way and the level crossing. Temporary traffic lights and road signals will be in place to minimise disruptions and traffic hazards.

## Did You Know?

### Residual Waste as Fuel

The Rookery South ERF will only process non-recyclable household, commercial and industrial waste. Commercial and industrial waste comes from the business sector, such as factories, shops and offices. (Note: no hazardous or medical waste will be processed at the facility).

### Emissions Control

The Rookery South ERF will use state-of-the-art emissions controls, including what is known as a baghouse, to capture and control particulate matter. Operating like a very efficient vacuum cleaner, a baghouse removes and captures particulate matter from combustion gases by drawing air through thousands of filter bags.

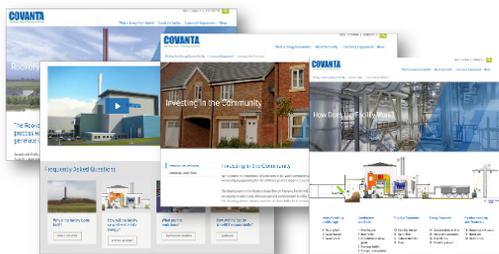
### Truck Traffic

It has often been incorrectly stated that there will be 600 HGVs entering and leaving the ERF each day - the true figure is much lower. The most recent forecast shows that approximately 100 HGVs will deliver waste each day and another 25 will take ash away for recycling and/or secure disposal. That's a total of 250 movements per day.

### Reduced Energy Bills

The Rookery South ERF will bring many community, employment, infrastructure and environmental benefits to the Bedford area. Approximately 9,000 households in the local area could be eligible for an Electricity Subsidy Scheme which will reduce bills by 10% each year. Please visit the project website for eligibility criteria.

## Newly-Designed Website



The Rookery South website (Rookerysouth.co.uk) has been completely redesigned to improve access to information about the Rookery South ERF. The new website is easy to navigate and includes a frequently asked question and response section, details on a range of community outreach projects and an easy way to submit questions directly to the project team. There are also informational videos that explain the Energy-from-Waste process. In the coming months, the website will be updated to include important information for local suppliers and prospective employees interested in the many economic opportunities the facility will bring to the local area.

## Rookery South to Bring New Economic Opportunities to the Region

The Rookery South ERF will generate hundreds of new employment opportunities in its construction phase and dozens of long-term jobs during its operations. Working with Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils, a local employment scheme has been developed to promote training and job opportunities to people in Bedfordshire which will also maximise the supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

During the three year construction period, temporary positions will be available covering a range of trades in heavy industrial construction as well as power installation. At the peak of construction, the project will employ over 600 tradespeople and workers. Starting in 2020, recruitment will begin for approximately 60 permanent staff. As the Rookery South ERF is a significant infrastructure project, it will also require a huge range of suppliers, materials and equipment. The project will offer work placements and apprenticeships in liaison with local schools, colleges and universities across Bedfordshire. The Rookery South project team will work with local authorities to publicise and promote these many opportunities.



## Helping the UK Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Improve Self-Sufficiency

**Put simply, Energy-from-Waste (EfW) is a sustainable waste management solution; burying waste in a landfill is not.** When waste is buried in landfill sites it decomposes and produces harmful methane, which is a highly potent greenhouse gas, over 30 times more damaging to the environment than CO<sub>2</sub>. To address this pressing climate change challenge, in 1995 the European Union issued a directive to limit the landfilling of biodegradable municipal solid waste to 35 per cent of the quantity landfilled. EfW is a net reducer of greenhouse gas emissions because, unlike landfills, it does not create methane. It also offsets the need to burn fossil fuels in power plants, allows post-treatment metals to be recycled and captures the bottom ash which can be reused by the construction sector.



In 2016, the UK landfilled 15.7 million tonnes of municipal waste. In addition, due to the closure of many landfill sites and insufficient EfW capacity, the UK exported over 3 million tonnes to other European countries for EfW treatment. Even with a significant increase in recycling rates and robust recycling markets, there will continue to be significant volumes of non-recycling waste that will need to be diverted from landfill for EfW treatment. Today the UK has a significant shortage of EfW treatment capacity and the Rookery South facility will provide a much-needed and long-term solution for non-recyclable and non-hazardous household, commercial and industrial waste.

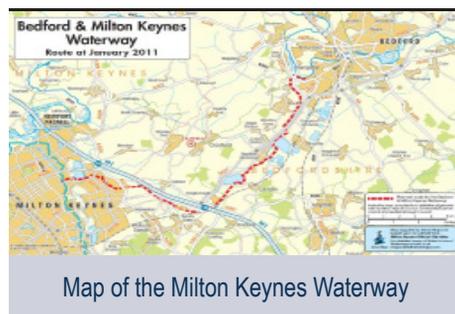
## Supporting the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway (B&MK) is a proposed 26 kilometre canal that will link the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the river Great Ouse in Bedford through a series of waterway parks. As part of the development permission for the Rookery South ERF, the project is supporting the construction of a part of the canal where it crosses Green Lane on the edge of Stewartby.

Rookery South has already contributed £200,000 towards the necessary design works and will invest a further £3,000,000 in the construction of the section that passes beneath Green Lane linking to the A421 culvert.

The B&MK Waterway will provide a new water corridor at the heart of new developments in the area, linking communities and creating a unique sense of identity and place. The Rookery South team is proud to be contributing to this vision.

More information on the B&MK Waterway is available at <http://www.b-mkwaterway.org.uk/>



Map of the Milton Keynes Waterway

## Contact Us

Should you have any questions, please contact the Rookery South team via the project website at [rookerysouth.co.uk](http://rookerysouth.co.uk). For any day-to-day issues or concerns relating to the construction works, please contact the Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8307 or email [MWapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:MWapplications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) as they work closely with the 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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