



**South West Devon Waste Partnership -  
Summary of Public Exhibition Roadshow held between 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Introduction

A series of exhibitions were held at the following locations between 9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November, with the approximate number of attendees listed below. The aim was two fold – to communicate information about the project and partnership and to gather comment and opinion from local residents and the community. The exhibition covered the partnership background and objectives, project scope and timescales, the waste management issues under consideration, introduced the three companies currently bidding for the contract, site locations under consideration and the potential solutions being proposed.

Roadshow locations and attendees

9 <sup>th</sup> November	Ernesettle Community School	31
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Torbay Town Hall	4
11 <sup>th</sup> November	City College Devonport	11
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Ashtorre Rock, Saltash	33
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Watermark Ivybridge	61
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Guildhall Plymouth	52

The exhibitions were attended by a number of officers from Plymouth, Devon and Torbay Councils as well as representatives from the Environment Agency, who will ultimately be regulating the facility.

General reason for attending

Visitors to the exhibition had a range of interests including:

- General interest in waste management
- General interest in the technology options
- Personal interest in the potential site (usually as a nearby resident)

General issues raised by attendees

- Potential sites for solutions
- Increased traffic – congestion, pollution and danger
- Potential health impact
- Recycling rates – current targets too low
- Recycling rates – impact of facility on recycling
- Visual impact of a facility
- Stack height
- Proximity to housing
- Carbon footprint for waste travelling from Torbay / Devon
- Length of PFI contract
- Alternative technologies considered
- Lack of information on the proposals
- Heat and power generation and potential customers
- Employment potential
- Emission levels and safeguarding in place for emergency situations



- The allocation of waste management sites
- The planning and permitting process
- Clarification of the procurement and selection process
- Where waste will come from

### Specific issues raised

- Congestion at the junction at the top of Ernesettle Lane, parking on the hill, traffic volumes and concern about heavy vehicles taking a short cut through the Ernesettle housing estate.
- Increasing fog in the Tamar valley
- Access arrangements through Lee Mill village
- Railway and water transport opportunities
- Langage power station as a potential site
- Viability of Sherford new town (as recipient of energy)
- Financial incentives for recycling
- Access to HM Naval Base South Yard
- Understanding Viridor's proposals in relation to the Partnership

### Conclusions from Roadshow

The level of interest and engagement shown by those who attended was very positive with many residents asking very detailed and well informed questions. Residents often went away better informed and more aware of the wider issues than when they arrived although the lack of information and specific detail on the four proposals was highlighted.

The procurement, planning and environmental permitting processes are not well understood by the general public although the presence of planning officers and staff from the Environment Agency at the events proved invaluable to help clarify and also to indicate the independence these processes. The Partnership will consider further how it can better communicate and inform the public about these complex formal processes.

The majority of attendees acknowledged the need for an alternative to landfill but many queried whether energy from waste is the right technology often thinking that recycling alone could provide the solution. With the exception of the Torbay event, many of the attendees were concerned about that the solution being near to their community suggesting it should be sited away from residential areas.

A significant proportion of the visitors to the exhibition left comments. We have responded directly to those who left their email address/contact details on their comments form. Many of the other points raised are already addressed on our website [www.swdwp.co.uk](http://www.swdwp.co.uk).

Media coverage over the course of the exhibition was balanced, although there was some confusion over dates and venues due to some incorrect detail on online / teletext schedules. This was clarified with the media channels who later corrected their text where possible. Several media stories were also slightly confused leading to an incorrect belief that the Ernesettle site had been withdrawn from consideration.



The attendance levels at some venues were disappointing and a number of local residents suggested others were not aware of the roadshows and queried the advertising. The Partnership confirmed that all roadshows were advertised in the local press, in local libraries, on the partnership's website and at the venues themselves. However, this is something the partnership will need to review to consider how this can be improved for future events.