

Report to: Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

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Date of Meeting: Tuesday 10th September 2019

Hillhouse Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A meeting was held with the Managing Director at the end of May to understand better the phasing and costings of the individual development plots. A meeting with Genecon to feedback on the information obtained and discuss necessary updates to the Implementation Plan was held in July. A first draft will be considered by the council before being finalised.

MARKETING

Signage – The first sign has been erected at the entrance to the site at the gatehouse. The second sign has also now been erected. The third sign, which will be the most prominent position on Bourne Road has now received planning permission and will be installed early September.

Promotional Drone Video – Recording for the drone video took place over two days in mid-August. Some excellent footage has been captured and ‘Buzz Drones’, with ‘Just By Michael’ (videographer) are in the process of editing it. We expect the video to be completed mid-September.

The video will be approximately three minutes long and will mainly show aerial footage of the site and the potential development opportunities. It will also include some ground videography entering the operational side of some of the businesses with short interviews and commentary. This is an exciting innovative project designed to showcase the Enterprise Zone, and show the footage to prospective interested parties looking to relocate to the site.

For marketing purposes, the finished video will be made available to all EZ occupants, will be displayed on the www.hillhouseez.com website and the Wyre Council web pages, shared by social media and used at property and investment shows.

Newsletter – The 2nd newsletter can be found here <https://mailchi.mp/aeab24c26fe7/may-e-newsletter-361669>. The 3rd newsletter will be published in early September.

SITE ACTIVITY

Vinnolit - It is confirmed that Vinnolit will cease trading on August 31st 2019.

Key staff will remain on site until at least Summer 2020 to assist in the decommissioning of the site.

On August 7th Council Officers from Blackpool and Wyre Council met with Dr David Boscott MD at Vinnolit. Also in attendance was Edmund Vogel who is their Strategy Manager and also Guy Gansfort from their HR department. Both had flown in from Germany.

They have a number of Process Operators who will become available at the end of the year, and also maintenance staff who should be easily locally employed with some intervention.

They seem to have a robust plan in place but would benefit from a more detailed package of support via the Growth Company, which we are facilitating.

From a COMAH perspective the plant will cease operating as both upper and lower tier COMAH site on the 31/08/19

Communication will continue to ensure the best use of the land once Vinnolit vacate next year.

Stobart Biomass - Heads of Terms between Stobart Biomass (Developer) and Le Fylde Estates (Landowner NPL Group) for a 150,000 tonne p/a EfW plant within the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone. Site investigations and early planning works are taking place. It is projected this will create a number of short-term constructions jobs and permanent operative jobs once completed.

Forsa Energy - Site investigations and early planning works have also commenced on a new 20MW Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) gas turbines. This is also projected to create a number of short-term construction jobs.

International Business Centre – 12 new administrative jobs created

Ends