

**Beddington Community Liaison Group meeting minutes – free-to-join videoconference
Thursday 15th October 2020 18.00**

Attendees:

Cllr Tim Foster – Chair, London Borough of Sutton, Independent member for Beddington North

Dave Tchil – Hackbridge community representative

Louise McGoochan – Environment Agency – Installations Officer

John Haynes – South London Waste Partnership – Communications Advisor

Mike Stafford – Viridor – Head of Contracts

Matt Webster – Viridor Contracts Manager

Brett McGuin – Viridor – ERF EHS Manager

Sarah Ling – Viridor – Visitor Centre Manager

Andrew Turner - Madano, supporting Viridor

Item		Action
1.0	Introductions & Apologies	
1.1	<p>Mike Stafford welcomed members to the virtual meeting and confirmed that this was the first meeting of the CLG to take place since January. It was noted that minutes of the meeting would be shared with members of the community who were not able to join the virtual meeting.</p> <p>Dave Tchil was introduced to the meeting as a member of the Hackbridge community and would represent the community at the CLG following David Goymour’s departure from the group. Dave confirmed the lived in the BedZed and was highly involved in community activities.</p>	
2.0	Beddington Farmlands update	
2.1	<p>Andrew shared an update focusing on the Beddington Farmlands restoration programme. Andrew confirmed that Viridor continued its COVID-recovery programme following the initial lockdown period where contractors were unable to access the site to progress the habitat creation works.</p> <p>The enhanced sludge management programme continued to support the historic sludge drying beds owned by Thames Water. There was a discussion around additional support Viridor was providing to these habitats to ensure they were still suitable for supporting lapwing populations.</p>	
2.2	<p>Andrew updated the group that the phase one wet grassland habitat near to the northernmost bird hide was establishing well. The area had been seeded; however high levels of bird activity had reduced this seeding application. Viridor is continuing to be advised by a wet grassland expert and will seek his views on fencing the phase one habitat to give it every chance of success for attracting lapwing.</p> <p>Viridor was shortly to mobilise contractors to clear the ERF construction car park and to complete the bulk excavation of phase two and forming the islets and channels of this area. Viridor recently produced a short video that highlights the progress made on the wet grassland habitat creation and also the ongoing management of the sludge habitats – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSrBCkp67kE.</p> <p>There was a general discussion around the management of water across the wider site, it was noted that Viridor, Thames Water and ProLogis had met with Aquatic Engineering (an</p>	

<p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p>engineering consultancy commissioned by Thames Water) to explore the potential to form a holistic water management system around the Farmlands. Viridor is also exploring retrofitting some existing pumps that formerly pumped water from the Main Effluent Carrier Channel into the recycling compound to now pump water into the northern wet grassland. This would ensure the wet grassland areas could be kept wet throughout the year and suitable as habitats for lapwing.</p> <p>Dave Tchil noted that this was very interesting work and it would be great to help share more information with the community. Andrew ask Dave if he had received the recently posted community newsletter. Dave confirmed that he had.</p> <p>Andrew continued to update members that Viridor had finally shared the acidic grassland laboratory report with the CAMC and CSG for review. Viridor had also shared this report with Thames Water as landowners, at the time of writing there had been no feedback. Viridor had held concerns over the ability to which an acidic grassland could be delivered and sustainably managed at the Beddington Farmlands given the methods needed to suitably acidify the base soils and the impact this may have to the sensitive habitats and river Wandle. It was confirmed that the CAMC and CSG would feed back their views ahead of a decision being made of the viability of this habitat at Beddington.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the public access to the Beddington Farmlands, it was confirmed that the Beddington Farmlands access strategy working group had met for the first time in September. It was agreed that Viridor would progress its re-submission of the planning documents to re-align the cycleway onto the permissive footpath. This would include engagement with the London Borough of Sutton highways team.</p> <p>Andrew noted that a refreshed version of the restoration roadmap had been prepared and was available online and would shortly be available in the bird hides.</p> <p>Following the graffiti damage to the bird hides over the summer of 2020, Viridor had engaged with a local artist to share ideas of the ways to engage with the local community to deliver an artwork installation that connects the community with the bird hides.</p> <p>In the absence of a member of the ProLogis team, Andrew shared a short update on behalf of David Mellor, Development Director:</p> <p>“As people will be able to see if they travel down Beddington Lane regularly things are progressing quickly on site with the steel frames erected for all three buildings and most of the wall and roof cladding on. I’m pleased to say we are still on target to complete early next year, although with the weather now turning and the current COVID situation we are monitoring progress carefully.</p> <p>We have paused works on our ecology site to refocus the design, working with David Warburton, Marcus and Roger as well as our own ecologists and landscape architects, to provide a better long-term solution that compliments the adjacent Viridor restoration project. Previously our scheme was tailored to replacing the loss of the settlement beds, which worked on a like for like basis (plus a small amount of betterment), but ultimately we all believe we can achieve something of greater ecological benefit. I am pleased to say we have now completed our redesign (although it did take longer than I’d hoped) and we will continue liaise with David, Marcus and Roger to hopefully get it implemented and planted this landscape season.”</p> <p>There was a discussion around the condition of the road surface outside of the ProLogis development with it being noted that quantities of mud was being accumulated and spread onto Beddington Lane. Viridor confirmed that meetings were due to be held with ProLogis to ensure the road surface was kept in a better condition.</p>	
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2.6	<p>Andrew also updated members that whilst there was no formal update from SDEN, it is understood that the SDEN team are currently attempting to connect the heat network to the landfill engines, recently the pipe bridge across the railway line was strengthened.</p>	
3.0	<p>Beddington ERF update</p>	
3.1	<p>Brett McGuin delivered a short update covering the Beddington ERF operations, Brett noted that almost all of the construction activity at the site was complete with only a small number of small activities progressing in the coming months. Brett confirmed that the ERF construction compound (visible from the northernmost bird hide) would be removed in the coming months.</p>	
	<p>The ERF had continued to support the South London Waste Partnership and local businesses to safely process non-recyclable waste during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Andrew explained that residents usually contacted members of the community liaison group to enquire about activities at the Beddington ERF.</p>	
3.2	<p>Brett asked if any members of the group had been impacted by the ERF, or if members of their communities had registered any complaint. Members confirmed that they had not. Andrew reiterated that if any members of the community were concerned by activity to contact Beddingtonerf@viridor.co.uk at any time. Louise McGoochan also noted that members of the community could contact her, although she lived in the South East and would take a number of hours to respond to a complaint at the site.</p>	
	<p>It was noted that there had been complaints of vehicles that were delivering to the ERF queueing on the Beddington Lane attempting to access the site. Brett confirmed he would continue to monitor the situation and liaise with ProLogis to ensure that vehicles were not impacting the traffic flow.</p>	
3.3	<p>Brett explained that the ERF had supported the South London Waste Partnership throughout the year to date and normally in an calendar year the ERF would experience a c. 2-3 week maintenance outage (similar to an MOT for a car), this would see waste material sent to alternative processing facilities. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Beddington ERF had not experienced such an outage and this would be deferred until 2021. Brett confirmed that the ERF was performing safely, however due to the outage not taking place, the ERF may exceed the volume of waste it was permitted to process in a calendar year.</p> <p>Brett noted that Viridor had notified the Environment Agency of this instance and had submitted a variation to the Environmental Permit for the Beddington ERF to elevate the limit of waste processed at the ERF to enable the facility to continue processing waste in 2020. It was noted that no additional waste would be delivered to the facility on a daily basis, rather cumulatively over the year the waste processed would exceed the limit.</p> <p>Louise confirmed that the Environment Agency continued to monitor the ERF and following relaxations to their COVID-19 guidelines had visited the ERF for the first time since March. Louise also noted that Viridor had informed her of the potential exceedance of the waste processing limit and confirmed the Environment Agency was seeing this occur across a number of sites in the UK for similar reasons. A permit variation had been submitted and was being reviewed.</p> <p>There was a short discussion around the impacts of the increased tonnage limit, Brett</p>	

3.4	<p>confirmed that the ERF would need to undergo a more substantial maintenance outage if this occurred less frequently.</p> <p>Cllr Foster asked a question of John Haynes relating to the rationale for street sweepings being delivered to the Energy Recovery Facility – citing these were ‘watery’ and heavy and didn’t appear to be suitable for the ERF. John confirmed that street sweepings were temporarily delivered into the Energy Recovery Facility whilst the South London Waste Partnership explored opportunities for this material to be sent to an appropriate recycling facility. Cllr Foster commented that this material was simply evaporating more steam into the ERF with street sweepings containing high volumes of water. John took an action to update Cllr Foster on the status of the procurement.</p>	JH
4.0	Community issues	
4.1	<p>Andrew confirmed that since the last meeting the final Beddington ERF construction newsletter was mailed to c. 15,000 homes surrounding the site in September.</p> <p>The Beddington Farmlands restoration roadmap had now been updated, this outlines the progress made in the last year on the Farmlands project, it is now available online and also will shortly be installed in the bird hides located off the permissive footpath.</p> <p>Andrew noted that Viridor is working with the London Borough of Sutton and Beddington Farm Bird Group to install a series of interpretation boards into the bird hides on the permissive footpath.</p> <p>The Beddington Virtual Visitor Centre continues to upload bi-monthly reports from the ERF emissions monitoring and will shortly include short video clips of the ERF process at each stage of the facility.</p>	
4.2	<p>Andrew mentioned that as part of the commitment to develop lasting relationships within communities around its operational sites across the UK, Viridor is committed to supporting the fantastic work of local charitable causes. Nationally Viridor has selected, with the help of its employees, 12 charity partners and three are located near the Beddington site.</p> <p>Following the COVID-19 outbreak, Viridor has re-appointed three charities locally to Beddington to receive £3,333 each. St Raphaels Hospice, Merton Mencap and The British Home – formally three of the SLWP Borough mayor’s charities and projects that have been supported throughout the ERF project.</p>	
4.3	<p>Sarah updated the group that the Community Benefit Fund met virtually in August to discuss two new projects (one in Merton and one in Croydon).</p> <p>Dave enquired into the acceptance criteria for projects that could be supported by the Community Benefit Fund, Sarah confirmed that the criteria were available on the Viridor website and it was agreed Dave would share these with his community network.</p> <p>A link was included in the minutes: https://www.viridor.co.uk/energy/energy-recovery-facilities/beddington-erf/community/</p>	DT
5.0	Any Other Business	
	There was no other business.	

5.1		
6.0	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	<p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed at Thursday 22nd January 2021, there was a short discussion around the format of the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that Viridor would continue to observe Government guidance for meetings in person. At the time of the meeting it was agreed that the meeting would be held on a free-to-join video-conferencing platform.</p>	AT