

**Beddington Farmlands CLG update – April 2020**

*This briefing has been prepared for the members of the Beddington Community Liaison Group following the postponement of the meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Viridor will seek to host a re-arranged meeting at the Beddington ERF once the more stringent self-isolation measures have rescinded.*

*In meantime the Beddington team have prepared the below briefing to update members of the community around activities at the Beddington site. Reflecting the current social distancing requirements, it is likely we will be unable to host an open day at the Beddington Farmlands in the coming months, so have attached a 'virtual site walkover' of the Beddington Farmlands.*

**Beddington Farmlands and ERF update:**

- **ERF operations** – since the last meeting, the ERF has continued to provide a reliable service for the South London Waste Partnership's residents across the four boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton. The construction team have worked to progress the final aspects of the project including the installation of the lifts in the visitor centre and administration building. Viridor maintains an ongoing communication with the South London Waste Partnership to manage any impacts to waste deliveries.
- **Restrictions on visitors to the Beddington ERF** – responding to Government guidance around the COVID-19 outbreak and to ensure that the ERF is protected from the COVID-19 infection and can continue supporting the South London Waste Partnership the visitor centre has been temporarily closed. Alongside this, all non-essential staff have been asked to work from home. The ERF operations team have implemented a range of social distancing measures to ensure they keep themselves safe during this period. Viridor will continue to monitor the Government guidance.
- **Emissions monitoring format** – responding to feedback from members of the community, the emissions monitoring reports now feature a slightly revised format to enable more accessible viewing of the information.
- **Community newsletter** – the final construction newsletter is now largely complete, Viridor is working to finalise this before it is issued in the coming weeks. The Beddington Virtual Visitor Centre continues to host emissions monitoring reports twice monthly on [www.beddingtonerf.info](http://www.beddingtonerf.info).
- **ERF maintenance outage** - in April, as part of the normal operations at the Beddington ERF, an annual maintenance and inspection period is required to conduct planned maintenance and routine inspections of the facility. This is standard practice in the energy generation and waste management industries, much like the annual service of a domestic boiler. The ERF team worked with its technical specialists to conduct a programme of planned activity across the Beddington ERF. This included a deep clean and maintenance across the facility. Viridor revised this maintenance requirement to minimise the number of days the ERF did not operate in light of the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19. The outage was conducted successfully and safely over the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Beddington Farmlands update:**

- **Beddington Farmlands Masterplanning meeting** – on the 14<sup>th</sup> February Viridor welcomed members of the London Borough of Sutton, Thames Water, the Conservation Science Group and the Chair of the CAMC to a workshop to update the wider stakeholder network around the Beddington site of restoration progress and to discuss potential enhancements and refinements to the Beddington Restoration Management Plan. Feedback was captured and the Viridor team is now progressing its proposals for any amendments to be made ahead of sharing this with the CAMC in the autumn.
- **Winter works programme** – This work has included the removal of willows across the southern lake feeder stream (running alongside Beddington Park) to enable the creation of the southern wet grasslands later in 2020. Following a period of extremely wet weather, Viridor's contractors have now completed the work ahead of the breeding bird season. Scrub areas have also been cleared to the east of the site near Pongo Park. Viridor had planned to engage contractors to clear the islands on the northern lake – equipment was delivered to the site including a pontoon; however, contractor availability and weather conditions have delayed this work into the autumn.
- **Thames Water Lagoons 5 & 6 (next to Thames Water's facility)** - Viridor has completed its contract with Thames Water to empty, infill and survey the lagoons 5 and 6 adjoining the Thames Water works on the Farmlands. This area is safeguarded for potential future expansion required by Thames Water to support the communities of south London. Thames Water is now

progressing the formal hand back of this area of the site and exploring the potential for an interim habitat management plan for temporary solar panel arrays and also interim bird scrapes.

- **Wet grassland habitats** - Following the March Conservation Science Group – Viridor is providing further technical drawings of the wet grassland designs for review and approval at the CAMC. Viridor is continuing to maintain the historic sludge lagoons in the Hundred Acre and South East Corner of the site and is in active conversations with Thames Water about using water from the Main Effluent Carrier channel on the site to continue irrigation of these habitats in the coming years.
- **Tree planting programme, SDEN and around northern lake boundary** - As part of the Restoration Management Plan, there is the requirement for a large number of trees to be planted and maintained, this includes the permissive footpath and trees due to be planted in accordance with the SDEN pipeline project. Viridor has conducted a survey of the trees planted along the permissive footpath to identify any plants that have recently grown new buds following a period of dormancy over the winter. The team have ordered and planted a further 800 trees along the permissive footpath in line with the planting scheme associated with the SDEN project and has also planted further hedgerows along the northern lake boundary.
- **Acidic grassland** – Following long-term laboratory trials to establish the viability of acidic grassland at the Beddington site, Viridor has now received the technical report from the consultants. Initial reviews highlight concern around the long-term sustainability of the habitat. Viridor has shared the data with the Conservation Science Group for review and in recent days the team ploughed and seeded a 9.5-hectare (approximately 9 football pitches) area of Acid Grassland as a trial.

**Update from Louise McGoochan (Environment Agency officer for the ERF):**

- We are currently working from home and regulation of the site continues. I am in regular contact with Brett at the ERF to discuss operations at the site.
- The ERF Continuous Emissions Monitoring is taking place with the next submission of quarterly reporting due at the end of this month. We have had no complaints since the last meeting.

**Update from the Prologis development (on the plot of land between the ERF and Beddington Lane):**

- **Vegetation stripping and earth moving** - on the site started in March and following Government guidance on COVID-19, limited activity to prepare the foundations of the development will continue in the coming weeks, we will monitor the guidance and prepare to continue the development in the coming months.
- **Deliveries of steel** - for the structure of the buildings are scheduled to begin in mid-June for the first building along the Western side of the site.

For any further information, please contact [beddingtonerf@viridor.co.uk](mailto:beddingtonerf@viridor.co.uk)