

**Beddington Conservation and Access Management Committee meeting minutes
Thursday 12th September 2019 16.00**

Attendees:

Cllr Tim Foster – Chair, London Borough of Sutton
 Cllr Ben Andrew – Vice-Chair, London Borough of Sutton
 Cllr Jillian Green – London Borough of Sutton
 Stephen Debourde – Hackbridge Resident – community representative
 Tom Sweeney – Beddington resident – community representative
 Derek Coleman – Beddington Farm Bird Group
 Andy Webber – London Borough of Sutton
 Robert Favell – London Borough of Sutton
 Simon Chalcraft – London Borough of Sutton
 Marcus Kohler – MKA Ecology
 Richard Aylard – Thames Water
 Terry Murphy – Viridor
 Adrian Frost – Viridor
 Dan Cooke – Pennon Group
 Andrew Turner - Madano, supporting Viridor

| Item | | Action |
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| 1.0 | Introductions & Apologies | |
| 1.1 | Viridor welcomed members of the Conservation and Access Management Committee (CAMC) to the Visitor Centre at the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility. A short safety orientation was completed and all members watched the HomeSafe induction video. | |
| 1.2 | <p>Cllr Tim Foster, as chair of the Conservation and Access Management Committee welcomed the members to the newly reformed CAMC and made introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Aylard -Thames Water Director of Sustainability ● Tom Sweeney – community representative and member of the Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum ● Stephen Debourde – community representative for Hackbridge and local resident ● Simon Chalcraft and Robert Favell – London Borough of Sutton planning enforcement officers. ● Terry Murphy – Director of landfill for Viridor ● Adrian Frost – Head of Project Delivery for Viridor and had been involved with the Beddington site for a number of years <p>Apologies were shared from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust) ● David Warburton (London Borough of Sutton) | |
| 2.0 | Review of terms of reference changes and future agenda items | |
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| <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> | <p>It was noted at the last meeting, the (Annual) General Meeting, that the terms of reference would be uploaded to a Google Document account for review by members. Andrew Turner confirmed that members had fed back on the terms of reference and comments had been included in an updated version.</p> <p>Derek Coleman commented that he could not see all the comments in the document. It was confirmed all comments had been included.</p> <p>It was noted that it was important that the changes reflected the way in which the Conservation Science Group (CSG) acted as a technical advisor to the CAMC. It was noted that David and Marcus Kohler also attended the CSG, but it was Derek Coleman who formally sat on the CAMC as the CSG representative.</p> <p>Reflecting the timeline to approve the terms of reference it was agreed that Andy Webber would review the proposed changes and then consider the most appropriate way to confirm the changes. Andy confirmed this may need to be done at the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Foster noted that he would like a standing agenda item to including ‘community issues’ in future meetings.</p> | <p>AW</p> <p>AT</p> |
| <p>3.0</p> | <p>Update of restoration progress since the last meeting</p> | |
| <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> | <p>Adrian Frost offered a short update of the work completed to date, he confirmed that he had assumed responsibility for delivery of the restoration programme of works at Beddington and would be looking to appoint contractors to deliver the packages of work in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan and in line with the 2023 target completion date.</p> <p>Adrian referenced the Restoration Roadmap, hard copies were available at the meeting, and explained that this would be the core community communications tool for communicating progress against the work plan. It was noted that copies of the roadmap were available in the bird hides on the permissive footpath and also on the Viridor website.</p> <p>It was confirmed that an overarching programme of works had been issued to the London Borough of Sutton and that the Managing Director of Viridor would meet with Mary Morrissey, Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods at the London Borough of Sutton to brief her on the programme of works.</p> <p>Viridor had been invited to attend the Housing, Economy and Business Committee at the London Borough of Sutton to discuss the Beddington Farmlands restoration project and the recent Wandle Valley Forum petition.</p> <p>Adrian noted that a sacrificial crop had been planted to act as a wildflower species rich habitat and ‘living bird feeder’ for wildlife on the Farmlands.</p> <p>The wet grassland habitats (phase one) located nearest to the northern bird hide had completed its ‘bulk-dig’ to remove c. 2-3m of soil material and to create the basis of the habitat. The next step would be to create islets and gullies from which to develop vegetation in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan. Final designs would be submitted to the Conservation Science Group for approval. Viridor would also start to excavate the next phase nearest to the ERF construction carpark in the coming weeks.</p> | |

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| <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> | <p>Adrian confirmed that trials on the viability of the acid grassland at the site were ongoing with a specialist contractor conducting laboratory trials and the results would be fed back to Viridor in the coming weeks. Andy Webber commented that the acid grassland viability had been an ongoing point for a number of years and it would be sensible to draw conclusions on its sustainable viability in the coming months.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the viability of the acidic grassland and how this could be achieved at the Beddington site. Adrian noted concerns around the potential leaching of acidity into the river Wandle. The discussion continued around alternative habitats that could be delivered and it was agreed that Viridor would revert to the CAMC with a clear proposal at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Andrew noted that there was acidic grassland in wider areas of the Borough and on Mitcham Common. He suggested other areas could be supported or enhanced as a way of mitigation should the Beddington acid grassland not be deliverable.</p> <p>The restoration team were also focusing on installing landfill infrastructure to support the landfill site as the waste buried in specially engineered landfill cells matured. This involved installing landfill gas and leachate wells across the site, at certain times it may be required to drill into the landfill site to install the wells.</p> <p>Andrew explained that Viridor had received two odour complaints linked to recent landfill infrastructure drilling, Andrew and Adrian indicated the works on a PowerPoint slide and explained why Viridor needed to drill into aged waste to upgrade landfill infrastructure to support the site as it enters its aftercare phase. It was agreed that the Community Liaison Group would be notified of future works that could cause a noticeable impact upon the local community. Cllr Green commented that she had notified the council of the odour. Tom Sweeney noted that this proactive approach would be welcomed.</p> <p>Andrew reiterated that if members of the community were concerned by activity to contact Beddingtonfarmlands@viridor.co.uk or call 0800 975 3029 at any time.</p> <p>Cllr Foster commented that the Beddington operations had a major impact upon Beddington Lane and that involvement from Thames Water was welcomed and incredibly important. It was noted that the site has complex leases and contracts in place and co-ordination across the wider site was critical.</p> <p>Andy Webber added that Richard Aylard had met with Mary Morrissey and himself along with the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Sutton to discuss Thames Water's involvement in the Borough.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the wider site management including the importance of the site for lapwing. Marcus Kohler commented that the changing nature of operations on the site had seen a drying out of sludge drying beds across the site and this habitat is of critical importance to the ongoing success of the lapwing.</p> <p>Richard Aylard commented that the future of lapwing on the Beddington site was of the upmost importance and that Viridor and Thames Water would meet at an executive level to discuss ways in which to support the site in the future. Richard confirmed that he was fully committed to attending future CAMC meetings on behalf of Thames Water.</p> <p>Marcus continued to set the context that the South East Corner and Hundred Acre areas were critical for lapwing and if these areas dry out, lapwing would likely be lost from the site. A long term management plan would be required. Richard Aylard</p> | <p>AF</p> <p>AT</p> <p>RA/DC</p> |
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| <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> | <p>Andrew confirmed that following feedback from members of the community, Viridor would meet with members of the Beddington Farm Bird Group and community to consult on amendments to the installed viewing hatches to make lower hatches available along with installing benches in the bird hides on the permissive footpath. It was noted by members of the CAMC that the bird hides had been well received by members of the community. It was commented that the bird hide access points were not suitable for less mobile members of the community.</p> <p>Adrian confirmed that as part of the Sustrans pathway planned through the Farmlands the additional bird hides would have suitable access.</p> <p>Cllr Foster noted that alongside the Restoration Roadmap that was currently installed in the bird hides, it would be very helpful for a short introductory information board to be included about some of the birds that could be seen at the Farmlands. Andrew confirmed it would be helpful if the Beddington Farm Bird Group (BFBG) could support in provision of this information for panels. Derek Coleman agreed to take this away to the BFBG.</p> <p>Tom Sweeney suggested that local schools could be involved in the bird hides and potentially make visits to them.</p> <p>Stephen Debourde questioned why the three bird hides were of different designs. Adrian confirmed that they had been designed in sequence and Viridor had learned lessons from the most northerly hides to be translated into the southernmost hide. Viridor would continue to collate feedback for the design of the further hides within the site.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the desired access east-west across the site. Andrew confirmed that an east-west access would be achieved near to Asda on Beddington Lane running into Beddington Park as part of the TfL major scheme. It was also noted that Mile Road could enable east-west access. Viridor and Thames took an action to discuss this matter at their meeting.</p> | <p>DerekC/AT</p> <p>DC/RA</p> |
| <p>5.0</p> | <p>Energy Recovery Facility project</p> | |
| <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> | <p>Andrew offered a short update of the Beddington ERF construction project for members of the CAMC. It was confirmed that the ERF was now supporting the South London Waste Partnership with the recovery of energy from non-recyclable waste.</p> <p>The ERF was completing its reliability testing phase and there were a number of final construction activities that were ongoing including finishing the administration building, workshop and final roadway surfaces. In the coming months the construction compound would be demobilised and this may be visible from the permissive footpath.</p> <p>Andrew explained that the administration building would have swift boxes installed to the northern facade of the ERF building. It was noted that the administration building featured a 'living brown roof' that would provide habitat and feeding grounds for the swifts before nesting in the boxes.</p> <p>The Virtual Visitor Centre, www.Beddingtonerf.info, included information about the ERF and also emissions monitoring information.</p> | |
| <p>6.0</p> | <p>Review of communications activity</p> | |

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| <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> | <p>Andrew explained that the Restoration Roadmap was now installed in the bird hides and available on the Viridor website. This would be updated at the end of the year and progress against the deliverables explained.</p> <p>A monthly restoration snapshot would also be produced and shared on social media to quickly explain the progress that was being made to each of the core areas of the restoration project. This would also be shared with the social media account of the London Borough of Sutton to help spread the message amongst local communities. Andrew encouraged members of the CAMC to also share the snapshot within their communities.</p> <p>Cllr Foster explained that it will be important to ‘reset expectations’ of the Beddington Farmlands with a number of stakeholders expecting an extension of Beddington Park, whereas the reality will be a network of habitats similar to the London Wetland Centre. Richard Aylard noted that Thames Water had been through a very similar experience with the Walthamstow Wetlands within an urban environment.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the grazing of animals on the Farmlands to support the habitat establishment. It was noted that this could be a consideration in the coming years and that community grazing could be utilised.</p> | |
| <p>7.0</p> | <p>Any other business</p> | |
| <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> | <p>Cllr Foster commented on the status of the Beddington ERF visitor centre and enquired as to when visits would commence. Andrew confirmed that the centre would be fitted with information panels ahead of visits commencing in the coming months.</p> <p>Cllr Foster noted that the Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum (BNNF) would be interested in a visit to the ERF, but also enquired as to whether the visitor centre could be used for community meetings. Dan Cooke noted that the BNNF would be invited for one of the first visits to the centre, and it would be possible to hold occasional meetings at the Visitor Centre depending on the timing of the meetings.</p> <p>Derek Coleman made the comment that it will be very important to signpost the Beddington Farmlands, and cycleway effectively to ensure members of the community in Beddington Park understand that the Farmlands is available to the public. Adrian confirmed that a culvert would be installed across the southern lake feeder channel to enable access from Beddington Park onto the Farmlands.</p> <p>Dan added that Viridor would shortly publish its annual sustainability report and members were encouraged to visit the Viridor.co.uk website to view the document.</p> <p>Cllr Foster noted that as part of the work to encourage more members of the community to engage with the Beddington Farmlands, language should be made more accessible for the community.</p> | <p>AT</p> |
| <p>8.0</p> | <p>Date of Next Meeting</p> | |
| <p>8.1</p> | <p>The date of the next meeting was discussed and it was confirmed that CAMC meetings occurred the week after the Conservation Science Group (CSG). As such it was noted that the next meeting would take place on 12th December.</p> <p>It was noted the importance of the CSG having adequate time and detailed information to review ahead of making recommendations to the CAMC.</p> | |

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| | <p>Andrew asked members if the timing of the meeting was convenient – it was agreed that 16.00 was a convenient time for members.</p> <p>Future meetings would now be held in the Beddington ERF visitor centre.</p> | |
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