

**Beddington Community Liaison Group meeting minutes – free-to-join videoconference
Thursday 22nd April 2021 18.00**

Attendees:

Dave Tchil – Hackbridge Resident
 Sandy Goodwin – Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum
 Cllr Tim Foster – Chair, London Borough of Sutton
 Elliot Colburn MP, Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington
 Lewis Preston, casework for Elliot Colburn MP
 Louise McGoochan – Environment Agency – Installations Officer
 John Haynes – South London Waste Partnership – Communications Advisor
 John Sibson – Team Leader for Environmental Health, London Borough of Sutton
 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 there were a number of apologies shared ahead of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Ricketts, Environment Agency • Janet Emberson, Friends of Beddington Park • Dennis Philpott, Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum 	
1.2	<p>Mike asked if all members had received a copy of the minutes of the last meeting. It was agreed that the minutes were representative of the previous meeting and signed off. Andrew Turner took an action to upload the minutes to the Viridor website.</p>	AT
2.0	Beddington ERF update	
2.1	<p>Brett McGuin delivered a short update covering the Beddington ERF operations, Brett noted that almost all of the construction activity at the site now was complete with only a small number of small activities progressing in the coming months.</p> <p>The Beddington ERF was not currently processing waste and was undergoing its annual maintenance inspection. This process included welcoming contractors under COVID-secure ways of working and waste was currently being received at the Beddington ERF from the South London Waste Partnership before being transferred to alternative facilities.</p>	
2.2	<p>David Tchil and Cllr Foster noted that in recent weeks, members of the community had seen steam escaping from the roof of the Beddington. Mike and Brett responded that this activity was part of the process of restarting the Beddington ERF. Part of this process increases the pressure of steam at the ERF before starting to generate electricity. At no point during this process did the ERF become non-complaint and the steam was purified water, rather than flue gas from the combustion process.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Viridor would prepare a short explanatory note that outlined the circumstances when the Beddington ERF might be venting steam from the roof of the</p>	

<p>2.3</p>	<p>facility and the ways to contact Viridor for more information. It was also agreed that Viridor would communicate any disruption to normal operations more proactively with the members of the community liaison group so they could inform members of their communities.</p> <p>There was a short discussion, with Elliot Colburn asking a number of questions around recent Inside Croydon articles focused on the environmental performance of the Beddington ERF and the number of ‘warnings’ the facility had received from the Environment Agency. Andrew and Brett shared a short response.</p> <p>The Beddington ERF holds an environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency (EA), this sets operating standards and limits to ensure that the ERF operates without harming human health or the environment. The Environmental Permit contains information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ acceptable wastes to be processed at the facility, ○ sets limits of emissions from the facility via the flue stacks, ○ the environmental management system under which the ERF operates ○ limits the tonnage of waste that can be processed in a calendar year. <p>The Beddington ERF is regulated by the Environment Agency in accordance with its environmental permit. The ERF has been operating for more than 18 months and in the last twelve months the ERF has operated well below permitted emission limit values. The Environment Agency also monitor performance through the number of CCS (Compliance Classification Scheme) scores received. Scores are accumulated in a calendar year and used to determine an annual Compliance Band (A – F) for the site.</p> <p>The Environment Agency regularly visit the Beddington ERF to inspect the operations and regulate the compliance of the facility against its environmental permit. Whenever the Environment Agency visit the Beddington ERF they will issue a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) that outlines any observations, elements of good practice and areas where the Viridor team could act improve the management of the Beddington ERF, these can include suggestions to tidy up the storage or waste suggest, the waste inspection process or housekeeping. This report will also contain the CCS scores. When the Environment Agency come to examine a particular issue at the ERF, such as a temporary exceedance of the emissions limits the Environment Agency will issue a CAR form.</p> <p>At its discretion the EA officer may issue more than one “score” for the same event: one focused on the issue, and another one relating to the management of the ERF. Four such events in a calendar year could therefore result in the site being placed in Band D. At Beddington, the EA officer routinely issues 2 scores for each non-compliance. At other ERFs, similar minor and transient non-compliances usually attract a single score.</p> <p>Each CAR has a section called Enforcement Response. Every non-compliance requires the EA to tick one of 3 boxes, indicating the intended response. The middle box could be termed a “warning” (resulting in one ‘warning’ as noted on Inside Croydon). In the South East, the Environment Agency tends to routinely tick the middle (‘warning’) box. Other EA offices in England have tended to routinely tick the first “advice and guidance” box on the CAR for similar minor non-compliances. Viridor understands that the Environment Agency are reviewing this practice to ensure consistency in approach following the media attention this has received.</p> <p>The way in which the Freedom of Information request was received by the member of the public indicated many of these CAR forms were submitted on the 31st December 2020. Effectively it is an administration date (i.e. date report was submitted and not the date of</p>	<p>BM/ AT</p>
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	<p>the incident). We understand that this whole regulatory system can be confusing for members of the community.</p> <p>2.4 Andrew issued a short update that the Sutton Decentralised Energy Network has started to export heat from the Beddington landfill gas engines. Elliot Colburn noted that there has recently been a public meeting about the SDEN project with the New Mill Quarter residents, and the project was continuing to cause considerable concern. Andrew confirmed that Viridor was responsible for providing heat to the SDEN, with the project them assuming responsibility for transporting this to the New Mill Quarter along with the standby boilers, should for any reason, the Beddington site be unable to provide the heat for residents.</p> <p>Elliot noted that he was planning to convene a short debate in Parliament about the ongoing issues with New Mill Quarter and the SDEN. It was agreed that Viridor would send a short briefing to Elliot’s office ahead of the debate.</p> <p>2.5 Louise McGoochan confirmed that she continued to regulate the Beddington ERF, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Environment Agency were not able to visit the ERF, but in the week of the meeting a virtual visit was conducted. Louise noted that the Beddington ERF continues to process waste in accordance with its Environmental Permit and it was anticipated that the Environment Agency would visit the site to audit Viridor’s waste acceptance protocols in the coming weeks as the COVID-19 restrictions started to ease.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the most appropriate contact points for members of the community. Andrew noted that Viridor would always respond to queries or questions from members of the community, and they could contact Beddingtonerf@viridor.co.uk or call 07702 962043. Viridor would investigate the matter immediately.</p> <p>2.6 Louise McGoochan also added that members of the community could contact the Environment Agency on their 24-hour incident hotline number: 0800 807060, however this may take a number of hours to investigate. Viridor advised members of the community to contact Viridor alongside the Environment Agency to speed up any response.</p> <p>Andrew added that when Viridor receive any odour complaints, the team also contact the Environmental Health Officer. David Kingstone added that the Environmental Health Office at the London Borough of Sutton could also be contacted on 0208 770 449.</p> <p>Dave Tchil explained that there had been quite a ‘sickly’ sweet smell in his community in recent weeks. Andrew thanked Dave for sharing this update and also encouraged Dave to contact Viridor at the time of the odour to support with the investigations in a timely manner. John Sibson noted that his team investigate complaints made by residents in the Beddington area, and the recent complaint was investigated and found not to be linked to the ERF.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the varying odours that could be associated with the Beddington ERF and landfill site, for example odours of burning plastic would not be associated with the Beddington site, but it was confirmed that other industrial and vacant sites in the community did practice burning waste openly. Mike added that in the past Viridor had prepared a short briefing note on the types of odour that could be associated with the Beddington site, and those that may be linked to the Thames Water facility. Viridor took an action to prepare a short table of the sorts of odours and the best contact point if the community experienced them.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>MS/AT</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Beddington Farmlands</p>	

3.1	<p>Andrew updated members around the latest progress at the Farmlands by sharing a presentation that was presented at the recent London Borough of Sutton, Housing, Economy and Business Committee to update members on the progress of the restoration works.</p>	
3.2	<p>Viridor had continued to progress the habitat creation and management programme on the Farmlands in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan. Viridor is committed to deliver the habitat baseline conditions across the network of the Farmlands by the end of 2023. At this point, a five-year aftercare and establishment period will commence, this will be overseen by the Beddington Farmlands warden, an officer of the council, paid for by Viridor.</p>	
3.3	<p>Andrew reconfirmed that, like most of the UK, the COVID-19 restrictions have impacted Viridor's access to contractors (and their machinery) due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the ability to spend nights away from home in hotels and poor weather had all played a part in not being able to complete some of the wet grassland habitats, however Viridor has made progress to plan works for spring/summer 2021.</p>	
3.4	<p>Viridor had continued to work with contractors to manage the sludge habitats (previously sludge had been spread on the land, but to save water, Thames Water had stopped this practice) and the beds are now being managed appropriately for lapwing breeding and it has been noted the habitats are even more suitable than in recent years. A network of pipes was now pumping water into these beds and some of the smaller beds are being combined into larger more suitable habitats and the focus is now to attract both lapwing and redshank, both target species. Viridor had contracted a dedicated resource to oversee this work and will work with Thames Water to ensure that this habitat continues to be managed in the long term.</p>	
3.5	<p>Andrew continued to note that following the establishment of phase 1 wet grassland habitat (visible from the northernmost bird hide). The focus was on ensuring that the anti-predation fence was installed around the phase 1 area before the spring breeding season. The anti-predator fencing had now been installed.</p>	
3.6	<p>Viridor was in discussions with its ERF contractors around demobilising the construction compound (on top of phase 2 of the wet grassland). Viridor planned to mobilise contractors to the site to ensure that breeding birds do not nest in phase 3 and then progress could be made to create the scrapes and islets in the spring/summer. Viridor's contractors will also focus on reviewing the lake island habitats and make any adjustments suitable to enhance this habitat for lapwing.</p>	
3.7	<p>Viridor had progressed the work on the proposed access amendments to the Restoration Management Plan. The community had come to Viridor with additional proposals, and Viridor has engaged with the community to align the aspirations and delivery schedule to enhance the surface of the existing permissive footpath between Beddington Park and the northernmost bird hide. This will include enhancements to the bird hide access walkways and provide cycle parking and chicane to mark the end of the cycleway. With community support Viridor will now complete this work in 2021.</p>	
	<p>Viridor will create a figure of eight walkway around the lakes along with a pathway up to the Wandle Valley Viewpoint. There has been great community interest in the surfaces of the proposed pathways and Viridor will share the self-bound gravel and concrete surfaces of the pathways along with cross-sections of the permissive footpath route with the community to review ahead of a submission being made to the London Borough of Sutton.</p>	

	This will also be submitted for approval and access will be granted from 2023 once the baseline habitats have been created in accordance with the planning requirements.	
4.0	Community issues	
4.1	Andrew noted that Viridor was working with the London Borough of Sutton and the local community members on the Conservation and Access Management Committee to install a series of interpretation boards into the bird hides. The first of these was now installed in the northernmost bird hide accessible from the permissive footpath. Andrew also confirmed that to support wider community engagement with the Beddington Farmlands, the monthly restoration snapshots would resume and be shared on the Viridor and London Borough of Sutton Twitter accounts.	
4.2	Sarah Ling update members that the Community Benefit Fund had donated £43,235.68 in February 2021 to several projects including a local cricket club and a charity for the homeless. One of the donations includes just over £29,000 to the Hackbridge and Beddington Corner Neighbourhood Development Group towards improvements for the green spaces in the local area. Viridor also supported the Beddington Farm Bird Group to help them purchase cameras to capture the nesting boxes across the farmlands.	
4.3	Sarah encouraged any members of the community liaison group to act as advocates of the Community Benefit Fund and to suggest any projects that might be eligible to contact her for more information.	ALL
5.0	Any Other Business	
5.1	There was no other business.	
6.0	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Thursday 22 nd July 2021, there was a short discussion around the format of the meeting. 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.	AT