

**Beddington Community Liaison Group meeting minutes – free-to-join videoconference
Thursday 4th February 2021 18.00**

Attendees:

Cllr Tim Foster – Chair, London Borough of Sutton

Elliot Colburn MP, Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

Dave Tchil – Hackbridge Resident

Louise McGoochan – Environment Agency – Installations Officer

John Haynes – South London Waste Partnership – Communications Advisor

David Kingstone – 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 • Sandy Goodwin, 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
1.3	<p>John Haynes confirmed that he had responded to Cllr Foster relating to the treatment facility location of the street sweepings from the South London Waste Partnership. Cllr Foster noted he would like to know if the new contract was in place. John agreed to take this away for confirmation.</p>	JH
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 was complete with only a small number of small activities progressing in the coming months. The ERF was continuing to support the South London Waste Partnership and local businesses with non-recyclable waste treatment.</p> <p>Brett confirmed that Viridor were in discussions with their construction partners to dismantle the ERF construction compound (visible from the northernmost bird hide).</p>	
2.2	<p>Brett noted that the January Virtual Visitor Centre (VVC) report for the first half of the month was not posted on c. 15th January due to Brett needing to self-isolate following COVID-19 track and trace. A new protocol was now in place to ensure this does not impact future report updates. The full January report was now on the Virtual Visitor Centre.</p>	

<p>2.3</p>	<p>Brett also noted that a suite of videos would shortly be uploaded to the VVC in the coming weeks to share inside glimpses of the ERF.</p> <p>Brett summarised the activity around the environmental permit variation submitted by Viridor. The Beddington ERF environmental permit, issued by the Environment Agency, allowed Viridor to process 302,500 tonnes of waste per year. In a regular calendar year, the ERF would safely process c. 200,000 of non-recyclable household waste from the four South London Waste Partnership boroughs (Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton) and a further c. 100,000 tonnes coming from local businesses.</p> <p>There would typically be a c. 2-3 week planned maintenance outage during which contractors would be brought in to inspect, clean and replace any worn items. During this maintenance period residual waste would continue to be received at Beddington ERF but a significant volume of material would be sent to alternative processing facilities for treatment. There would also be periods throughout the year when additional maintenance was required.</p> <p>The previous environmental permit was based on Viridor processing waste at the ERF c. 85% of the time to generate the number of 302,500 tonnes per year – this allowed for a 2-3 week outage along with other shorter periods of downtime throughout the year for small maintenance and operational issues. Andrew noted that these periods equated to c. 15% of the time.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Beddington ERF did not have this planned outage, and this has been deferred until 2021. The deferment occurred because the contractors required to support the outage works were not available due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The deferment also enabled the ERF to maintain a constant service for the South London Waste Partnership boroughs during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic with increased number of residents working from home and generating higher volumes of residual waste. The ERF continued to perform safely, however due to the outage not taking place, the ERF would have slightly exceeded the volume of waste it was permitted to process in a calendar year.</p> <p>This variation would enable the facility to process up to a maximum of 347,422 tonnes of waste per year – effectively running at 100% of the time (without an outage). What the permit variation will do is give Viridor more flexibility around the length and frequency of planned maintenance periods in the future. Andrew re-confirmed that this would not impact upon the safety or compliance of the ERF but would help Viridor to optimise when maintenance takes place. Environmental Assessments were carried out on the assumption that the ERF will be available for 100% of the time which equates to 347,422 tonnes per year.</p> <p>Andrew noted that during the planning process for the Beddington ERF, traffic impact assessments were completed reviewing the potential impact of the ERF on the surrounding traffic network, even with the permit variation increasing the numbers of vehicles delivering waste to the Beddington ERF this does not exceed the proposed numbers of vehicles associated with the ERF.</p> <p>There was a discussion led by Cllr Foster and Elliot Colburn around the impact this additional waste would have on the surrounding community and how the permit variation was communicated through the London Borough of Sutton and South London Waste Partnership.</p>	
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Brett asked if any members of the community had experienced any complaints or issues relating to the ERF since the last meeting. There was a discussion around a comment shared from Dave Tchil around an odour on the landfill site on the 24-26 January. Andrew</p>	

	<p>confirmed that following an investigation, there were no abnormal operations on the landfill site and no open waste activity. Mike also added that landfill odour is distinct smell.</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>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>David Kingstone added that the Environmental Health Office at the London Borough of Sutton could also be contacted on 0208 770 4449. David noted that his team investigate complaints made by residents in the Beddington area, one recent complaint was investigated and found not to be linked to the ERF.</p> <p>Louise confirmed that the Environment Agency were still not visiting operational sites due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, however the ERF was being monitored remotely. Louise added that when the Environment Agency were able to visit sites, the ERF would undergo an incoming waste inspection audit to ensure Viridor was suitably examining incoming waste materials in accordance with the Environmental Permit.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the Sutton Decentralised Energy Network (SDEN) project. Andrew noted that SDEN were contacted for a short update on the project, however it was understood that the network would shortly connect to the landfill gas engines to provide heat along the pipeline across the Farmlands.</p> <p>Elliot Colburn and Cllr Foster noted their concern around the ongoing issues at the SDEN project supporting the residents of the New Mill Quarter in Hackbridge. It was discussed that the heating services were temporarily intermittent during the recent cold spell.</p> <p>Andrew confirmed that Viridor had signed an agreement with the SDEN to provide heat at the point of production to the SDEN project. This would eventually be sourced from the ERF, but in the interim the excess heat produced by the landfill gas engines would provide this heat source.</p> <p>It was discussed that a public meeting was held relating to the SDEN in recent days and this queried the resilience of the heat source for the New Mill Quarter residents.</p> <p>Andrew noted that a heat exchanger and pipeline had been installed by the SDEN project on Viridor's site and it was Viridor obligation to make the heat available. Viridor took an action to share a briefing note on its responsibility following a discussion around concerns this might add to the risks of heating note being available for New Mill Quarter residents.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MS/AT</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Beddington Farmlands</p>	
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Andrew updated members around the latest progress at the Farmlands (sharing an aerial image of the site looking north). Andrew confirmed that Viridor had intended to deliver three wet grassland habitats this year and confirmed that the first phase of wet grassland was now mostly complete (visible from the northernmost bird hide) but this still required tilting weirs to be installed, as well as water gauging boards and final seeding, particularly to the eastern half.</p>	

<p>3.2</p>	<p>Elliot Colburn asked about the impact of COVID-19 on the restoration – Andrew noted there had been an impact to the delivery timeline in 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns, but the 2023 delivery date remained unaffected.</p> <p>Andrew noted that 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 phases 2 & 3 but progress had been made and these areas have been well planned for spring/summer 2021.</p> <p>Viridor was in discussions with its ERF contractors about demobilising from the construction compound (on top of phase 2). The intention would be to welcome its contractors for a number of weeks to complete phases 2 and 3 along with reviewing the lake islands to advise on any enhancements.</p> <p>Viridor’s focus was now on ensuring that the anti-predation fence is installed around the phase 1 and part of phase 2 ahead of the breeding season. The lake islands had been partially cleared to restore lapwing breeding habitat along with the process already made to enhancing the historic sludge beds to the north and south east of the site.</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Viridor had been working with its specialists to understand how best to progress the acidic grassland habitat. Further to recent conversations, Viridor had sought expert advice and reviewed the RMP and acidic grassland requirements. Viridor had established that the seed mix required to establish the initial habitat, known as a nursery sward, would be suitable for the soil base at the Farmlands.</p> <p>This seeding would take place in the autumn and would establish a green mass on the Farmlands landfill face, rather than the muddy appearance today. This would also reduce the risk of harmful weed seedlings impacting the other habitats and leading to additional management. Preparation of the landform and the creation/management of a stale seed bed would be progressed upon the weather improving so as not to damage soil structure. Viridor needs to respond to the Conservation and Access Management Committee (CAMC) at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>3.4</p>	<p>Viridor had progressed the work on the project to relocate proposed cycleway along the permissive footpath – this work had occurred slower than anticipated but Viridor had completed a pre-application planning meeting with the London Borough of Sutton.</p> <p>Viridor has progressed the work on the proposed access amendments to the Restoration Management Plan. Viridor had met with the Mitcham Common Conservators, members of the community and access strategy working group, Thames Water and London Borough of Sutton.</p> <p>Viridor and the community proposals were now aligned to enhance the surface of the existing permissive footpath between Beddington Park and the northernmost bird hide. This would include enhancements to the bird hide access walkways and provide cycle parking and chicane to mark the end of the cycleway. This requirement was sought by the Mitcham Common Conservators.</p>	
<p>3.5</p>	<p>Viridor will create a figure of eight walkway around the lakes along with a pathway up to the high Wandle Valley Viewpoint. Viridor will share the self-bound gravel and concrete surfaces of the pathways along with cross-sections of the permissive footpath route with the CAMC. The habitat management scheme for the permissive footpath area will include the SDEN planting scheme and additional habitats to be created as a result of optimising the route to follow the desire lines. It is likely additional tree planting and scrub will be implemented.</p>	

	<p>Viridor will share these materials with the access strategy working group ahead of submitting them to the London Borough of Sutton.</p> <p>Andrew noted that the community aspirations was to achieve an East/West access across the Farmlands. This was not consented within the Restoration Management Plan. Viridor had discussed with the London Borough of Sutton, community and Thames Water that this is additional access and would need to be explored separately. Viridor have committed to 'safeguarding' an E/W route in the current planning submission.</p>	
4.0	Community issues	
4.1	<p>Andrew noted that Viridor was working with the London Borough of Sutton and the local community to install a series of interpretation boards into the bird hides, these are due in the spring.</p>	
4.2	<p>Sarah Ling updated that whilst COVID-19 lockdowns had impacted life in south London, the Beddington Community Benefit Fund had continued to support charities across Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton, donating £92,537.75 to 15 projects since March bringing the total funding for projects to £185,889 since 2016.</p> <p>Sarah noted that some of these projects had been located just on the fringes of the site, including a £30,000 donation to Beddington infant school for installation of a 'solar dome' to allow for learning to continue outside the classroom. The Croydon Foodbank was also successful in an application for just over £10,000 to buy a new van to help expand the reach of their deliveries and support for communities.</p>	
4.3	<p>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.</p>	ALL
5.0	Any Other Business	
5.1	<p>Dave Tchil sought to ask if Viridor planned to communicate more frequently around the Farmlands restoration project. It was noted that the recent newsletter was very helpful and would help to build a better understanding of the complexity of the project and the challenges Viridor faced.</p> <p>Andrew confirmed that this was under review and that Viridor would respond ahead of the next CLG meeting with a more structured communications plan. Andrew asked Dave to share any examples or ideas of wider communications that could support the community. John Haynes noted that videos would be uploaded to the Virtual Visitor Centre in the coming weeks to support better engagement with the ERF and the community.</p> <p>Cllr Foster suggested that it might be prudent to communicate the good news about the Community Benefit Fund. Andrew and Mike agreed, and it was noted a press release had been drafted to announce this in the local media.</p>	DT
6.0	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	<p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed at Thursday 22nd April 2021, there was a short discussion around the format of the meeting.</p>	AT

	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.	
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