

Brief summary of Dimmer Liaison Meeting 14th September 2017, for Castle Cary Town Council 18th September 2017.

Present: James Rosewell, Manager Dimmer; Kevin Nicholls EA; Matthew Lawson Taking Minutes and also Recycling Manager; Several members of the local community attended including Mike Lewis County Councillor; Henry Hobhouse, District Councillor; Alan Gibbons, Ansford Parish Council; Martin Roberts, Carymoor Parish Council and Sally Snook, Castle Cary Town Council.

Fire at Landfill Site 28th August 2017

Several questions were sent to James Rosewell in advance of the meeting; here follow questions and summarised answers:

1. Was the fire (Bank Holiday Monday 28th August) started in an open or a closed cell or in waste that was outside 'cells'?

'Fire was in Cell M South current operational cell; all water was contained within the cell.'

Tyre bales are used at the base of cells for drainage (drainage blanket) and these that caught fire.

2. What monitoring takes place on a constant basis for potential fires, a. during working hours and b. at weekends and Bank Holidays?

'Constant monitoring for non compliant loads, gas bottles, hot waste etc. that could cause a fire. Fire watch after last load tipped (1 hour) and security patrols out of hours to look for smoke. These patrols are from off site and are random. Fire was reported by a member of the public who phoned for the fire brigade. Fire brigade were alerted at 16.35. Four fire engines attended. Extinguished by 14.44 29th August.'

What changes will be made in the light of this. JR said that fire watches will be extended after the last load has been tipped.

Also, if a fire is detected during this monitoring, how many are brought under control before causing any real damage? Total of 6 fires since March including that on 28th August. 5 caused no damage; fire brigade called on 3 occasions but fire was already out by the time they arrived at one of these.

3. Why wasn't there enough water on-site for the Fire Services to use, bearing in mind that there was a problem with this during the fighting of previous fires in 2009 & 2015.

'There are three water lagoons holding enough water as advised by Fire Rescue Service but a decision made by Commander of Fire Rescue Service to use the River Alham/Brue so that they had a constant supply once it was connected.'

[Andy Cole, Watch Manager for the Fire & Rescue Service in Castle Cary also added to this information at CCTC 18th September: The high volume pump is stored at Taunton, managed by Wellington crew who take 1 hour to get here, then 2km of pipe work in 50m lengths taken across railway, road and fields to River Alham. Not connected until midnight. Water before this was brought in from hydrants, esp at Crown Pet Foods (4" main)]

4. Please could we have, via the EA, the results of air monitoring taken during the fire.

Kevin Nicholls (EA): no air monitoring done during fire because it would have been asked for by Environmental Health, Fire Brigade or Public Health England based on circumstances of the fire, what is burned and wind direction. 24 hours before someone could have done air monitoring. Pek Peppin very concerned about fumes in the early hours of Tuesday morning that persisted for 24

hours.

All members have concerns re tyre fumes containing cyanide & plastic rubbish containing dioxin. KN says that advice was to close doors and windows.

HH asked whether the use of tyres should be reviewed. JR said that recycled tyres in bales are the best method of drainage but Viridor are reviewing whether more fire breaks (earth) should be used. KN stated that a side effect of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill especially 'wet' waste- food and garden waste- is that there's more chance of a fire starting and spreading than there used to be. Landfill has changed enormously in the last year or so.

Leachate manager has increased the level of leachate in the cell rather than pumping it all out, so that it's just below the level of the top of the tyre bales. This helps to dampen down a fire if it starts and ensure that less tyres burn. Only the top of the tyre bale burnt in August so the fire was less than it would have been without an increased leachate level.

PP said that, in the light of the changes in landfill components, Viridor should be changing their systems. KN said that WTS will be operational in the next two years as a way to manage the waste that's presently going to landfill.

JR questioned as to the changes that will be made in the light of this fire: education of public about not throwing inflammable items into their bins & increasing fire breaks,

Colin Kay asked how waste is handled: Operators look for waste that shouldn't be in landfill as it's unloaded from the waste lorries before it's compacted in the cell. On a Bank Holiday contractors still come in with commercial and household waste.

Discussion about how waste causes fires. Lithium ion batteries oxidise and self combust. Barbecue coals/ash put into bins and lid closed until uncovered and oxygen allowed in and fire. Also e-cigarettes.

Ken Knight asked about permit conditions and quoted original permit. KN: SCC 'old' permits have been replaced by new ones. JR agreed to attach the latest landfill permit to the minutes.

MR asked about lessons learned from previous fires. JR fire management plan, ways to prevent spreading to tyres, yes, we will have more fires with the changes in what's sent to landfill. SS said that the monitoring must be much more rigorous and that the fire watches should be extended and security patrols increased. Dioxins are carcinogenic and can cause malformations in babies.

KN: unless it's a prolonged fire the true content of the fumes can't be ascertained.

JR agreed to produce 'press release'.. [This has now been uploaded to the CCTC website and Facebook page, plus links to press reports.]

Cost of calling Fire Service out is borne by tax payer. SS suggested that a householder would be charged if they called out Fire Service twice for chimney fire. PP asked about compensation to local residents. Told to approach Pennon Legal services.

Lagoons-not used by Fire Service; should they be increased? Commander on site decided that river was best. Three lagoons (one extra large/two large) means three connections. JR says he's confident that there's enough water in site. Cell in which fire was is not being drained. All leachate currently being taken by tankers-5 per day to Avonmouth.

New leachate treatment plant (LTP) -£3.5m approved for that. Enabling works have started; 18 month build-will start early 2018. No plans currently to discharge to River Cary before treatment plant upgraded.

Brief mention of Waste Transfer Station fire detection. Exact details still to be decided but will be either a deluge system from above or water/foam mix cannon system.

Landfill Operations report

Currently Cell M South. Waste input since March meeting 74,609 tons in 10,498 loads (approx 21,000 vehicle movements) Waste coming in from Dorset since Trigon tip in Wareham closed.

Average 80-100 loads per day.

Cell N currently being built. Cell K & L capped-gas wells due to be drilled in October

Recycling operations

Since March 1325 tons wood; 10546 tons green 1901tons street sweepings Green waste lower due to season and to some lorries taking waste to other sites.

Two odour complaints. Couple of noise complaints. Viridor in communication with resident.

Largely due to noise when shredding. Until now have had just one shredder-for green waste and wood. Extra screen had to be fitted to shredder for wood shredding so have been doing larger loads- 2/3 days work. Another shredder now acquired-so have dedicated wood shredder so a few hours done at a time rather than several days. Neighbours being warned of shredding.

1x8 ton bin load of general waste pulled out of composting per month.

Next meeting: 3 months or 6 month? Voted majority 5;2 for 3 months 7th December 14.30.

Requested that we have the meeting room in the main building.