

Dimmer Liaison Committee report.

The Dimmer Liaison Committee held its quarterly meeting on 7th December. Representatives from local Councils, the Community, the Environment Agency and Viridor were present.

We were told that the enabling groundworks for the new leachate treatment plant have started and the treatment plant construction is due to start in February 2018.

Construction of the Waste Transfer Station at Dimmer is also planned to start in February 2018 with a scheduled completion and operationally ready date of February 2019. This, and the similar Transfer Station at Walpole, will 'feed' the Avonmouth Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). (<https://viridor.co.uk/our-developments/avonmouth-erf>) SWP estimate annual £1.3m MTFP (Medium Term Financial Planning) savings from now until 2020 from these changes to waste treatment, along with the benefits to the environment by moving away from landfill.

The composting operation at Dimmer is currently covered by landfill planning but there will be a planning application for composting shortly to separate it from the existing landfill which will cease once the WTS is operational.

Several members of the local community expressed their anxieties about the environmental impact of the fire in August; correspondence is ongoing between local residents, Parish Councils and Viridor.

Castle Cary Town Council wrote to Viridor in October, expressing its concerns about the fire. Mr Ian Morrish of Viridor replied telling us that they are trialling thermal imaging and/or infra-red detection systems at one of their sites and, if this is deemed successful, this will be in operation by next summer. Mr Morrish also promised that a document *Effective Management of Fires* will be available for the Liaison Committee.

There was much discussion on the causes of fires from household waste and on educating the public, via Carymoor Environmental Trust (www.carymoor.org.uk) and Somerset Waste Partnership, (www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) on how to dispose of potentially hazardous waste.

When we asked Viridor about the potential for fires in the new Waste Transfer Station we were told that there will be fire detection and water/fire suppressant systems; the permit states that fires must be under control within 4 hours (the reasonable time that residents can be asked to keep windows and doors shut).

A local resident asked that Camp Road be cleaned better. It was agreed that this will be looked at with a view to more frequent road sweeping.

Sally Snook (Castle Cary representative Dimmer Liaison Committee)