

Dimmer Community Liaison Group update

Due to the continuing Government guidance on social distancing, and the limitations of video conferencing, Viridor is still unable to host a face-to-face Community Liaison Group meeting for the Dimmer site.

As a result, we have prepared the following report to update you on site activities. Should you have any further questions for us, please email these to the dedicated email address we have set up for the Community Liaison Group: DimmerLiaison@viridor.co.uk

Our intention is to hold a Community Liaison Group meeting on site once the current restrictions are lifted by the Government.

Praise for 'fantastic' key workers

Leaders of the Somerset Waste Board and Scrutiny Panel have written a letter of thanks to the local Viridor teams for their continued excellent service provision throughout COVID-19.



Councillors Sarah Dyke and Antony Trollope-Bellew wrote: "Members from across all partner authorities were full of praise for the fantastic work you have done, especially as COVID-19 coincided with the pressures on all of you associated with the start of a new contract. As key workers in the frontline, you have provided a vital service while juggling all the other pressures and uncertainties that this crisis has brought.

"We have seen how important the public considers our recycling centres and the service they provide, and know many of you will have worked long, difficult hours to get the sites back up and running. Everyone on the board and scrutiny panel, and hopefully all Somerset residents, would like to make clear our appreciation of your diligence and professionalism."

Transfer Station Report:

Update:

The transfer station is now fully operational and accepting waste from kerbside and HWRCs.

The lights on the west of the transfer station have been put on a timer to reduce the light pollution at night the timer will be set again at the end of BST.

The transfer station has the electric roller doors booked in for a service to be carried out on the 12th September in line the maintenance programme and part of our commitment to our permit/odour management plan.

Landfill Operational Report

Update:

The landfill site has now been fully capped and the contractors have left site.

We continue to source soils to complete the restoration of the site but COVID is still having an impact on the construction sector. Since June, we have imported 1342t of material which has been placed directly on to the capped area.



Over the coming weeks we will work to remove the redundant mobile plant that remains on site. This is likely to involve the use of a crane as some of the plant is unable to move under its own tractive power.

Organics Operational Report

Update:

The HWRCs and kerbside collections resumed in May resulting in waste inputs into composting and wood processing returning to normal following the COVID-19 lockdown.

Demand for compost has continued to be buoyant due to a resurgence in interest in gardening during the lockdown.

A Noise Mitigation Scheme was submitted to Somerset County Council on 11th August in accordance with the conditions of the Green Waste Composting operation planning consent. Viridor continues to work with consultants to resolve noise issues pertaining to the Wood Processing Operation. Interim measures have been put in place to eliminate noise and the company has taken delivery of a new noise reduction hood for the shredder.

Dimmer Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP)

Update:

The Leachate Extraction System and Leachate Treatment Plant have been operating 24/7 throughout the quarter (treating ~80-100m³ of leachate per day) and discharged to the Willow Beds from mid-July. Leachate has also been removed via tankers (~10 loads per week) due to unprecedented hot temperatures impacting on the efficiency of the biological stage of the treatment process. In addition, lorries have been required to assist in drawdown of the leachate backlog following the extremely wet winter.

The Willow Beds will be 'winterised' during September and treated leachate discharged to the River Cary. The flows within the Cary have remained >31.4l/s for the summer, therefore it is anticipated the permitted discharge of 150m³ per day will be utilised.

Environmental & Regulatory Matters

The Environment Agency (EA) continues to work within the Government's COVID-19 restrictions.

The EA is now resuming routine visit to regulated sites. As yet, no visit has been made to Dimmer.

Notifications to EA from Viridor:

Landfill :

- Routine environmental monitoring results for both Dimmer phase 1 and 2 indicate the sites are within expected parameters.
- Installation of a further 5 gas wells in phase 2

Wood shredding:



- Noise control action plan, document setting out progress on improvements to noise mitigation.

Notifications from Public:

- Report (2nd September), intrusive noise levels from use of road sweeper.

Reports from public

Would it be possible to add the tonnage and vehicle numbers of the various elements at Dimmer as we normally receive?

Answer: Viridor will continue to provide information on vehicle movements and quantities of waste handled to regulatory authorities when required but, for commercial reasons, cannot provide this level of detail in other forums.

Would it also be possible to include a statement on the progress of the Avonmouth operation?

Answer: None of the operational managers of Dimmer are directly involved with the Avonmouth project. We will ask if a progress report can be provided in time for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting (or report if Covid-19 restrictions still in place): 17th December 2020

