



Dimmer Community Liaison Group update

Due to the continuing Government guidance on social distancing, 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 activities at the site. Should you have any further questions, 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 meeting on site once the current restrictions are lifted by the Government. We are also looking into the possibility of holding a video meeting.

Transfer Station

Transfer Station Questions (from CLG collective):

Q: *In your last report you informed us of teething problems and how quickly they were resolved. Since then what issues have arisen, how have they been dealt with and how quickly?*

A: There were issues with the roller shutter door previously, these issues were quickly resolved, rectifying the problem. We haven't experienced any other mobilisation issues.

Q: *How much waste has been brought in, where from, and how much taken out bulked up? Does it only come from the Somerset Waste Partnership?*

A: The details of waste received by the site is commercially sensitive. However, requests can be made to SWP and the EA regarding incoming and outgoing wastes. The outgoing vehicles will take around 24T per load.

Q: *Where are the Stobart lorries taking the waste, while the waste to energy plant is not yet operational? How many truck movements?*

A: Waste has been sent to other ERF facilities.

Q: *When will the waste to energy plant be operational?*

A: The commissioning process continues. This process includes the treatment of waste.

Landfill Operations

Since the closure of Dimmer Landfill and transition into Restoration, we have worked on cleaning up the site and surrounding areas along with completing the capping of the North Cell.

Framework contractors Jones Brothers (JB) have been on site since the beginning of April capping cell N and the wood chip area located opposite the wood shedding hard stand on the NE side of the site, restoration soils have been placed along the North and West side of Cell N in preparation for seeding.

The top of cell N and wood chip will be left by JB with the plastic exposed in preparation for further soil imports from the end of June onwards, further imports will allow us to complete Dimmer restoration, achieve the required levels and transition the site into aftercare.



Landfill Questions (from CLG collective):

Q: Will the final capping of landfill take place by end June 2020?

A: The capping will be completed by the end of June weather depending. Once complete there will be a need to import circa 40,000m³ of soils to restore the landform. It is hoped to complete this during the remainder of 2020 but is dependent on availability of suitable material so has the potential to drift into the spring/summer of 2021.

Q: We are noticing a significant increase in trucks carrying soil on the B3153. Is this coming to you? How much has been trucked in and how much more is due?

A: We have not been importing soils into Dimmer Landfill since the end of March due to capping works taking place, soil imports are rescheduled to start on Tuesday 30th June, if available and weather permitting.

Q: We would like to thank Darren and his team for doing a great job clearing the rubbish from the Manmead Wood area, removing the plastic protectors from trees and repairing the stile. It is very much appreciated by us and other walkers. We trust that these aspects relating to maintenance of the area adjacent to the Dimmer site will continue to be monitored and addressed in the future.

A: We will continue to monitor all areas adjacent to the Dimmer site and address any issues raised or found in the future.

Organics Operations

The quantity of green waste and wood waste received during the period since the last report reduced substantially due to the Covid-19 restrictions, with HWRCs closing between March and May, the cessation of green waste kerbside collection, and the construction industry being on lock-down. Street Sweepings processed were largely unaffected.

With the population locked down and turning their attention to gardening, demand for compost has been above normal levels.

Viridor is working with a consultant to write the Noise Mitigation Scheme in accordance with the conditions of the Green Waste Composting operation planning consent, this will be submitted to Somerset County Council in August. Vehicle movements are well within those permitted.

Results of noise monitoring conducted at the wood yard have been shared with those directly affected by the operation. Delivery of a new noise reduction hood for the wood shredder has been held up by C-19 restrictions and is now expected to arrive the week commencing 22nd June. We are in the process of liaising with acoustic specialists to identify further noise mitigation measures, though the majority of incoming wood does not require shredding at present due to it being 'C' Grade.

Dimmer Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP)

Plant currently averaging between 70 – 100m³ of treated effluent that is discharged daily.

We are allowed to discharge up to 150m³ a day if the flow of the river Cary is 31.4L/s (weekly average) or higher, if it drops below this we have to reduce the amount we discharge accordingly. Down to 6.2L/s weekly average where we would not be able to discharge at all. Interestingly during May which was very dry the flow never dropped below the higher level.



Leachate Questions (from CLG collective):

How well has the new plant operated during the dry weather?

A: Following the wet winter we still have plenty of leachate to feed the plant

Q: How effective are the reed beds?

A: Due to Covid-19 the start-up of the willows had been delayed this year as the contractors who do the start-up were not available. Viridor has been watering the willows manually with tractor and bowser.

Q: How much leachate is being trucked off site?

A: Since the end of April we have been tankering on average 1 tanker a day of leachate to maintain compliant levels on site after the wet winter.

Q: How many truck movements (in and out = 2 movements)?

A: 14 movements on average per week now.

Environment

Environment Agency – Officer Report (Kevin Nicholls)

The Environment Agency (EA) is currently working in accordance with government Covid 19 restrictions. The local area offices in Wessex are closed with staff working from home. Routine inspection visits to regulated facilities are currently suspended.

Regular contact is being maintained with various Viridor staff members by both phone and email.

Notifications made by Viridor to EA since last meeting (Dec 2019)

Landfill

- Annual reporting data submitted
- New unit manager and technical competence arrangements
- Site inspection 10 March
- Plan for installation of gas wells into final cell (Cell N)
- Cessation of waste input
- Confirmation of plan to cap to outside flanks of cell N
- The on-site willow beds are currently not accepting treated leachate, contractors could not attend site (Covid- staff furloughed) to ready the willow beds following the winter period.
- Site environmental monitoring continues, compliance with permit limits is good.

Composting / Transfer Activities (including wood shredding)

- Dec 2019 Arrangements for reducing, before the Christmas period, the volume of liquid held within composting lagoons.
- Site inspection 24 February.
- Final construction details of waste transfer station
- Technical competence arrangements for transfer station.
- Commencement of transfer station activity.
- Fault to roller shutter door (April & May), repaired included replacement of door motor and control panel.

Reports from public

10 Jan, Noise issues from wood shredding.

17 April, Litter (Mansmead Wood), Noise, light pollution. – Response from Viridor (21 April), follow up photos of litter clearance.



11 June – issues raised (resident email following Viridor notification of newsletter). The points raised are in general for Viridor to respond, but I would make comment on EA liaison.

- EA officers viewed the noise monitoring that took place before Christmas.
- The report from this noise monitoring has now been submitted to the EA.
- EA has been informed that experiments on a different noise attenuation bund were being made.

Should you have any queries on the above or other regulatory issues with regards to the activity at Dimmer please do not hesitate me.

kevin.nicholls@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Questions (from CLG collective):

Q: *In your last report you stated that the noise monitoring of wood shredding at the end of the year showed that the noise level had breached planning permission. Please could you confirm what the exact dB levels recorded were? What mitigation measures are you considering? Are you liaising with the Environment Agency on this?*

A: See response in Organics Operational report.

Q: *We believe there are still issues with road sweeping, with very different noise levels from the two machines? How will you resolve this?*

A: The road sweeper will only be used when the site teams determine this is required.

Q: *What mitigation noise measures are you putting in place in relation to the composting of green waste?*

A: See response in Organics Operational report. The operation has not been required to change as a result of renewing the planning consent, meaning that existing control measures limit the noise emitted from site to within permitted levels.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 10th September