

**Beddington Conservation and Access Management Committee meeting minutes
Thursday 2nd May 2019 14.00**

Attendees:

Cllr Jillian Green – London Borough of Sutton
 Cllr Vincent Galligan - London Borough of Sutton
 Cllr Tim Foster – London Borough of Sutton
 Andy Webber – London Borough of Sutton
 Fiona Lander – London Borough of Sutton
 David Warburton – London Borough of Sutton
 Marcus Kohler – MKA Ecology
 Terry Murphy – Viridor
 Pete Walker – Viridor
 Dan Cooke – Pennon Group
 Andrew Turner - Madano, supporting Viridor

Item		Action
1.0	Introductions & Apologies	
<p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p> <p>1.3</p>	<p>Dan Cooke welcomed the members to the landfill office at Beddington and introduced himself as the Director of Sustainability at Viridor’s parent company, the Pennon Group.</p> <p>He explained that this was an extraordinary meeting of the Conservation and Access Management Committee (CAMC) and given the fact that there was currently no Chair of the Committee, he would chair the meeting with a view to stepping away from the CAMC once it had become re-established. Dan noted that he had been involved with the Beddington site since Viridor acquired an interest in the site.</p> <p>Cllr Green confirmed that she would be unable to attend the site walkover and suggested that the meeting agenda was altered to enable her to participate in the formal meeting. All members present agreed.</p> <p>Viridor took an action to welcome Cllr Green for a site visit in the coming weeks. It was noted that Cllr Ben Andrew also requested to receive a briefing on the Farmlands.</p> <p>Apologies were shared from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derek Coleman (Beddington Farm Bird Group) • Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust) 	<p>AT</p>
2.0	Situation overview and review of work completed since last meeting	
2.1	<p>Dan Cooke delivered a short presentation of Pennon Group’s Sustainability strategy that outlined the core principles of supporting work enhancing the environment, working with communities around its operations and also ensuring appropriate governance of the company.</p> <p>He referenced that there were three core areas of the Viridor business, and one of these was biodiversity and the commitment to be a responsible environmental steward at its operational and restored sites. Dan explained how Viridor was aligning</p>	

<p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p>its operations to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a benchmark of working in a responsible way to support the wider environment.</p> <p>Pete Walker confirmed that he was Viridor’s closed landfill manager and was responsible for delivering the restoration work at the Beddington Farmlands.</p> <p>He shared a number of powerpoint slides showing images of work completed at the Beddington Farmlands since the last meeting of the CAMC. Pete noted the Cllr Foster would have seen a number of these images at the recent Community Liaison Group.</p> <p>Pete confirmed that he had been focused on reclaiming areas that had become overgrown around the edge habitats of the lakes. This had provided the cleared areas for a number of bird hide foundations to be laid.</p> <p>Viridor had successfully submitted a planning amendment application to alter the location of the first three bird hides at the Beddington Farmlands following consultation with members of the Beddington Farm Bird Group and the CAMC. This ensured that the hides were in the best locations for observing the wildlife. The bird hides would be located more closely to the permissive footpath so that members of the community could access the bird hides ahead of the more public opening of the Farmlands.</p> <p>Viridor was working with the Sutton Decentralised Energy Network (SDEN) to ensure that once the permissive footpath was reopened, following the pipeline installation, the bird hides could be accessible through fenced corridors. This would enable much greater visual access to the Beddington Farmlands than previously was permitted.</p> <p>General maintenance was underway across the Beddington Farmlands including reseeding restored flanks of the landfill site, planting hedgerows and managing the meadowlands towards the south of the site.</p> <p>Pete shared a number of images of the phase one wet grassland progress. Pete reminded the CAMC that this was the area where previous members visited in November 2017 to kick-off the wet grassland bulk dig excavation.</p> <p>He confirmed that additional mobile plant was arriving on site to complete the contouring of the habitat to create islets and gullies before the area was seeded in the coming months.</p> <p>Pete updated the CAMC members on the progress of the acid grassland trails. He recapped that the trial looked to impregnate the alkaline soil at Beddington with sulphur rich pellets to acidify the soil in order to successfully create an acidic grassland in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan.</p> <p>As part of the Viridor’s work, a series of trials were being undertaken to ensure that any work to acidify the soil base did not impact upon the natural environment. Pete confirmed that following site permeability tests of the target area of the site the rooting zone (level of soil where the grass was expected to take root) for the grassland was not consistent across the plot. This required Viridor to add suitable materials (gravel and sand). Currently this material was being sourced from the wet grassland area of the site reducing the need to import additional soil with associated vehicle movements.</p> <p>pH trials were continuing and the current aim for the pH was 3, in this phase Viridor’s consultant team were assessing the risk of chemical additions to the soiling running off and into the water course.</p>	
---	--	--

<p>2.6</p> <p>2.7</p>	<p>The team were currently six weeks into this element of the trial, the pH had dropped from 8.2 to 7. The rate of pH drop was expected to accelerate significantly as the sulphur pellets dissolve. Pete estimated that the initial expectation was 6-8 weeks for this trial.</p> <p>He highlighted that it was important to assess the dosing rate required to get the pH correct so that the pH settles at the target level to enable a successful establishment of acidic grassland. This also included ensuring effective containment of the run off before it enters the watercourse. As part of Viridor’s restoration and aftercare obligations Viridor must protect and not harm the environment.</p> <p>To support the implementation of wider access across the Beddington Farmlands, Viridor was now installing fencing and hedgerows to enable the cycle way and footpaths to be installed in the coming months.</p> <p>This would include securing the landfill gas infrastructure across the Farmlands. As part of the long term management of the Farmlands, chambers containing gas wells and leachate pumps would need to be secured. Viridor would continue to monitor these installations in the coming years.</p> <p>Pete finally noted that the CAMC members should recognise the health and safety requirements of Viridor to keep all staff and members of the community safe. This results in the restriction of access to the operational site. However also that a significant proportion of the trees planted in recent months had been vandalised. In everything that Viridor does at the site safety is a core consideration.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Introduction of the restoration roadmap</p>	
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>Pete Walker shared hard copies of the Beddington restoration roadmap with members of the committee. It was confirmed the Mary Morrissey had shared the document with the London Borough of Sutton officers present at the meeting. The elected members gave some initial comments that the document was visually appealing but did not enter into detail relating to when restoration work would be completed. It was agreed that the members present could feedback their comments to Viridor.</p> <p>Dan Cooke responded that the document outlines work that will be completed in accordance with Viridor’s planning requirements by 2023. He explained that the rationale for not placing dates on the roadmap is that habitat creation and restoration work needs to be flexible to respond to changes in weather conditions and other activity on the site. Terry Murphy commented that Viridor were confident that the Restoration Management Plan could be delivered by 2023.</p> <p>Dan explained the rationale for creating an iconographic representation of the Beddington Farmlands and to outline the key areas of the site that will be undergoing restoration work in the coming months and years. There was a discussion about how this roadmap linked into the wider educational offering at the site. Andrew confirmed that the themes and ‘look & feel’ would be replicated in the education centre at the ERF and also in forthcoming newsletters.</p> <p>Cllr Foster mentioned that the document was a good high level representation of the Beddington Farmlands, but failed to go into the granularity of the work programme that he assumed Viridor would provide to the London Borough of Sutton in its role as the planning authority. Andy Webber echoed this sentiment. Dan responded that the</p>	<p>TF, VG, JG</p> <p>AT</p>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>tube map style timelines showed the level of work that had been undertaken to date and the progress made to completing the Restoration Management Plan.</p> <p>Andrew added that the roadmap was designed to distil Viridor’s detailed work plan, the objectives of the Conservation Management Scheme and the detail of the c. 150 page Restoration Management Plan (RMP) onto one page for the local community. He added that the RMP was available on the Viridor website for members of the community to review.</p> <p>Cllr Green commented that the document was a fantastic asset for the Beddington Farmlands and that it would be important to highlight some ‘quick wins’ of items of the restoration that could be delivered quickly for the community. Cllr Green questioned the use of some more ecological terms including ‘sacrificial crop’ and ‘acidic grassland’. Viridor took the action to review the language used on the roadmap to ensure it would be meaningful for the local community. Cllr Green also suggested that the current date should be placed on the roadmap.</p> <p>Cllr Galligan asked Dan when the roadmap could be shared with the wider community. Dan responded that Viridor wanted to consult the CAMC members about the roadmap to ensure it was suitable for the local community. However following feedback it could be made ready as early as the next week.</p> <p>Cllr Foster confirmed that communication was critical to rebuilding trust within the local community. There was a discussion around the wider communications support for the Farmlands. Andrew confirmed that there would be a wider programme of activity sitting alongside the roadmap with more detailed explanations of the work programmes that included images sitting on the Viridor website. Dan confirmed that the roadmap would be dated and revised on an annual basis.</p> <p>Viridor took the action to update the roadmap and prepare this for sharing with the local community. It was agreed that it would be sensible to place copies of the roadmap in the bird hides for the local community to engage with.</p> <p>There was a discussion around how the CAMC could support communicating about the Beddington Farmlands project. It was agreed that the council representatives were critical to this information sharing. Viridor confirmed that there would be an ongoing schedule of video and imagery shared with the community.</p> <p>Dan Cooke mentioned that Viridor would formally host an open day at the Beddington Farmlands on 20th June. This would follow a similar format to previous years where the community could register to attend.</p> <p>It was agreed that the community forums (Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum and Hackbridge and Beddington Corner Neighbourhood Development Group) could share information through their channels. It was agreed that Viridor would share the roadmap with them.</p> <p>Fiona Lander commented that the Beddington ERF Virtual Visitor Centre was now live and could represent an outlet for more information about the site. Andrew noted this as an excellent suggestion and confirmed that it would need to be confirmed in accordance with Viridor’s contract with the South London Waste Partnership.</p> <p>Cllr Foster and Cllr Green commented that the community were very interested to know if the permissive footpath could be upgraded to a more formal cycle way and stated that there was confusion over who would be able to use the newly installed bird hides. It was confirmed that the bird hides would shortly be available for anyone</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>VIRIDOR</p> <p>AT</p> <p>AT</p>
---	---	--

<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p>in the community to use. This would be completed once the SDEN pipeline project was completed. Cllr Foster commented that this was important to reassure the community that these would not be a privileged form of access.</p> <p>Cllr Foster also commented that following the decision to extend the life of the landfill site for non-inert waste by another 12 months, this must have resulted in a further delay to the restoration work. Terry confirmed that this was not the case – an aerial photograph of the site was shown outlining the areas of the site currently under restoration and the comparatively small area yet to be capped.</p> <p>The conversation was concluded with Viridor confirming that the roadmap was an initial starting point and further detail would be added to the Viridor website in the coming weeks and months. The members confirmed that this would be sensible as a key tool to restoring confidence.</p> <p>Marcus Kohler thanked Viridor for producing the roadmap and noted it was an engaging resource. However he noted that there should be a clearer communication that the Beddington Farmlands will include areas of the site where the public will not be granted access. The CAMC should note and communicate the objectives of the Conservation Management Scheme in their communications.</p>	<p>AT</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Discussion of new ways of working</p>	
<p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>Dan introduced the CAMC members to the next topic of conversation which was the requirement to formally re-establish the Conservation and Access Management Committee. Cllr Galligan commented that a number of the issues discussed at the last meeting in Autumn 2018 had still not been resolved.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the request for Viridor to transfer funding to the London Borough of Sutton to run the CAMC. Dan confirmed that Viridor did not have the budgetary provision or the requirement to do so, and as such would not be prepared to deliver this additional funding above the planning requirement.</p> <p>Cllr Galligan commented that he, and the other councillors would find it difficult to be part of a committee without funding or access to legal support. Dan confirmed that within the terms of reference for the CAMC there was no requirement for funding or capital expenditure or legal advice. The CAMC is responsible for overseeing Viridor’s restoration of the Beddington Farmlands in accordance with the Restoration Management Plan. There was a discussion between the Cllrs and Andy Webber to confirm that the CAMC would be able to seek support from the London Borough of Sutton’s legal services team should the need arise.</p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that Viridor would review requests for financial support of the CAMC on a case-by-case basis. Examples of requests included the hire of a public venue to host an open meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Foster commented that as an elected member he would be vulnerable to community scrutiny should there not be an appropriate terms of reference in place. It was agreed that at the AGM the terms of reference would be reviewed to ensure that the minutes of meetings would be provided in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Cllr Foster also noted that he had been in discussion with the London Borough of Sutton’s committee services team to acknowledge the CAMC as a committee that could be eligible for support.</p>	<p>VIRIDOR</p>

	<p>Dan Cooke commented that the minutes of meeting would continue to be published on the Viridor website further adding to the public disclosure of the CAMC. There was a discussion around how the CAMC could review communications strategies around the Beddington Farmlands and it was agreed that the CAMC meetings would include a standing agenda item of 'review of communications plan.'</p> <p>The elected members confirmed that following a discussion they would be prepared to meet for an Annual General Meeting.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>ALL</p>
5.0	Date of Next Meeting	
5.1	<p>Dan Cooke asked the councillors present if they would be comfortable meeting for an annual general meeting (AGM) of the CAMC. All councillors in attendance agreed that the meeting could take place.</p> <p>David Warburton confirmed the relationship between the Conservation Science Group (CSG) and the CAMC and noted the next CSG meeting was in late May.</p> <p>It was agreed that the AGM would take place on 13th June at 10.30.</p> <p>The venue would be the Beddington ERF construction offices. Andrew took an action to send instructions on how to reach the offices by email ahead of the meeting.</p>	<p>AT</p>
6.0	Site walkover	
6.1	<p>Cllr Green departed the meeting and the remaining members received a health and safety induction before conducting the site walkover.</p>	