

Friends of Ringwood Forest

Newsletter No. 10

25th November 2011

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Blue Haze Visit 17th November 2011

Following the withdrawal of HCC's proposals to extend the Blue Haze landfill site (B3081, Verwood to Ringwood main road) our interest in day to day operations remains unchanged.

Many Interest group members have raised questions about site operations and have ongoing concerns about living near to a landfill site. The campaign team also believes that current operations can inform how any future landfill at Purple Haze might operate.

We therefore accepted an invitation from the Environment Agency & Veolia to tour the site on 17th November together with two local residents and Cllr Lucy Clark representing Verwood Town Council.

The visit was helpful and informative. We received new information and had ample opportunity to ask a variety of questions which were answered openly and honestly as far as we can judge.

Detailed notes from the visit may be found [at the end of this newsletter](#).

Please note that Veolia has yet to confirm their responses have been accurately recorded. Any changes required will be published in a future newsletter.

Reminder: All concerns regarding the operation of the Blue Haze landfill site should be reported as soon as possible to the Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60

IBA (Incinerator Bottom Ash) and the Health Protection Agency

In response to your questions, we have been in touch with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) concerning the risks of living near to IBA (Incinerator Bottom Ash).

You will find below the full HPA reply to our initial enquiries. We will continue to gather information concerning IBA and to share our findings with you.

"1. What health implications are there from living near to an Incinerator Bottom Ash processing plant? (400 metres).

The Environment Agency have produced a report (see attached document)* following an investigation into solid residues produced by municipal waste incinerators in England and Wales. The report discusses the health and environmental impact from incinerator bottom ash processing, based on data from the four processing plants operating at the time. ** report available on request, please email notoph@btinternet.com for a copy*

The report concludes that:

"Bottom ash, at sites where the ash is either stored, recovered or disposed of, does not make a significant contribution to the exposure of individuals, living in the vicinity of these activities, to dioxins."

With regards to human health it states that:

"Dioxins are present in incinerator bottom ash at levels similar to urban soils and to other commonly used secondary aggregates. According to best available specialist advice, in the circumstances examined ash does not

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constitute a significant additional risk to human health.”

A study into the health and environmental risks associated with the use of processed incinerator bottom ash was undertaken by AEA Technology plc in 2003 (Abbott, J. Coleman, P. Howlett, L. Wheeler, P. (October 2003) "Environmental and Health Risks Associated with the Use of Processed Incinerator Bottom Ash in Road Construction". Prepared for BREWEB by AEA Technology plc; <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/planning/ReportsforQA/BREWEBReport.pdf>).

This report provides a detailed assessment including measured pollutant levels in ash, sources and rates of emission, environmental concentrations, and estimated intakes and human health risk assessment. The report considered sources of pollutant release during the processing and subsequent use and recycling of bottom ash and concluded that:

“...the risks to human health and the environment from municipal waste incinerator bottom ash use in road construction are likely to be minimal and certainly undetectable in a typical UK situation.”

2. What tests do the HPA do to make sure toxins are not blown across our town of Verwood?

It is the responsibility of the Environment Agency to regulate activities within the site. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) does not undertake environmental monitoring or sampling. However, it can provide health advice to the regulators based on the results of any air monitoring or environmental sampling that is undertaken.

3. During a landfill fire, of which we have had 3 this year, what advice should the public be given from the emergency services?

This would depend on the circumstances of the incident. The emergency services involved would be best placed to answer this.

4. What are the statistics for Verwood for Cancer against the national statistics?

We would advise contacting the South West Public Health Observatory (www.swpho.nhs.uk), which is the organisation that collects and analyses cancer data for Hampshire and the South West.”

Volunteers needed now to help us communicate with non internet connected members

We have an important message to share with campaign supporters in Verwood who are not digitally connected. A small number of addresses do not have volunteers available to make the hand deliveries which should not take too long.

Do you have an hour or so to spare over the next few days? If so, please contact us soon at notoph@btinternet.com. Thank you ☺

East Dorset Befriending Scheme

This scheme is a joint initiative from the Dorset Partnership for Older people Programme, WRVS and the NHS aimed at helping people stay independent and at home by:

- Visiting to provide company
- Shopping & errands

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- Accompanied walks or trips out
- Pushing a wheelchair
- Playing board games
- Family support
- Dog walking
- Sitting to help a carer
- Reading to someone
- Helping with correspondence

If you could help someone or if you would like to know more about volunteering, please call:

**The Coordinator on
07736 825378**

“Doing the small things that make a big difference”

Dorset – wide Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document

Issues and Options Consultation – 18th November 2011 to 10th February 2012.

Extract from a recent communication:

If you wish to become involved in the public consultation, details of the exercise can be found at
www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches

There are a series of public exhibitions planned across the County, details of which can be found at the weblink set out above, or from your local Council. Copies of the consultation documents can be found at all Council Offices, libraries and some town council offices.

If you would like to make a comment, please submit your comments on-line at
www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches

If you prefer to return a questionnaire by post, a single mail address will receive completed questionnaires on behalf of all the local councils, as follows:

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people Consultation, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

Please ensure that your on-line or postal questionnaire is submitted by 10th February 2012.

*Judith Plumley
Head of Community and Economy*

*Deadline for your newsletter contributions is Thursday.
Feedback, questions & newsletter ideas:*
notoph@btinternet.com

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Blue Haze Landfill – Visit Notes 17th November 2011

About the Lining . . .

- 1 metre of clay
- 2mm liner - hard plastic sheets welded together (*when welded, a tiny tube in the plastic is inflated to ensure a good weld*)
Sample is available to view on request . . .
- 10mm Geo Textile
- 10mm/40mm stone/gravel
- 1 metre of soft material

About the cells & leachate . . .

The bottom of the landfill cell is designed so that the operator knows the deepest point. At this point leachate is collected in a well via a pipe to the surface and transferred to a water treatment centre in Bournemouth.

The leachate flows through the gravel over the liner directly to the well. The leachate is like water and flows, it doesn't ooze.

The leachate wells are tested weekly and samples sent to the lab. If the samples go above a certain level for certain substances the environment agency is informed and the operator and the environment agency investigate and resolve. This is also documented in a report that the public have access to.

Boreholes outside of the site are deep enough to reach the ground water, so reach the secondary aquifer the site is on. These are located all around the site and are tested monthly. Again, samples go to the lab and if any levels of certain substances are higher than the levels set by the environment agency it is reported.

The reporting trigger levels set by the Environment Agency are lower than required to ensure safety of the environment.

At the end of the day the cell gets covered with a spray on cover. They used to use soil but the spray on cover is more cost effective. It's like glue and sticks the waste together. This helps to preserve the void for more landfill.

Capping the cell . . .

The capping of the landfill happens when the cell is full. The current cell has about 2 more years to run.

The liner is put on top of the waste to prevent water seeping into the cell. Then 1.5 metres of inert waste is laid down and on top on this, 1.5 metres of top soil.

Veolia have kept back some of the original top soil from Blue Haze which they will use as well as soil sourced from elsewhere.

Managing the seagulls . . .

Veolia are now monitoring the seagulls from dawn to dusk. It's important to keep the seagull population down due to the nearby airport.

A hawk is used to deter the seagull. In extreme circumstances, firecracker type devices are used. As less food waste is sent to landfill the future issues with seagulls will be less extreme.

Building the next cell . . .

The next cell is being engineered at present and will be ready to accept landfill once cell 9 has reached capacity.

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This cell is estimated to be active for 5 years, after which a new cell will be created where the offices are to complete the landfill void capacity in 2020.

About restoration . . .

The landfill, once capped, takes approximately 10 years to settle. There is approximately 25% of settlement.

A percentage per ton of the landfill costs levied goes to the restoration fund. Veolia is committed to restoration and the money is there to do it. Aftercare could last up to 60 years.

Waste originators . . .

Veolia receive approximately 170,000 – 200,000 tons of waste per year from Hampshire and other local authorities.

Veolia lorries transport Hampshire's waste. Other lorries from other authorities transport the rest.

About the gas (methane) . . .

The gas inside the landfill (methane) is hoovered out gently into pipes. There is a pipe that goes all around the site collecting all of the methane.

The methane is then sent to the Gas Utilisation Plant on site to be processed by a gas turbine into energy.

The gas is produced by the landfill for approximately 25-30 years and generates 3.6MW of electricity 24/7 - enough to power 5,000-6,000 homes.

The electricity goes straight to the national grid. Once the gas levels fall a flare is operated like at Somerley.

Fires . . . action taken

During such times as fires Veolia independently inspect the liner to make sure the cell structure has not been affected.

The Health Protection Agency were informed about the fire on the 4th September, and the Environment Agency has issued a briefing report November 2011.

The site manager has been in communication with the Fire Service about installing a Fire Hydrant at the site, he is prepared to share the cost for this.

This would save any future disruption to traffic in case of a fire and also be available post restoration. Although there was water in a pool at Blue Haze and the time of the fire, the fire service did not want to use it because it was pond water and may have damaged their equipment.

General

100,000 cubic metres of sandy clay soil was transferred from Blue Haze to Nea Farm for restoration.

About IBA (incinerator bottom ash) . . .

When the IBA arrives on site it is wet from being cooled at the incinerator. This is not fly ash, but the ash in the grate after incineration. The Environment Agency is looking at IBA at a national level to determine its effect on the environment.

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The IBA is left outside to weather over 6/8 weeks, it will go from a PH of 12 to 7/8.

When the IBA is moved it is sprayed to avoid dust. During hot weather the IBA is kept moist using a pool of water at the site, or if dried out imported tanks of water. IBA is very alkaline.

Looking ahead . . .

A leachate processing plant is planned for next year. This will allow the operator to process leachate at the site and save transporting 6,000 gallons per day along the roads. Once treated, the water will go into the sewers.

The Environment Agency will have to provide a permit for this variation of planning permission and the Water Company will have to make sure the sewers will be able to take the extra load. Any improvements will have to be funded by the operator

Veolia has a contract with East Dorset / Christchurch to take 17,000 tons of waste per year for 6 years. Approximately 10,000 tons is incinerated in Hampshire and 7,000 tons goes to landfill. After which the contract is on a 4 year, 1 year extension.

Dependant on Dorset's waste strategy, the incinerator for Hurn was rejected by the planning inspector due to not encouraging recycling and other reasons.

The Somerley pit has not yet been planted for heathland, although there is vegetation on the site. It is currently being grazed by sheep to keep down the weeds.

Veolia anticipate filled the remaining void space by 2020 and then beginning the

restoration programme which will be to heathland.

The company is looking for alternative locations for the IBA processing plant and are not expecting to be processing IBA after this time.

The only facilities left on the site would be a gas utilisation plant and a waste transfer station, as well as facilities to enable monitoring of the site.

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