

Meeting Notes

Roxby Landfill extra ordinary Liaison
Meeting at Roxby landfill site offices 16
December 2019. 1000hours.

Present

Cllr Pam Farmery	Roxby Parish Council
Cllr Charlie Webster	Roxby Parish Council
Cllr Don Johnson	Winterton Town Councillor
Cllr Helen Rowson	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Alan Craddock	Burton upon Stather Parish Council
Cllr Ralph Ogg	North Lincolnshire Council
John Devine	Biffa Waste Services Ltd
Fraser James	Biffa Waste Services Ltd
James Harrison	Biffa Waste Services Ltd
Jonny Gunn	Biffa Waste services Ltd
Howard Goulbourne	Environment Agency
Kate Stark	Environment Agency

1. Apologies: Helen Renshaw (EA) and Adam Pawson (EA)

2. Biffa update

They are tipping on the northern edge of site. The schedule of works for this year included capping between 10,000– 15,000m² on the eastern phase.

The white geotextile they know can be seen from Roxby village and the road. In future the plan is to purchase black geotextile as this is less visually intrusive. The covering with soils and planting them up are pending on this part of the site.

The severe weather has created a delay to schedule of works. Gas infrastructure got pushed back. So there has been a big push over last couple of weeks to get capping and gas infrastructure in place.

What about the height of the landfill?

Response from Biffa - The height of the landfill is at pre settlement levels on the parts you can see from the road. There is 5 metres more to be tipped in the middle which will tie in with the levels on the eastern edge. Following settlement it will reduce to the land form level around it. They usually tip at lower levels in Roxby landfill over the winter. This year they are remaining higher, this means the flashing lights on the vehicles are more obvious in the winter lit days.

What is causing the smell?

Response from Biffa – They have identified various areas of concern for Biffa.

The capping that has just been completed. This should have been postponed until the good weather in hindsight, due to the severe weather in the North. The moist conditions led to poor welds on the plastic. The welds were found to be faulty; contractors have identified the failing areas and replaced and/or re-welded a stretch of 80m that has already been complete. The next course of action is to continue to check the rest of the line that is attached to the same well. Contractors are resolving issues as they identify them.

There are five leachate wells in a hollow to maintain gas and leachate extraction whilst tipping. These need to be raised so they can be filled up to level. Gas extraction (pin wells) have been completed around the wells and leachate wells raised. Waste is being placed around the wells currently.

Are residents going to be impacted on by odour on Christmas Day?

Response from Biffa - The plan of works was in place and weather delayed progress. As the weather got colder the issues came to light and complaints increased. Now that there is a weather window, Biffa have got on with the works and have doubled up the effort with two teams of contractors deployed on site. The goal is to complete original works before the Christmas week. The landfill will be battened down with placement of clays and gas extraction will be increased before Christmas Day. The target date for completing installation of pin wells, temporary capping work, etc. is 20 December 2019.

Is there any other odour control?

Response from Biffa - High line sprayer goes around site and mobile sprayers.

Gas extraction: Have you enough engine capacity to get the gas off and flare capacity?

Response from Biffa - Yes. There are 8 engines and flare capacity.

Are you scheduled to drill more wells?

Response from Biffa - 140 pin wells have already gone in. An additional 20 will be going in this week. Drilling does create an odour. You have to disturb the waste to drop the pins. Biffa minimise this by using experienced contractors and doing small sections at a time so they can be connected to the gas extraction system as they go along. Rather than waiting until all pins are installed. So gas extraction can begin as soon as practicable.

Biffa made the decision to continue tipping on top rather than dropping down into new cell. This minimised the potential for issues that needed fixing before Christmas. It narrows the potential areas that can cause off site impacts. Narrowing the band.

Is there overall control, are leachate levels in control?

Response from Biffa - the site is currently in compliance with leachate levels and the surface water management on site takes the clean water off site. The area affected by ingress of rainwater is minimised because a lot of area is permanently capped and so water from these areas are being shed and not absorbed by the landfill. The surface water off the fields next to the site are diverted through the surface water system away from the waste mass.

The phases that are operational at the moment will commence capping in February. When Biffa start to use the new cell.

The severe rainfall inundated the top surface water ditch which led to rainwater flowing in to the new cell. Because they were not tipping in the new cell, this water did not become leachate and the impact on the leachate system was minimised.

There was a discussion about the lake to the west of the site.

Environment Agency's response - This is a groundwater fed. There has been increases in levels of groundwater due to the heavy rainfall events. There followed a discussion about pumping from old mines. Also concern if the lake overtops and floods the road and issues about Highlands water.

Is the groundwater level monitored and has there been any impact on your site from elevated groundwater levels?

Response from Biffa - that there are no breaches of groundwater limits in the perimeter boreholes.

Environment Agency's response - there is 10m of clay between the Frodingham Ironstone strata, that is under pressure from elevated groundwater, and the base of landfill so groundwater pressure is not a direct concern.

Response from Biffa - the new cell should be in use from February/March 2020. At this time the existing waste area will have commenced capping. With a permanent cap placed on the top and temporary cap on the sides, which will be tied into the new cell. New cell is phase 13 which will leave one cell, phase 14, left to fill. At current projections Biffa believe this will be in the next approximately 4 or 5 years.

Biffa explained that surface water is diverted around the edge of the landfill and can be captured and tested before release to the Beck. The permission to discharge is part of the permit.

Can Biffa use Facebook to get information across to residents?

Response from Biffa - Biffa are happy for the updates to go on Facebook but they themselves can't post them from the corporate perspective. The relevant Town and County Councillors agreed to post the messages on behalf of Biffa.

ACTION: James Harrison to ensure he has contact details from the councillors for the relevant Facebook pages of Burton upon Stather and Winterton. Cllr Webster has leaflet dropped the residents of Roxby so they are aware of the current situation.

It was agreed that the 'Out and About in Winterton' publication could be used to publish quarterly updates as to what the landfill operator was doing and planning to do it. Then Facebook would be a good tool to use to pass on information about changes or emergency work that needs to take place.

ACTION: James Harrison to provide a quarterly update to 'Out and About in Winterton' publication and information for Facebook as and when required.

ACTION: Local councillors/clerks to ensure a hard copy of updates are pinned on noticeboards.

When will the drilling work finally be done?

Response from Biffa – In the current operational area, there are 140 pin wells already place. The system is being balanced and then, following surveys, an area will be targeted for another 20 pins. Scavenger pipes are laid on every lift of waste. These are on this current phase so gas is being pulled out through those and continue to be pulled on whilst waste placement goes on.

Is there gas migration?

Response from Biffa - There is some gas migration on the eastern boundary. This has been ongoing for years. It is being controlled by measuring and monitoring to assess the risk. At this time it is a low risk and we are in discussions with the EA.

3. Environment Agency Update

Environment Agency's response – This is Biffa's site and we expect them to manage it to resolve the current issues. They have submitted the planned actions that have already begun and the operator is ongoing with. The EA has transposed this in to a voluntary action plan that Biffa and EA will sign to show commitment to it. In the covering letter to that action plan we have also issued a 'minded to'. This is to let the operator know that we are minded to issue a notice to get works done if the voluntary action plan is not complied with or if further action is required. The non-compliance with the notice is a criminal offence in its own right. It is a mechanism to increase the level of our regulatory response.

Prosecuting Biffa would not necessarily stop the odours, and stopping the odours is our main aim at this time. So we continue to work with Biffa keep pushing for all the actions to get done as quickly as possible. And Biffa are also pushing themselves and have made progress.

The EA will be out carrying out further assessments of gas and odour this week and over the Christmas period too.

Residents are encouraged to use the 0800 80 70 60 phone number to report issues and to let Biffa know too.

4. AOB

Thealby parishioners – have reported dust issues in their houses to the parish council.

Response from Biffa - Biffa have dust control on site. They use water bowsers to keep the dust down. But if there is a problem we would encourage the residents to let Biffa know about it.

Environment Agency's response – to also let EA know about issues on 0800 807060 number. They have a condition in their permit that they need to comply with.

What waste is coming in today?

Fines are coming in on the road and trains. There is no kerbside collection waste. A lot of it is construction and demolition waste fines.

Winterton Town Council have received a complaint about noise from the site.

A dog walker using the Roxby Trods footpath at 0630 hours. Roxby parish councillor confirmed he'd had one too from a Roxby resident.

Response from Biffa – to let them know if there are any issues. Easier for them to get and resolve them when they know about them.

Environment Agency's response – to also let EA know. Biffa have a condition in their permit that they need to comply with.

Is the waste from Manchester still coming in?

Response from Biffa - There is no waste from Greater Manchester Waste Authority coming in to site. But waste from the rail hubs located in various locations, including Manchester, are still being used to get wastes in to site.

Is the chalk waste from under the Humber being received on site?

Response from Biffa - No Biffa didn't get as much as they hoped.

Is Roxby likely to get any HS2 or Cross Rail waste?

Not at the moment but the rail link does make it feasible. Restoration soil is also coming in on the train.

4. Next meeting: The next liaison meeting is scheduled for March 2020.

ACTION – James Harrison to add Burton upon Stather Cllr Alan Craddock to the list of invitees.

Meeting ended 11:15.