

THISTLEBERRY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED FOR OF CONTRIBUTORS

1. There are about 2000 households who are part of the TRA. On the Executive we have three professions experts on waste management and air quality who have advised us on this issue. The Chair of the TRA sits on the Liaison Committee and has done since the beginning the TRA has worked with three different companies who have run the site. The Chair has visited the site on many occasions often unannounced and just after the infilling began the Chair walked on the waste to get some idea of what was involved.
2. Thistleberry
3. The issues that this Panel set itself up to address
4. If you mean the issue of odour, the answer is yes.
5. Yes to both parts of the question.
6. Yes to the first part of this question. The issues have been raised with he NBC the County council the EA and the company itself. We have not always been convinced that the TRA input has been taken sufficiently seriously for something to be done.

7. Apart from spikes in the occurrence of odour the TRA has found that all three companies who have run the site have managed it well. On the occasions that the Chair has visited unannounced it has been clean, lorries are logged in and out, their wheels washed, and no odour was detected coming from the leachate plant when the leachate was being transferred to the containers for removal. There have been times when there has been mud on the road or debris and this has been raised with the company. We understand that there is litter and parking control outside the site. If the company was not adhering to its permit and restrictions etc then it would risk losing its licence. It has always been the view of the TRA that it is the monitoring authority (ie the Environment Agency) who should be ensuring that this does not happen.

8. It was felt that the company could have reacted more swiftly to the odour issue not only to reduce it but also to put the minds of local people at rest. A thicker covering layer might have gone some way to reduce the intensity of the problem. This site is in the heart of an urban area. It might be that profits might have to take a back seat to making sure that the local residents in the immediate area were not unduly inconvenienced or adversely affected

9. In terms of the issue of odour. Its prevalence and sometimes intensity, the EA appears to have failed in its duty to properly monitor the site. That said there was nothing to prevent the company from resolving the issue without any direction from the EA. It should not take 48 hours for a complaint to reach a field officer when it is known that these odours can come and go by the hour or less. The monitoring equipment should have been placed on an optimum site to capture the most relevant data. The County council in its limited capacity to do anything also appeared slow to work with the EA to resolve the issue. The NBC has no authority other than to pass on information to the EA or the Company, so we are not sure what the NBC did at the time.

10. See Above

11. The TRA has supported the proposed increase in the volume of waste to the site, on the grounds that the site would be filled quicker and then capped so the current problem of odour would be resolved. That said the TRA attached several conditions to their submission and that had to do with increased management and monitoring of the site, which would probably be needed and more transparency and accountability from those involved. It was also out view that Closure of the site at this stage would be dangerous and irresponsible and would cause a much greater problem in the future. If the conditions the TRA had suggested could not be met then the TRA would withdraw its support for that application.

Our response to the questions above would not differ if the permit was changed to increase the amount of waste. This increase would not affect the capacity of the site, but it would mean that the void would be filled and capped at a much faster rate. Now that the waste is being deposited above ground then it might be necessary to change the type of waste being taken in. If there is a science of the type of waste and where it should be within the site then we would be guided by that. And we are not talking about political science but real science!

Dr A Drakakis-Smith

(Chair)

8 august 2020

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