



## Highfields Landfill Site, Walsall- Community Update March & April 2020

### Introduction

These updates will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Highfields Landfill site in Walsall.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will answer many of your questions. Our FAQ document can be accessed via our online information page, the link to which is included in this newsletter.

### Coronavirus: The Environment Agency response

We are working hard with Government and other emergency responders on protecting the public and the environment from the effects of Coronavirus. The Environment Agency remains fully operational, with the majority of our staff working from home. We continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm where required. However, we are reducing regulatory visits to other sites and review how best to regulate them in accordance with the government guidance.

### Latest News

#### Air Quality Monitors

To enable us to further understand the potential impact on air quality from Highfields Landfill site, we installed a mobile monitoring facility (MMF) in the Horse and Jockey public house car park on Walsall Road. This MMF contains air quality monitoring equipment capable of measuring components of landfill gas, (methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>)) at low levels. The unit also contains a weather station. The MMF will operate continually for a minimum of three months. After this period we will provide a summary and report of the finding to local residents, including an assessment of any environmental impacts. The reports will also be provided to Walsall Council and Public Health England to provide expert opinion on any human health impacts.



**The mobile monitoring facility (MMF)**



## Improving gas capture

Enovert North Limited has continued to make improvements on site over the last month in accordance with the agreed action plan. The temporary capping of cell 4 (Western flank) has now been complete. The other flanks within cell 4 are being temporarily capped with clay. An active cell is where waste is being deposited and may have a temporary cap applied as tipping progresses. Permanent capping is applied to cells/areas where tipping has been completed.

The gas engine utilisation plant used on site has undergone improvements. We continue to work with the operator on ways to ensure gas capture works efficiently to extract landfill gas generated by the tipped wastes.

## Keeping local residents updated

During this period of restriction due to Coronavirus we will only update you if there are any significant changes we need to make you aware of.

Our online information page has been updated in line with this:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/highfields-landfill-walsall/>

## Environmental concerns

To report an environmental incident or concern, please call our free 24 hour incident hotline on: **0800 80 70 60**

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this update.**