



Highfields Landfill Site, Walsall Community Update September and October 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 on our Citizen Space webpage here:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/highfields-landfill-walsall/user_uploads/generic-landfill-faqs-2.pdf

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. In accordance with the Government's and our own internal guidance, we continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm. Since restrictions have lifted further we are also now able to recommence visits to sites with sustained amenity issues, where needed.

Latest News

Capping

The capping on site is key to the future control of gas. The capping program, to cap the north & north-eastern flanks and top of cells 1, 2 & 3, has now been completed. Despite Coronavirus restrictions, in June, July and August 2020 we carried out inspections to check on the progress of site engineering works.

Clay lining works on the new tipping cell in the south-eastern corner of the site have been completed. This will mean that the new tipping area is away from the Walsall Road. We await submission of the engineering report for these works, which needs to be assessed and approved by the Environment Agency before the new waste can start to be tipped.



Photo above: The completed clay lining works for new tipping area.



Air Quality Monitoring

To enable us to further understand the potential impact on air quality from Highfields Landfill site, in March 2020 we installed a mobile monitoring facility (MMF) in the Horse and Jockey public house car park on Walsall Road. This MMF contains equipment capable of measuring methane (CH₄) and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S). The MMF was removed on Tuesday 29 September 2020 as the data has now been collected. Our air quality monitoring team have started analysing the data which was collected and we will provide a summary and report of the findings 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.

Keeping local residents updated

We continue to receive very low number of complaints regarding the facility. We received 8 in June, 0 in July, 2 in August and 2 in September.

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/>

If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you have found this update, or would like to be added to our mailing list to receive these updates in the future, please email:

Engagement_Westmids@environmentagency.gov.uk

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.