

**For: PLANNING & REGULATION COMMITTEE – 10 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**By: DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY  
(STRATEGY & INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING)**

**Development Proposed:**

**Application to continue importing leachate for treatment at Ardley  
Leachate Treatment Plant**

**Division Affected:** Ploughley

**Contact Officer:** Mary Thompson      **Tel:** Oxford 815901

**Location:** Ardley Landfill Site

**Application No:** MW.0084/12

**Applicant:** Viridor

**District Council Area:** Cherwell

**Date Received:** 4 May 2012

**Consultation Period:** 17 May- 11 June

**Introduction**

- 1 On 9 July 2012 Planning & Regulation Committee resolved that:
  - (a) Application MW.0084/12 be deferred to the September meeting and Viridor instructed to cease the importation of leachate until the current application had been determined;
  - (b) officers be asked to invite representatives from Thames Water and Environment Agency to the September meeting to address issues of flooding in the locality of Bucknell.
2. A letter was sent to Viridor Waste management on 20 July conveying part (a) of the Committee's resolution. Viridor have replied indicating that they have stopped importing leachate in line with that part of the resolution.

## **Flooding, Drainage and Pollution**

3. In relation to part (b) a meeting attended by representatives from Bucknell Parish Council, Viridor and Oxfordshire County Council planning department took place on 6 August 2012.
4. The meeting discussed the concerns that Bucknell residents have about sewer blockages and flooding in the village and reached the view that the onus of responsibility would firstly appear to lie with Thames Water. In granting a licence to Viridor to discharge effluent, they would appear to have a responsibility to provide an adequate facility for safely handling that quantity of liquid.
5. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with representatives of Thames Water and the Environment Agency (who are responsible for investigating pollution incidents). At the time of writing a date for that meeting had yet to be agreed. Representatives from both have been invited to attend the Planning & Regulation Committee meeting on 10 September but in any event we will update you on our findings.
6. The sewer problems are a matter of great concern to Bucknell residents and Oxfordshire County Council officers are working with them to facilitate a resolution with the relevant statutory authorities. Viridor Waste Management are fully engaged in those discussions.
7. In planning terms the development proposed (as described in the report to the 9 July Committee attached at Annex 1) is acceptable. The leachate plant has a discharge consent from Thames Water. Treated leachate will continue to be discharged regardless of whether leachate is also imported. A permission (not implemented) which included the import of leachate was issued by Oxfordshire County Council in August 2011 and so the development has previously been considered and found acceptable by the Planning & Regulation Committee.

## **Conclusions**

8. At present I am minded to make the same recommendation for approval as appears in the July report. However, it is appropriate that the meeting with Thames Water and the Environment Agency should take place before doing so. Therefore, I will seek to make a recommendation to Committee on the planning application on the 10 September.

MARTIN TUGWELL  
Deputy Director (Growth & Infrastructure)

September 2012