



FINMERE, MIXBURY & NEWTON PURCELL RESIDENTS

8 June 2020

Dear constituent,

I wanted to get in touch to update you on the situation at the Finmere Landfill Facility. I know many of you are extremely frustrated about the odour and the ongoing lack of cooperation from the operator. I can assure you that I understand your concerns.

A Suspension Notice was issued to the operator on 24 April which meant that no new waste could be accepted at the site. Since then, the Environment Agency has made three site visits. I have been told that issues at the site predominantly relate to Cell 7 and Cell 10.

Cell 7

Too much waste had been placed in Cell 7 which led to over-tipping. To resolve the situation, capping is necessary, whereby soil is placed on top of the waste to act as a cover. While the Suspension Notice remains in place, it was updated on 21 May to allow the operator to import soils and begin the capping process. An arrangement is now in place for soil to be brought in, and work continues.

Cell 10

Alongside over-tipping in some areas, there have been issues with poor waste management in Cell 10. Specifically, waste had been tipped too high on the eastern and southern slopes and was almost vertical. As with Cell 7, capping must take place, but before doing this the operator has had to regrade the slopes to make them safer. While this work was to be completed by 5 June, it carried the risk of making the odour worse as the waste remained uncovered and was disturbed. A perimeter deodorising system has been installed; while the operator had chosen a berry scent, the Environment Agency has advised them that a neutraliser should be used instead.

I know from my most recent conversation with the Environment Agency at the end of May that another site visit had been planned to inspect progress and check that the operator had completed the regrading work in Cell 10 by the 5 June deadline. I have contacted them for an update.

Once the regrading has been completed the operator will have to undertake capping work in Cell 10. The regulation layer of soil must be in place in both cells by 19 June, and final capping is to be completed by 30 July. The Environment Agency has told me that they are hopeful all capping will be completed before the July deadline.

I appreciate that capping work will not bring the situation to an end. The Environment Agency

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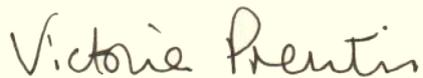
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has told me that their investigation at the site continues. Given ongoing enforcement action, it is critical that the Environment Agency can understand the level of nuisance caused by the odour. For them to do this, residents should complain whenever necessary using the incident hotline: **0800 807 060**.

I remain absolutely committed to finding a satisfactory resolution for all residents. In my conversations with the Environment Agency I have made it clear to them that enforcement proceedings must progress. They have reassured me that they keep residents updated, but it goes without saying that if you have any concerns, please contact me via victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Prentis". The script is cursive and fluid.

Victoria Prentis MP