

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 19 December 2006

**Subject:** Environmental Protection Portfolio

**Item:** 7(f)

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mrs M Sartin

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## **Bobbingworth Tip Remediation Project**

On 28 November, I attended a Partnership Workshop when representatives from our consultants, Atkins, and our contractors, Veolia Cleanaway, were present, together with officers from EFDC and a representative from the local parish councils in the area. The meeting was called to report the present situation and likely timetable for remediation works in the future.

I am pleased to say that the section 278 agreement with ECC was signed in the middle of November and an application has now been submitted for a licence.

A new timetable has now been drafted which should see work starting on road improvements in February 2007. This will include the formation of bell mouths to give access to the site. It is hoped that by April it will be possible to start importing soil onto the site, a job which is likely to take about 25 weeks. During this time the reed bed will be constructed. The grout wall, which is being installed along three boundaries of the site to prevent uncontrolled migration of leachate onto adjoining land and watercourses, should be installed during July and August.

All this work is very much weather dependant, but is hoped that by getting on site early in the New Year it will be possible to keep to this timetable. Before any work is started it is planned to invite residents living in the locality, particularly those living along the Moreton Road in Shelley, to a public meeting to ensure that they are fully informed as to what will be happening and when. The contractors will also be leafleting all properties in that area giving written information on what they will be doing.

Whilst being very aware of the disruption this work is going to cause for those people living close to the site and those living along the access route, it must be remembered that at the end of the day we will have resolved the problem of a publicly owned site which is contaminated. The landscaping, which will be undertaken by Countrycare at the conclusion of the work, will return the site to an attractive area which locals will be able to enjoy in the years to come and make it an asset for the community as opposed to an area of concern.

## **Fern Hill Lane – Fly tipping**

Fly tipping is an ongoing problem within the District and one that costs us a great deal of money. One extreme example of this problem has been brought to my attention recently.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> I visited Fern Hill Lane, a short stretch of road within our District which gives access to a travellers' site located in Harlow District and a private property in Epping Forest District. It is a carriageway of sufficient width to allow two vehicles to pass.

Currently it only has barely enough space for one vehicle to drive along it due to the very large amount of green waste and other general refuse which has been dumped along its length. Over the years EFDC has spent considerable sums of money clearing this area and once again we are going being faced with a very large bill. There is evidence that someone has attempted to set fire to some of the rubbish which has led to some damage to the road surface and destruction of the hedgerows.

Because of this ongoing problem I will be attending a meeting with officers to try to resolve this situation and look at how we will involve other agencies. One action which will be investigated is the installation of CCTV cameras to both act as a deterrent and to identify those carrying out the fly tipping to enable legal action to be brought against them.