

**This newsletter has been created to keep the local communities living near the United Mines landfill site informed of SITA Cornwall's current operations and future proposals.**

=====

## **Cornwall Council requires SITA to develop plans for a temporary transfer station at United Mines**

Following the closure of United Mines landfill in October 2010 all residual waste in Cornwall will be diverted to Connon Bridge landfill, near Liskeard. Since the withdrawal of plans for a Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) at Scorrier, Cornwall Council must find a solution to minimise the number of journeys made by waste collection vehicles from the Redruth area. This will be required regardless of the outcome of SITA Cornwall's appeal for the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre (CERC) proposal at St Dennis.

Cornwall Council has asked SITA Cornwall to look at proposals for waste from the surrounding area to be brought to a temporary RTS at United Mines, deposited and transferred into larger vehicles for onward treatment or disposal. There are already five such facilities across the county that help reduce the number of vehicles moving waste around Cornwall, minimising traffic on the roads as well as emissions.



**St Erth Refuse Transfer Station**

James Pike, Regional General Manager said, "When the landfill site at United Mines closes in October 2010 we will only have Connon Bridge to take the county's domestic residual waste.

This will put an enormous strain on the waste collection vehicles unless urgent action is taken to create a system for transferring waste into larger vehicles for onward disposal."

James added, "We would like to work with our liaison group which represents the communities local to the United Mines site to minimise any inconvenience this temporary arrangement might cause. Once we approach the planning stage there will be a public consultation process through which views of local people and environmental experts will be heard."

## **United Mines history group call for new members**

Ahead of the conclusion of landfill operations at United Mines a community group has been launched through which underground explorers, historians and local residents can compile oral accounts, artifacts, maps and documents relating to the site over the past 300 years.



The group has shared stories and proposed ideas for the future use of the site, but new members are needed who share an interest in the history of United Mines and the landfill site. The group intends to create an exhibition and possibly a commemorative book.

The next meeting will be held at the United Mines landfill offices on **30th November, 6pm**. Anyone interested in joining this informative group please contact the SITA Cornwall Helpdesk on 08456 300 300.

**Operational update**

**Action Plan**

SITA Cornwall has developed an action plan that has been agreed with the Environment Agency. It is updated weekly and is available to download from SITA Cornwall's website ([www.sitacornwall.co.uk](http://www.sitacornwall.co.uk)). It addresses odour, dust, birds and litter control at United Mines landfill site.

=====

**Phase 3 Capping**

Capping of Phase 3 was completed at the end of August. This was two weeks later than programmed due to the wet weather. The total area capped and restoration soils placed was 25,000m<sup>2</sup>. This capping consists of placement and welding of a flexible plastic membrane, a protection layer and restoration soils. Gas wells in the area which were disconnected to allow the final phase of works to be completed were re-connected prior to the Bank Holiday weekend. Hydro-seeding of the capped area was carried out in September to encourage speedy vegetation growth. Areas where soils were stockpiled have also been seeded; this is to prevent the potential for dust to be blown from these areas during dry weather.



**Temporary Capping – Phase 4A**

Soils for temporary cap/heavy cover have been placed over the flank of Phase 4A.

**Phase 4B Construction**

The construction of Phase 4B has been completed, and approval from the Environment Agency to tip in Phase 4B has been received. Preparations to tip in Phase 4B started on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Landfill gas**

The Environment Agency carried out an audit on the gas extraction system on site on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August. The audit included gas extraction coverage on the site and well and pipework installation. The report is expected from the EA shortly and any actions or suggestions will be acted on accordingly.



A further 12 gas extraction wells were drilled and installed in September for connection to the extraction system.

In 2008, 30,546MWhs of electricity was generated from United Mines landfill, enough to power 4,966 homes.

**Restoration**

The proposed revised restoration scheme has been approved by Cornwall Council Waste Disposal Authority, and is now being prepared to be submitted for Planning Approval.

**Liaison group**

SITA Cornwall takes part in a United Mines community liaison group. The minutes of the meetings are available to download from SITA Cornwall's website. Please see [www.sitacornwall.co.uk](http://www.sitacornwall.co.uk).

=====

**Complaints procedure**

We encourage you to log any concerns you may have with the SITA Cornwall helpdesk on 08456 300300.

## Landfill Open Day 'extremely informative'

**Over 50 visitors attended an Open Day at United Mines Landfill, held as part of SITA Cornwall's education programme.**

Local residents who attended the Open Day on 7<sup>th</sup> August were given a tour of the landfill site to learn more about what happens to the waste they don't recycle. Visitors were transported to the tipping face by SITA Cornwall staff to see where nearly 300,000 tonnes of waste are deposited each year.



Members of the public at the tipping face during a tour

Visitors were also able to see how the site team works to control birds, dust and odour and to take a closer look at the landfill gas engines, which produce enough electricity to power around 5000 homes every year.

SITA Cornwall's Education Officer, Laura Bosworth said: "It was great that members of the public came to see what happens to their black bag rubbish. The sheer scale of the landfill operation emphasises the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste. We hope to repeat the Open Day leading up to the closure of the landfill next October, and in the meantime we would encourage householders across Cornwall to recycle as much of their waste as possible."

Laura added, "We are always looking to improve the education service we offer, and

are please to announce we have now opened a visitor room at Pool Materials Recycling Facility. This will provide small groups with the opportunity to see exactly what happens to the waste they recycle."

Anyone interested in visiting SITA Cornwall's facilities for a tour should contact the Helpdesk on 08456 300 300.

## United Mines HWRC Recycling rate

In October 2009 a recycling rate of 62 per cent was achieved at United Mines Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). This is an increase of over 5% from October 2008.

## Opening times

Please note that the opening times at United Mines HWRC have changed to Winter Opening, with the site now open from 9am until 4pm. This will be effective until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

### Opening times for all HWRCs in Cornwall:

Summer opening:

1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September: 0900 - 1800

Winter opening:

1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> March: 0900 – 1600

The HWRCs are open seven days a week, closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

## CONTACT US

**Phone: 08456 300 300**

**Fax: 01209 823849**

**E-mail: [cornwallhelpdesk@sita.co.uk](mailto:cornwallhelpdesk@sita.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.sitacornwall.co.uk](http://www.sitacornwall.co.uk)**

