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I am writing to follow up on my letter dated 20 January which acknowledged receipt of your request that the Secretary of State recovers an appeal for a recycling and renewable energy facility at the former Wealden Brickworks, Horsham.

I understand that while they were considering the application, the Council received nearly 1,200 objections and a petition of just over 4,500 signatures. At the inquiry in November a further petition of about 2,200 signatures was handed to the Inspector. Consequently it is very clear that this is a significantly unpopular proposal and I have every respect for those concerns.

But it does not necessarily follow from that objection, extensive though it is, that the appeal should be recovered, and I could only reasonably support a request to recover an appeal if the development met the recovery criteria and would likely resonate beyond the local area. Having very carefully considered your request I have come to the view that the appeal does not meet the high threshold for recovery, and I am content to leave its determination with the appointed Inspector.

I am very sorry that this will be a disappointment to you but I have every confidence that the Inspector will determine the appeal impartially, on its merits, and in doing so will take into account all representations submitted.

LUKE HALL MP