

Comment for planning application WSCC/036/20

Application number	WSCC/036/20
Name	Alan Silvester
Address	BEAGLE DRIVE, 6, BEAGLE DRIVE, ARUNDEL, BN18 0NY
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	<p>Whilst I have the time to voice my objection to this application, I firstly feel that the complexity and large number of supporting documents will deter many people from doing so, which will work in the applicants interest by reducing the number of objections submitted. This must be taken into account, and not perceived as a general acceptance of the proposed scheme by the communities affected. Put quite simply, this development is not suitable for this semi-rural location. The surrounding villages, roads and industrial estate are small compared to the scale of what is being proposed. Also, and of major significance, there is a proposed new residential site planned for the Ford Airfield - some 1500 new homes right next door to the proposed incinerator site. It is also adjacent to the South Downs National Park and the historic town of Arundel. The proposed chimney would dominate the skyline, completely at odds with the current vista of Arundel Castle and Cathedral. It would be a hideous blot on the countryside landscape. I understand construction could take up to 5 years - more misery in terms of noise and air pollution. The air quality in Yapton/Climping is very poor at the best of times - very dusty. The visual impact of this chimney would totally change the character of the whole area and damage the character of all the villages surrounding it. Moving on to the local transport infrastructure, I see the application estimates about 240 HGV's a day - strangely the same number that was quoted when the earlier permission for a smaller plant was granted. I feel this figure is grossly under estimated and would be more like 350-400 HGV's per day, using an unclassified country road. The impact to local traffic, on narrow roads already cracking up under the strain, will be much heavier than claimed in the application. Indeed, I cannot see any proposals whatsoever to improve the local road infrastructure, apart from improving the junction of their plant entrance road onto Church Lane. Ford Road/Church Lane runs through the heart of Climping , with a 40mph speed limit - although speed monitoring figures show this is constantly exceeded. During the morning and evening peak periods, the restricted capacity at the A259 roundabout and the level crossing at Ford cause extensive gridlock in the area, idling car engines, air pollution and frustrated drivers. Church Lane only has a single and narrow footpath on the east side and no crossing facilities. When large HGV's thunder pass close by a pedestrian or cyclist, there is a frightening suction effect. Indeed cyclists often use the footpath too because of this. The road is simply too narrow for HGV's. There are also recognised dangerous junctions at Horsemere Green Lane (often used as a cut-through) and at the Oyster Catcher, the latter having poor visibility. There have been many "damage only" accidents at this junction which are not recorded in official figures. As members of the planning committee read these points, there must be little doubt of the unsuitability of the road as the main access to any new waste facility generating so much HGV traffic. This factor in isolation should be enough to justify a refusal of this application. Finally, I must also raise concerns on the gases that will be emitted by this facility. As someone who already suffers from breathing issues I am concerned, as reports I have read state that the incineration of all kinds of commercial waste produces a range of noxious gases and toxic dioxins. Whilst I note the application states that the latest technology will be employed to clean and filter emissions, it is concerning that a 160 foot chimney is required to do this. I suspect strong wind would affect this, and what would happen if there was a failure in the system that went undetected? It is clear that this further questions why you would put a plant such as this right next door to residential areas. In conclusion, this vast new waste incinerator is totally unsuited to the location, due to its close proximity to current and future residential areas, the semi-rural location in the shadow of Arundel and the South Downs National Park, the transport infrastructure - and the sheer fact that we've had enough of all the developments in the village. This is why I am strongly objecting to this proposed development and I believe that any one of the above points should be enough for a rejection on their own, but when taken as a whole make a rejection the logical and correct decision. I really hope that we are not let down again by the planning committee. If recent events have taught us anything, it is we need to protect our open spaces and our environment. Please reject this proposal.</p>
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Attachments	