

# Comment for planning application WSCC/036/20

Application number	WSCC/036/20
Name	Erica Sheward
Address	MILLFIELD HOUSE, STATION ROAD, STATION ROAD, LITTLEHAMPTON, BN16 4HY
Type of Comment	Support
Comments	<p>Dear Sir/ Madam, I write in support of the application number WSCC/036/20. I am an international expert on food safety management. The views expressed in support of this application are my own but I cannot deny that my day job enables me to see the magnitude of the challenges faced by the food sector in their attempts to meet their obligations on plastic reduction and food waste. As a West Sussex resident I wonder how local people can expect their waste to be managed in a way that is safe and sustainable and potentially carbon neutral without embracing state of the art and proven technology such as that proposed by Grundon/ Viridor at Ford? The site at Ford is currently owned and operated by Grundon Waste Management as a waste plant. This site was previously owned and run by Tarmac as a brick firing and production plant before its closure in the mid 2000s. For many years this site has provided jobs and industrial production and resources for the local community - it has never been a rural idyll or a potential site for housing development. It's heritage is rightly industrial being close to Viridor, Ford Prison, Ford Market and a number of industrial sites. The current planning for this site allows for the basic sorting of waste for onward transfer. Much of what we currently consume cannot be recycled. What happens to all of that waste? It is driven miles and miles to be dumped into diminishing landfill with horrendous environmental legacy. Is it not far better that the West Sussex community takes responsibility for the waste that it produces and embraces the opportunity that this proposed multi million pound investment in our future waste needs provides? In addition to the incredible contribution this development will bring to the local grid underwriting the local energy costs for thousands of hard pressed local residents, it will also provide much needed employment and an opportunity for West Sussex to become an international centre of excellence for this type of waste to energy technology - expertise that is being sought the world over. Grundon waste management are already serving our local waste transfer needs at this site after many years of WSCC shipping waste across county lines due to a dearth of local amenity. To decline our trusted local waste management provider the opportunity to further invest in our community, risks their departure from our locality and a missed opportunity to solve the waste management issues in West Sussex ( already at crisis point!) for generations to come. I understand people are afraid of change. I understand that people are frightened of the 'blot on the landscape' lobby. I would urge all objectors to engage with the plan, challenge the technology, go and visit the iconic ( yes iconic!) feature that is the Grundon/Viridor joint venture at Lakeside Heathrow where this type of technology has proven itself to be safe, carbon neutral and in and of itself a magnet for overseas investment. I have read the objections by the local District Council for ' a totally unsuitable industrial plant.' The site is an industrial plant now and has been for decades. There is absolutely no scientific basis for the claim made by local councillors that 'the health of the local community is at risk' and this is an outrageous abuse of their position and constitutes fake news. This claim should be backed up with scientific evidence or be withdrawn. It is this kind of unbridled spin from allegedly trusted council sources that calls the credibility of local authorities into question. Throughout the COVID crisis we have heard much about frontline workers. We have stood on our doorsteps and clapped them. Whilst the NHS battles COVID who do you think is picking up the waste? How do you think clinical waste has to be treated? By experts like Grundon also at the front line. These guys are not the enemy they are the unsung heroes of the COVID emergency and they deserve our respect and thanks for taking quiet care of a problem we have not even thought about. As for the planned design being a blot on the landscape - has anyone seen the current site? The dilapidated old Tarmac buildings were a haven for vandals and antisocial behaviour a legacy Grundon are still managing and paying for t this day. Refusal of this application risks a withdrawal by Grundon from Ford, a dearth of waste management provision in the local area and an industrial wasteland resembling the levels of decay seen after Tarmac's demise and before Grundon bought the site. Not much of a draw for new home buyers or existing residents is it? In summary, I fully support this application and would urge local residents to engage with the plan, reject the uninformed spin and embrace the opportunity to solve West Sussex's energy, employment and waste management needs for the long term safeguarding our precious local community from a waste management crisis for decades to come.</p>
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Attachments	