

Comment for planning application WSCC/036/20

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/036/20"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Mrs J Green"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="PLOVERS, CHURCH ROAD, CHURCH ROAD, ARUNDEL, BN18 0EW"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>I wish to register my very strong objection to the new applicator for a large energy recovery site (incinerator) for commercial waste at Ford. I believe this application would, amongst other things, have an unacceptable impact on the character of the lower Arun/coastal plain, the setting of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and views from heritage assets including, Arundel Castle. In particular: (1) The scale and nature of the new application, including the height of the stack and the size of the building (51m at its highest point, compared to 36m in the plans for the new incinerator at Horsham), would not integrate with its wider setting and would have a significant negative impact on the character, landscape, topography and appearance of the surrounding areas and the setting of the SDNP. In particular, an industrial building of this size would significantly effect and permanently damage the views to and from SDNP. Given the flat topography of the lowers Arun/coastal plain, there are no natural features, such as hills or quarries, or design elements, such as sinking parts of the building below ground level, which would hide or mitigate the impact of a building that would dwarf local landmarks and become a defining feature. Granting the application would have a major impact on the local setting and permanently destroy iconic views to the sea from high points in the SDNP, views from the lower reaches of the river Arun and views up the Arundel Valley including to and from the Arundel castle and cathedral and also impairing the setting of these historic assets. (2) The application is adjacent to a site designated for new homes, with Ford Council having worked to design a sympathetically expanded village with green spaces and local amenities. While recognising the application is for a site that has industrial zoning, again the scale and nature of the new application for an energy from waste incinerator would not integrate with, and potentially damage, these local housing plans which should take precedence. (3) The local infrastructure, in particular the size of the B roads, delays at both Yapton and Ford level crossings, parking on Ford Road Arundel and accident black spots on the A259, would not support an increased volume of heavy lorries. While increases are inevitable due to the planned housing at Ford and potential new schools, the site is not directly connected to the motorway network and cannot sustain the larger volumes of commercial lorries needed. It is noted from the application that the facility would take waste from other counties, including Hampshire, suggesting that the increase in scale is not designed purely to meet local waste needs. With local shortfalls now being addressed or mitigated by a new energy from waste incinerator granted in Horsham and the extant permission for this site, is the increase in scale proportionate, particularly when demand for energy from waste is expected to fall? (4) I do not believe that the application is in keeping with Governments statutory net zero carbon emissions target, the Environment Bill 2019/20 or the possibility of a future incinerator tax if recycling and landfill reduction targets are not met. Sussex is leading the way with green energy from the Rampion offshore wind farm and should prioritise other green projects and a circular economy that seeks to minimise waste and promote resource efficacy, rather further increase CO2 emissions. (5) An application for a smaller waste from energy incinerator was granted for this site in 2014 but has never been built. The new application, which is of a significantly increased size and scale, was launched during a global pandemic and m, as a result, has not given local residents, nor I believe some local councils, sufficient time to assess and respond. Given the years that have elapsed since the original application was granted, the timing of this new application and lack of opportunity for local engagement is inappropriate. As the application has wide ranging impacts for the local landscape and local communities, additional consultation time is needed to ensure all local stakeholders have had an opportunity to engage and submit views.</p>
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Attachments	