



Arundel Town Council
Town Hall
Maltravers Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AP

Michael Elkington
Head of Planning Services
Highways, Transport, and Planning Directorate
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
Chichester
PO19 1RQ

17th August 2020

Dear Mr Elkington,

Re: Planning Application No: WSCC/036/20 - Ford Circular Technology Park

Arundel Town Council does not believe this planning application should be approved on the following basis:

1. The impact that an industrial building of this size and massing would have on an otherwise rural landscape is enormous and the height of the chimney would be clearly visible from Arundel's main attractions e.g. The Castle and the Cathedral. This will have a significant detrimental effect which would deter visitors and would thus have a huge negative impact on Arundel's delicate economy.
2. The scheme has the potential to cause a significant adverse impact upon the landscape and character of the wider area, as well as to adversely affect the setting of a number of heritage assets. The beauty of the SDNP would be seriously compromised and will have substantial adverse impacts on views and experiential qualities of the National Park and its setting. For example, the proposal will be highly visible in panoramic views of the Arun Valley/coastal plain from National Trail (the South Downs Way) and other public rights of way across the National Park.
3. The increased volume of traffic theoretically should comply to the traffic flow restrictions and follow the Southern route but traffic northwards into Arundel would inevitably be increased even further if this huge plant were to be given permission to be constructed. Our roads would be further populated by lorries delivering ever increasing loads to burn from an ever-increasing distance.
4. The application does not comply with the Ford Neighbourhood Plan Development Policies and Arun District Council's Housing Policy. Since 2012 Ford Neighbourhood team have been working towards a 'village development' and agreed a plan of 1545 homes on this site 30% of which are affordable. It includes a two-form entry primary school and large Community

Building. It is difficult to see why people would buy a house adjacent to the ERF, putting housing supply strategy for the whole of this part of West Sussex in an even worse position.

5. The Environment Bill makes a clear commitment to set an ambitious, legally binding target for the pollutant with the most significant impact on human health - fine particulate matter which results from incineration. The prevailing wind in this area is south-west so this noxious and harmful output that would arise from incineration will be heading straight for Arundel. This application should at the very least be prohibited until the conditions being made law are confirmed by Parliament and this application is further reviewed in far greater depth using what will be new guidelines and long-term environmental damage can be prevented.

The following caveats should be taken into consideration.

- a) Even though e-papers were available we feel that owing to COVID-19 the due process legally and morally required to publicise something of this nature was seriously compromised and we have urged all Arundel residents to ensure that they made every effort to try and find the online information and register their own opinion too. We feel that as a body we may have had the privilege of seeing clearer information than many residents a large number of whom are elderly and would not be able to access this online but in principal this has not been an adequately transparent process.
- b) Recycle and reuse will be compromised if this process is overly used. Also as Horsham's plant has been approved on appeal we have grave doubts now about the necessity of such a huge operation in this area as we fear that West Sussex would now have overcapacity and would be used by councils from further afield as their dumping ground. Thus to ensure that the plant operated at full capacity we feel that waste from much further afield would then be invited to travel to this plant. This would further add to the grave concerns we have clearly listed and add further to existing transport problems.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Tony Hunt
Mayor of Arundel