Dear West Sussex Councillors

I am writing with regard to the application for the construction of an Energy Recovery Facility by Viridor Waste Management on Ford Industrial Estate.

Myself and my wife live on Johnson Way in Ford which is approximately half a kilometre away from the proposed site.

On 24/8/20 we put our house on the market and sold the house subject to contract for the asking price less than a week later. We then had our offer accepted on a house in Rustington and were moving through to the advanced stages of both the sale of our house and purchase of the house in Rustington.

However, our buyers who currently live outside the area, then received feedback from the searches on our property from their solicitors and as a result contacted us directly, stating the following:

'We have been reading through some of the environmental researches made by our solicitors and were shocked to find out about the planning of the ERF in Ford. This is madness! Would you know if the local community is doing anything against this planning which is not only a health hazard to everyone living close by but will also affect negatively the local housing market as well as the National South Downs and local historical towns appeal.'

We were somewhat taken aback by this. Our potential buyers had obviously been provided with what appears to have been a very negative response from their solicitors as a result of the proposed ERF.

We were aware that Arun District Council had already objected to the proposal and let our buyers know this but also informed them that our understanding was that a final decision would be made by West Sussex County Council in December/January.

This was not enough to pacify them and shortly afterwards they withdrew their offer on our house and we have now had to put our house back on the market and withdraw from purchasing the house in Rustington. We therefore lost £300 on searches we had ordered for the house in Rustington.

We have now received another offer for our house for the asking price but our biggest fear is that our purchasers will go through the associated expense of paying solicitors to undertake searches etc. and on receiving the results of they will also pull out, especially if West Sussex has actually granted approval to the ERF on Ford industrial Estate.

We know that in the grand scheme of things our story may seem relatively insignificant and there are many other aspects of this proposal to be considered but the implications of this go much wider as far as the residents in the Arun district are concerned. As well as the potential loss of value to our properties, people may be less than inclined to move into the area due to the associated health risks, which may also impact negatively on future property developments also planned to go ahead in the area in the near future (not to mention the negative impact this could have on Arundel itself as a tourist attraction).

Could I ask that you simply bear this mind as part of your consideration when deciding whether this proposal should go ahead, please?

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind regards

Andrew Perry



Sent from my iPhone