

# Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	WSCC/030/21
Name	Mark Lebus
Address	WEAVERS, DRUNGEWICK LANE, DRUNGEWICK LANE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0RP
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	<p>This application (WSCC/030/21) has only one benefit (i.e., profit for the applicant) but a very significant and harmful list of risks and reasons why it should never be approved. Please see below;</p> <p>1) Health and Safety Risk - the woodlands, footpaths and Loxwood Road are used by walkers, cyclists, riders, and local drivers 365 days a year. There is a school bus route with stops along the Loxwood Road route and access to numerous public footpaths onto the road which means that the proposed HGV route will create an extraordinarily high risk of road traffic incidents or worse for 33 years.</p> <p>2) Environmental Impact - The proposed clay pit area is greenfield and sits within/alongside ancient woodlands, farming fields, livestock, ponds and waterways and is currently rich with biodiversity and benefits to health and wellbeing. The proposed activities will destroy huge parts of the local environment through dust, carbon emissions, noise and light pollution and vibration. Regular habitat surveys will demonstrate a rapid and irreversible decline of biodiversity across a wide area beyond the clay pit boundaries which in turn will also have a significant effect on farming and health and wellbeing across the whole area.</p> <p>3) Infrastructure Risk - the proposed route to and from the site assumes that 40 HGV vehicle movements per day for 33 years would have little or no impact on the minor roads, adjacent properties, listed buildings, farmland and watercourses. The impact on infrastructure across the neighbouring rural environment is highly likely to be catastrophic including a real danger to lives if buildings or roads become unstable due to long-term and consistent HGV movements.</p> <p>4) Local Authority responsibility - How does this application meet any of the four key priorities of the West Sussex County Council 2021-2025 plan (which is underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of tackling climate change)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Keeping people safe from vulnerable situations.</li><li>2. A sustainable and prosperous economy.</li><li>3. Helping people and communities to fulfil their potential.</li><li>4. Making the best use of resources.</li></ol> <p>The WSCC Plan also states - "We have also seen unexpected benefits including cleaner air, less noise, neighbourliness, and an appreciation of the environment our residents live in. This new context means WSCC needs to build a new model of priorities for the next four years and beyond - one that focuses everything we are able to do on achieving good health and wellbeing or our residents In order to be fit for the future we must do two things."</p> <p>5) Demand for Clay - is there clear evidence that there is a demand for clay anywhere in the UK when there are four sites with more than 24 years supply of clay, therefore meeting all national and local level clay requirements. The proposed clay demand argument is surely removed by the closure of West Hoathly brickworks near Crawley. If there is no need for the clay, then presumably the justification for a waste site is also disputable.</p> <p>Summary - The proposed site for this application is inappropriate, extremely dangerous and against National Policy. The consultants' reports submitted by the applicant appear highly ambiguous and do not demonstrate an independent perspective on the risks and impacts of the location. There is no benefit to any of the local community, residents, businesses, or amenity opportunities and it is likely to have a very negative effect on biodiversity and health and wellbeing. Based on all the above points and as a local resident (with four children and dogs) living close to the proposed site, I very strongly object to this application.</p>
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Attachments	