Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number Name Address Type of

Comments Comments

John Newell

Windacres House, Church Street, Rudgwick, West Sussex RH12 3EG

Objection

The owners of Loxwood Clay Pits Limited live in Esher in Surrey and have an interest in a waste disposal company Loxwaste Limited which operates out of Kingston upon Thames in Surrey and Orpington in Kent. The applicant also owns 300 acres of woodland near Loxwood.

How to get rid of the waste? Why not dig a hole in the woods to put the waste in? But how to present this simple plan to look like a viable and acceptable scheme? Why not dig up clay from the woods to create a big hole and then recycle the waste and put what is left over into the hole. Thirty years later restore the woodland and put in a fishing lake and a pond. Quite easily done! Hopefully not.

The woods have remained largely undisturbed for many years and provide a sanctuary of great biodiversity criss-crossed by public footpaths and bridleways which have given local residents enormous pleasure for as long as anyone can remember.

The clay is not required in West Sussex because existing stocks are already adequate for 25 years. West Hoathly brickworks, which had originally been intended target for the clay, has recently permanently closed. This application does not indicate where the extracted clay would go but suggests that a new brickworks may need to be established somewhere.

The existing material recycling facilities in West Sussex are adequate for the needs of the county and are located in urban areas near to the source of the waste. This application does not indicate where the waste would come from but presumably it is likely to be from London.

It would appear counter-intuitive to bring in waste from afar along narrow roads distant from the strategic lorry network to dispose of in a quiet rural greenfield site and so disrupt the life of thousands of local residents in many ways for over 30 years.

I can only hope that logic and common sense prevail and that this application is refused.

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Attachments