

Ms Louise Williamson  
Twoways Cottage  
Station Road  
Loxwood  
RH14 0SN

28/08/2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Strong objection to planning application **WSCC/030/21**

I find myself with heavy heart, writing my strong objection to this awful planning application that has been submitted by Loxwood Clay Pits Ltd. I am completely shocked that any development like this would even be considered as acceptable within this small rural community. As a small community, I am sure you can feel the weight against this application by Loxwood Claypits Ltd., from the local community.

### **The demand for clay**

After careful investigation and research, I can see that there is no demand. In fact, the WSCC Minerals Monitoring Report, clearly states that there is no demand and that there are **MORE THAN 25 YEARS** of reserves. There are at least three sites with 25 years' worth of clay to fill the national demand and therefore this negates the need for the woods to be invaded as this is not a valid reason. Normally clay is also extracted near brick making factories and therefore to use the woods for this purpose, would add to the carbon footprint and therefore once again, negate further, the need for the clay extraction as there are no nearby brick factories. There is no logic in this application element whatsoever.

### **The waste site**

Without the mineral site in situ, there is no reasoning for a waste site at this location. Already, there is sufficient capacity within West Sussex, for the

disposal of construction and demolition waste and with the applicants plan to only recycle 50% of the waste brought onto the site, this is not only unacceptable as an industry standard but also will be backfilling rather than recycling. This is not a strong enough cause to destroy such a beautiful ancient woodland.

The driving distance from the layby access point is 3.25 km and this exceeds the recommended distance in the national policy which also stated that the waste sites should be situations in **built-up areas or brown field sites**. The buildings for this plan to be effective, would have a significant impact on the landscape. Furthermore, the proposed development, would have a direct impact on farming activity. I question if this has been thought through.

### **Loss of enmity**

The HGV's will run alongside and obstruct the current Public Right of Way which is currently used by the public at large. For residents and visitors to the area, this raises severe health and safety concerns. It is shocking that a footpath (792-1) at the Northern Boundary has been cited as being closed temporarily. This will be for a minimum of 33 years and will be a loss to a generation. I fear the choice of language has been used to "play down" the real and true impact that this plan will have on us as residents. Has the applicants realised that a school was in the local area as with winds and weather conditions, dust, noise and pollutants, will be carried towards the Rikkyo School. Again, something that further negates the plausibility of this application.

### **The development**

It needs to be considered that the proposed application does not conform in any way to meet the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan or the Chichester District Local plan, for a development in a rural area such as Loxwood. This application is in no way sympathetic to the area and serves no real purpose to the community as it does not enhance, protect or compliment Loxwood and it's natural environment in any way whatsoever.

## **Loxwood**

As a village, Loxwood is remote and very quiet – this is a major reason people live here. With HGV's, up to 42 per day, this will greatly impact the setting. The waste management site will need lighting, a waste management building etc and all this will require lighting. This will create light pollution in an area where there is currently none and impact the surrounding wildlife.

There will be pollution – both noise and fumes, from diesel powered generators which will also need to be on site for the specified period of 33 years. This will disturb the birdsong and wildlife in the woods alongside the wheel wash facilities that will also be needed.

## **The woods**

The area is stressed for water and having this site in the woods, would only increase this issue further. Some trees have been identified as roosting for bats and these would be amongst the first to be cut down. There are four threatened varieties of bats that have been identified, especially the Barbastelle Bat. The wheel wash facility, which was not in the original application, is to be sited in Pephurst Wood which is an ancient woodland that can never be replaced.

## **Traffic**

With the proposed application, there will be a significant increase in traffic into the area which nobody wants. The impact has not currently been fully assessed and with an increase of (c300%) the traffic volumes will put other roads users and pedestrians at significant risk. The roads are not wide enough to accommodate such heavy flow of traffic and such large vehicles. Loxwood has not been built for this completely unnecessary intrusion and neither should changes be made to shoehorn this unwanted invasion, into our rural and beautiful area.

I end my objection by asking if the applicants have a conscience or indeed the heart, to attempt to destroy such a beautiful area or start the destruction of the rural lifestyle. If this application goes ahead, the damage once, done, cannot be undone, and will set the precedence for the same thing to happen in other rural communities. We will be losing a part of our countryside, however insignificant it may be to others, that we will never get back and slowly but surely, the rural countryside that this country is known for, will disappear and become a fading memory.

Yours sincerely

Louise Jane Williamson