

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/030/21"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="David Williams"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="FARM COTTAGE, STATION ROAD, STATION ROAD, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0SN"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>Objection</p> <p>As a family we have enjoyed many years walking through these beautiful and tranquil woods which are on the periphery of our home in Loxwood.</p> <p>I am concerned as to the environmental devastation that approval of this application would inflict on this community now and for future generations. Poignantly at a time when a climate crisis is being declared our time to act as custodians of this beautiful planet is running out fast.</p> <p>I am writing to register my objection and urge the panel to refuse this application: I would like to outline some points of concern..</p> <p>Development plan</p> <p>This proposal does not conform with either the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan or the Chichester District Local plan for development in a rural area.</p> <p>It is not sensitive to the rural setting</p> <p>It will do the opposite of enhancing, protecting, or complimenting the rural character of the area and the natural environment.</p> <p>It offers no benefit to the local community only destruction</p> <p>Tranquillity and Environment</p> <p>This would bring devastation to a remote, beautiful, and tranquil setting which has low level background noise.</p> <p>The operation would require significant lighting which would violate the dark skies policy not to mention the trauma it would cause to local wildlife.</p> <p>The noise and fume pollution created by the operations of the site would render the surrounding PROW unusable</p> <p>The daily volume of HGV lorry movements, skip lorries and the wheel wash facility will create significant noise disturbance which will be enhanced against the backdrop of a formally peaceful environment. The beautiful sounds of birdsong will be lost forever and the impact on residents' wellbeing and mental health should not be underestimated or overlooked when determining this application.</p> <p>The site features mature trees which are due to be felled to make way for this development have potential roosting features for bats. Within this area there are four threatened (priority species) such as the very rare Barbastelle Bat.</p> <p>Loss of woodland - It is utterly devastating that over 8c hectares of woodland (including veteran trees) are proposed to be felled. In addition, irreplaceable ancient woodland will be lost to the location of the wheel cleaning facilities in the lay-by.</p> <p>The high level of development in the north of the district has led to water stress in Loxwood with increasing demand which would be exacerbated by this development</p> <p>Loss of Amenity</p> <p>There are valid concerns regarding the fact that the site access for HGV's will run alongside PROW used by members of the public and this effectively renders this local amenity unusable. Furthermore, the application proposes the closure footpath 792-1.</p> <p>The justification from the applicant that this is a temporary location is effectively obsolete since the 33 years renders it lost to a generation and there is no guarantee that an extension will not be sought once planning permission is given.</p> <p>Local schools like Rikkyo school will be significantly impacted by noise, dust and pollutants (carried by South Westerly Winds) which is a significant risk to the 300 students and staff, but longer term potentially risks the viability of the business which would effectively lose its tranquil school setting. The school is a significant partner of this community and the impact on them must be considered.</p> <p>Suitability of location</p> <p>The site is wholly unsuitable and would destroy a beautiful greenfield site and is in opposition to national policy which states that waste sites prioritise brownfield sites or built up areas.</p> <p>Access to the site utilises an unsuitable minor road which is used by cyclists, horse riders, cars, and walkers. The addition of a high-volume HGVs would create significant safety concerns for these users.</p> <p>The aesthetic of the woodlands will be destroyed by a 15,000 sq ft building.</p> <p>Established neighbouring farming activity would be in conflict with the pollutants created by the operations outlined in this planning application.</p>

Demand for Clay/Waste Site

According to WSCC latest Minerals Monitoring report there is NO demand for clay with more than the 25 years of reserves available. This application should be challenged on this point alone, however there are three additional sites in the local area, two of which has a 25 years supply and the other 24 years . Local and national levels can be met via these alternative locations if required.

There is an environmental downside with this application which would require the clay to be transported to a brickmaking factory which is why brickmaking factories tend to be adjacent to where the extraction took place to mitigate this.

Given that the clay is not needed there is no justification for a waste site in this unsuitable location. There is currently sufficient capacity for Construction and Demolition waste in West Sussex. Furthermore, the plan to recycle only 50% of waste brought into the site would be well below industry standard.

Traffic and safety

The increase in HGV movements and the site entrance/exit poses significant safety risks for other road users in the community.

Congestion will increase impacting local vilages/hamlets of Bucks Green, Tismans Common and Rudgwick.

Impact on highway safety along Loxwood Road from high speeds on a restricted carriageway. The road is just 5.1m wide at its narrowest point and 5.5m along most of its length. There is a severe highway safety issue from HGVs entering and exiting the Loxwood Road/A281 junction at Bucks Green.

Potential damage to beautiful Listed Buildings in the community which will be at risk to the increased HGV traffic along the proposed route

I hope that the points made in this objection and those that others have raised make it clear that this application is unwelcome and unsuitable. It should be REFUSED in the strongest possible terms, I would like to register my total objection to this application.

Thank you.

Received

29/08/2021 11:49:48

Attachments