



County Planning  
West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
CHICHESTER  
PO19 1RH

26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear sirs,

**Planning application WSCC/030/21 - Loxwood Clay Pits Ltd – OBJECTION.**

I am writing to you to register my strong objection to the proposed development in the woods between Loxwood and Tismans Common for the following reasons:

**ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSOUND**

The proposal to transport clay half way across the county is environmentally unsound and in itself would be totally uneconomic for any operator. It's quite obvious that the real reason for digging clay at this site is to create a hole in which to dump waste. The application should be seen for what it is; a landfill site, and in the most unsuitable place imaginable. Waste sites should be located close to the demolition and redevelopment sites where the waste is generated. National policy is that existing brownfield sites in or adjacent to built-up areas should be used, not a greenfield site miles away from anywhere, necessitating lengthy journeys by heavily polluting HGV's over narrow country lanes. The additional pollution that would inevitably result from a massive growth in HGV movements if this application is approved runs contrary to the overwhelming, urgent need to cut carbon emissions.

**ROAD SAFETY**

Current HGV movements along Loxwood road already pose a very real danger to walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other motorists, all who have a right to use the road without fear of their lives. The proposal to add a further 42 HGV movements each day works out at one every 12 minutes over an 8-hour shift. That assumes the trucks will be evenly spaced which of course they won't be, and mingled with the existing traffic this road will be a death-trap. There has been a fatality on this stretch of road quite recently; how many more can we expect if the HGV movements increase by such a huge number? Who's son or daughter, mother or father will pay the price if this unwelcome and unnecessary landfill is permitted?

The junction of Loxwood Road at Bucks Green is difficult enough to negotiate at the best of times and there is a risk that HGVs from the proposed site will choose alternative routes to access the A281. Hornshill lane would seem an obvious shortcut to some, and it already suffers from the movement of huge high-speed tractors towing trailers carrying cattle and silage to and from nearby farms. The prospect of this traffic being augmented by fully loaded HGVs doesn't bear thinking about. There is no room to pass.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE

HGVs carrying demolition and construction waste are unlikely to be operating at anything less than their maximum gross weight the local roads will not sustain movement at this loading and frequency. I lived at the nearby hamlet of Ifold and experienced this first-hand when HGVs movements to and from the biogas plant at Crouchlands Farm were taking place. The damage done to the road structure, not just the surface, was devastating, requiring continual repair. And the number of movements per day was around a quarter of those proposed in this application. Who will pick up the inevitable cost of the repair of Loxwood Road? West Sussex County Council taxpayers I expect.

#### NOISE, DUST and FUMES.

By its very nature, handling and processing demolition waste is an intensely noisy operation which produces copious volumes of dust. The fixed plant is typically powered by diesel engines which in addition to the handling equipment, excavators and HGVs will produce fumes continuously and in quantity. The pollution from noise, dust and fume will be intolerable for the residents of properties downwind of the site, including that currently enjoyed by me and my family.

#### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The proposal will have a devastating effect on the beauty of the area. Adjacent ancient woodlands are at risk of collateral damage and the development will have a substantial impact on the habitat of many species of wildlife.

#### LOSS OF AMENITY

The amenity of the area will be diminished by the closure of the public right of way and the movement of HGVs through the fields and woodland will have a profoundly detrimental effect on the environment, spoiling it for humans and wildlife alike. Walkers will no longer be able to enjoy the peaceful setting.

In summary this development has no merit. It will bring no demonstrable benefit to the area but it would subject residents and wildlife alike to unbearable noise, dust, smell, destruction and danger and on that basis it should be refused outright.

