

Rudgwick Parish Council
Rudgwick Hall
Bucks Green
Rudgwick
West Sussex
RH12 3JJ
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]



7th February 2022

The Planning Department
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1RG

Dear Chris Bartlett,

Rudgwick Parish Council further comments on Loxwood Claypits application WSCC/030/21

The additional information submitted by the applicants does not appear to address the concerns raised by Rudgwick Parish Council in our original objection to this application submitted in August 2021.

There is no substantiated evidence that either West Sussex or Surrey County Councils position on clay requirement has changed since last summer. The applicant has presented no further justification of the need for additional construction recycling facilities in West Sussex either. The policies of West Sussex on mineral and ore extraction and the recycling of construction materials are very clear and are supported by the community of council-tax payers that they serve. The policies protect our environment from inappropriate, unjustified and potentially harmful development. This development in this location remains a totally unnecessary intrusion into the countryside.

Rudgwick Parish Council raised last year the potential for noise and dust pollution from the proposed development to affect the staff and pupils of the Rikkyo School, which is in our parish and close to the border of the woodland site of this development. Our concerns on this remain unaltered.

The impact of traffic from the development on the roads of our parish remains unchanged as far as we can ascertain. We continue to have concerns particularly about the increased amount of HGV traffic that our residents would be confronted with on the narrow country roads leaving the site and heading through our village to the A281 via the Loxwood Road, and onwards within the parish. The potential safety issues (particularly at the exit of the Loxwood road onto the A281), increased pollution and nuisance are worrying for residents who would be subjected to this when there is no justifiable need for it at all.

The water neutrality issues have become more concerning since the original application was submitted, particularly in this area of the county. There is no evidence that the applicants have recognized this issue or produced any details of how neutrality can be achieved at the development site.

Our comments from the original objection regarding Climate Change still stand. The Climate Emergency has not abated, and the COP 26 UN summit last Autumn has underlined the need to increase action towards meeting the goals of the agreed international climate change framework. If this location were selected for the type of activity proposed, think of the carbon footprint involved? Pollution, the vehicle emissions from diesel vehicles and generators, harm to the biodiversity and loss of the ancient trees, concreting over the woodland floor and the erosion and disturbance of a place used by so many locals to enhance their health and well-being, are not exactly factors which help the planet or its inhabitants towards a zero-carbon target; the facilities proposed are totally unnecessary.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall
Assistant Clerk to Rudgwick Parish Council