

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	WSCC/030/21
Name	Anne Keates
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Type of Comment	Objection

The additional documents provided by the applicants to demonstrate the minimal impact of their proposal to operate a clay extraction site, a waste recycling plant and the possibility of a brick works in the woodlands of a quiet rural village has only succeeded in strengthening in my objections to this application.

Their arguments against the objections validly lodged to their plans by those with concerns for the health and safety of those living in the village and for the wider environmental considerations show a contempt and lack of respect for the application process and to those who have taken the time and trouble to make their views known. Whilst I may not possess expert knowledge of all the areas of concern, I am able to listen to and disseminate facts provided by those with the requisite expertise and then include these facts in my objection to the application. For the applicants to claim otherwise would reduce the application process to a one sided matter weighted very heavily in the applicant's favour.

My objections to this application are as noted below none of which have been addressed by the applicants supplementary submissions and furthermore the applicant does not appear to consider either the relevance or the importance of the West Sussex CC Waste and Minerals Policies. The applicant has also not demonstrated the need for additional recycling capacity in West Sussex.

- o The number of lorry movements per day - risk of accidents and increased pollution
- o The public roads needed to access the site are narrow, poorly lit, and badly maintained with junctions that are already dangerous
- o Final access to the site is along a forest track in an area known to be at high risk of mud and standing water. It is therefore highly likely that the track will suffer significant damage, and erosion to the track and adjacent land will potentially create flood risks in the village due to additional run-off
- o The fauna and flora in the surrounding area needed to maintain a sound eco-system will be compromised by the moment of heavy vehicles through the wood
- o The forest track is close to public footpaths, creating a risk to those using the paths and people may be discouraged from using the paths due to the loss of once safe, peaceful, and healthy walks in the woods
- o There is no legal control on the roads used by the applicants. None of the access roads to the site through Loxwood and neighbouring villages are suitable as evidenced by the regular movement of large lorries through Surrey and Sussex to reach the former slurry pit operation at Crouchlands Farm near Plaistow. Should the application be granted, despite the numerous valid objections, what controls would be in place to monitor the vehicle movements in terms of numbers and routes used? What actions could be taken to enforce that the route, defined in the application, is used, and what penalties could be enforced due to non-compliance with the indicated route?

Noise Levels and Pollution

- o Whilst the applicants may have conducted a noise level test concluding that the noise level is within legal limits, the experience of living in a rural village when building work is in progress would suggest that the legal limits do not reflect or consider the impact of the noise pollution on the residents. The movement of vehicles, especially the reversing signals can be clearly heard right across the village. We as residents accept the short periods of seasonal noise that comes with harvest time as this is part of the natural annual cycle of a rural village. The noise created by a recycling centre is not part of this cycle; it will be a daily occurrence and should not be allowed to become part of it.
- o The site is not supported by mains electricity and may require generators which will create a constant background noise in a peaceful village and will generate pollution
- o The movement of waste lorries to and from the site will cause pollution

Loxwood is known to have an issue with wastewater management, an issue already exacerbated by the unabated building of new housing developments in Loxwood and surrounding Sussex and Surrey villages. The addition of this site with concrete replacing critical natural drainage and the facility itself generating wastewater puts the village at even higher risk of a major wastewater incident. As a local resident I supported the writing of and voted for the adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan. The proposal under review brings nothing to the locality or its inhabitants and in fact is contraindicated by the Neighbourhood Plan as it neither complements, enhances nor protects the local environment.

For the reasons set out above, I wish to record once again my strong OBJECTION to the proposed Waste Recycling Plant / Clay Extraction operation in Pallingshurst Woods.

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Attachments