



## Social Diary

By Sally Pavey | If you would like Sally Pavey to attend your social event then please email [wsgazettesocial@gmail.com](mailto:wsgazettesocial@gmail.com)



# Church was full of Horsham residents upset about incinerator plans

One thing was very clear from those in attendance on Saturday that they were not happy with the local MP, proposed Britaniacrest Incinerator that their officers are seeking to approve.

A large number of residents arrived at St Mark's Church in Holbrook to attend the public meeting concerning the Horsham Wealden Brickworks industrial incinerator and recycling hosted by Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex branch.

CPRE is a charity that seeks to protect and promote the countryside of England with the Queen as patron and 7,073 in the South East as members.

David Johnson, the Chairman of CPRE Sussex was to chair the meeting and he arrived fresh from another event with flags and banners in tow, where CPRE had had a stall in forming residents of local planning issues such as the A27 routing and housing as well as neighbourhood plans – they won an award for their work on building better places. He was followed by Director Kia Trainer and trustee Dr Roger Finch.

The panel conformed of Neil Pitcairn, a director of UK WIN, a national environment body that seeks to stop the building of incinerator and have been very much at the heart of national press coverage on the subject and the cross-party-political 158 white paper. Being environmentally friendly chaps they shared the ride

to Holbrook with co-panelist Surrey Councillor Jonathan Essex of The Green Party who enlightened us to the fact that a council can earn thousands more if they simply separate paper from other waste!

St Mark's Church welcomed in local people with church volunteers and the vicar at the door, making teas and offering cakes; the vicar would be seen later working hard in charge of the microphone during question time.

The church was full of residents with displays from UK WIN, No Incinerator 4 Horsham community group, CPRE Sussex, Britaniacrest declining to take part in the panel, and Horsham Matters, a church group that helps the local community.

The panel, chaired by David Johnson got underway with West Sussex County Councillor, Peter Catchpole, outlining why he felt that the planning application should be refused, being the wrong place for such an industrial plant as it already has a high level of pollutants with the brickworks, landfill site, the biomechanical digester; the incinerator would simply add to this cocktail of pollution for locals: Neil Pitcairn, a director of the national environmental group UK WIN, detailed how the particulars provided by Britaniacrest on CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> pollution were mathematically incorrect and that planning officers should have identified these errors, but instead WSCC officers propose to approve the planning application. He pointed out, like Surrey Councillor Jonathan Essex of The Green Party, that incinerators are to be taxed

as it has been shown they reduce the amount of waste being recycled and that we have too many incinerators already for the amount of waste we produce. Neil highlighting that the production of electricity by incinerators goes against Government guidance to local authorities. Leader of Crawley County Council, Cllr Peter Lamb and Labour candidate for the next general elections, highlighted that Crawley already has areas that have high pollution; in fact some residents are meant to refrain from entering their gardens. He raised the issue that due to the wind patterns he objects to the proposed incinerator, as the plume of pollutants would be heading over Crawley adding to the pollution issues his residents already suffer.

Residents voiced their frustration that the local MP, Jeremy Quin was absent from the meeting and was not doing more to stop the incinerator. Others showed antipathy that the decision would take place behind closed doors in Chichester and not in Horsham preventing many from attending the planning meeting on 19th June. The community group came to the rescue in organising a bus to take people to Chichester on the 19th so email [n14h.org@gmail.com](mailto:n14h.org@gmail.com) if you would like a ride but first you must apply for a ticket to attend via [Democratic.Services@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@westsussex.gov.uk)

A clear message came from the meeting to the WSCC and HDC councillors that sat in the audience, residents are very opposed to the Britaniacrest incinerator and expected them to oppose it.



CPRE meeting