

James Neave

From: Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2020 11:30
To: Jane Moseley; smythD@rpsgroup.com; Richard Moore;
noincinerator4horsham@gmail.com; Maureen Darrie ([REDACTED])
Cc: PL Planning Applications
Subject: 3218965 - Former Wealden Brickworks, Langhurst Wood Road, Horsham
Attachments: Jeremy Quin MP 3218965.pdf; [Untitled].pdf; Jeremy Quin MP.pdf

Importance: High

Dear all,

Please see the attached correspondence for your information.

Kind regards

Helen

Helen Skinner

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

28 October 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Appeal by Britaniacrest Recycling Ltd against

**The decision of West Sussex County Council to refuse planning permission
for a Recycling, Recovery and Renewable Energy Facility and Ancillary
Infrastructure at the former Wealden Brickworks (Site HB),
Langhurstwood Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QD.**

Appeal Reference: APP/P3800/W/18/3218965

Application Reference: WSCC/015/18/NH

The planning application for the above proposed Recycling, Recovery and Renewable Energy Facility and Ancillary Infrastructure in my constituency was rejected by West Sussex County Council, a decision that was widely welcomed locally.

That decision made by West Sussex County Council is currently subject to an appeal.



I have been approached by a large number of constituents, including the local Campaign Group, Ni4H on this issue as the Member of Parliament for Horsham. Acting on behalf of my constituents and in that capacity I am writing to request formally that you give consideration for the recovery of the above application.

The application is giving rise to substantial regional controversy with the impact of the incinerator going beyond the Horsham District and is, in the context of national waste strategy, a matter of major importance, having more than local significance. This proposal may also be deemed a matter of major significance for the delivery of the Government's climate change programme and energy policies.

My constituents contend that this is specifically relevant given that the Government wants to maximise the amount of waste sent to recycling instead of incineration and landfill in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

It is expected that the demand for new Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities will reduce, as demand for incineration slows and recycling increases. Government policy on waste is clear and wishes to support recycling. My constituents understand that the introduction of a tax on the incineration of waste may even be considered at a future date as a further step to pursue these objectives following the successful introduction of the landfill tax.

A joint venture is underway which it is believed will lead to the construction of an Energy from Waste facility at Ford in West Sussex (WSSC/096/13/F), only 25 miles from Horsham, demonstrating that an allocated site for an EfW facility is already present within the County.

Avoiding the risk of the creation of overcapacity in incineration may be deemed of major significance given the Government's policy direction on the waste hierarchy and its position within the delivery of climate change and energy policies.

Constituents have stressed to me that they believe that the 'carbon intensity' of energy produced through waste incineration is very substantially more than low carbon emission sources which, especially in the context of the potential for



incinerator overcapacity and its impact on supply and demand for waste for incineration, may well also be directly relevant to the policy framework.

Due to the progressive decarbonisation of the electricity supply, incinerators built after 2020 would have a relatively greater adverse climate change impact (United Kingdom Without Incineration Network report, 'Evaluation of the climate change impacts of waste incineration in the United Kingdom', October 2018, Rev 1.01: April 2019.)

I believe there are wider considerations, which relate to this proposal and accordingly, on behalf of my constituents, I request that this Planning Appeal is considered for recovery in order that issues of wider significance may be considered.

The Appeal Inquiry is due to commence on 29th October 2019 in Horsham, with Inspector Ian Jenkins for an estimated 12 sitting days.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Quin



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jeremy Quin MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Luke Hall MP
Minister for Local Government and Homelessness

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Our Ref: 5015411

20 JAN 2020

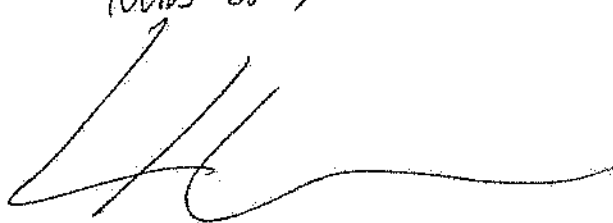
Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP about a planning appeal concerning a proposed recycling and renewable energy facility at Wealden Brickworks, Horsham (appeal reference APP/P3800/W/18/3218965). I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

Please be assured that careful consideration will be given by Ministers to your request that the appeal is recovered and decided by the Secretary of State rather than the appointed Planning Inspector following the inquiry that took place in the Autumn.

I will write to you again when a decision on this has been made, but until then the appeal will not be determined until the question of recovery has been addressed.

Thank you for writing in on this important matter.

Yours ever,


LUKE HALL MP



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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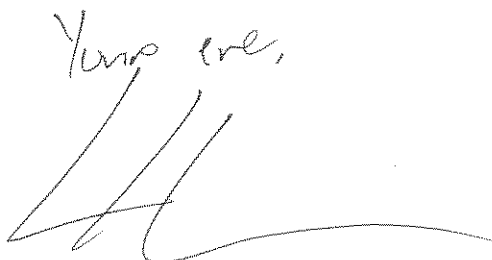
Dear Jeremy,

I am writing to follow up on my letter dated 20 January which acknowledged receipt of your request that the Secretary of State recovers an appeal for a recycling and renewable energy facility at the former Wealden Brickworks, Horsham.

I understand that while they were considering the application, the Council received nearly 1,200 objections and a petition of just over 4,500 signatures. At the inquiry in November a further petition of about 2,200 signatures was handed to the Inspector. Consequently it is very clear that this is a significantly unpopular proposal and I have every respect for those concerns.

But it does not necessarily follow from that objection, extensive though it is, that the appeal should be recovered, and I could only reasonably support a request to recover an appeal if the development met the recovery criteria and would likely resonate beyond the local area. Having very carefully considered your request I have come to the view that the appeal does not meet the high threshold for recovery, and I am content to leave its determination with the appointed Inspector.

I am very sorry that this will be a disappointment to you but I have every confidence that the Inspector will determine the appeal impartially, on its merits, and in doing so will take into account all representations submitted.

Yours ever,


LUKE HALL MP