
From: Rachel Ford
Sent: 27 April 2018 22:11
To: PL Planning Applications
Subject: Proposed Horsham Incinerator, Application Number: WSCC/015/18/NH

RE: Proposed Horsham Incinerator, Application Number: WSCC/015/18/NH

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the application to build a new waste incineration plant in North Horsham. For the following reasons I would like to submit my objections to the application.

The proposed application does not comply with West Sussex County Council's Waste Local Plan. The size of the construction is excessively large, and the height of the chimney stack will have a major negative impact on the surrounding villages, countryside and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Commercial waste from businesses across the south east region will be transported to the site to be dealt with, which is not in accordance with strategic objective 5, to make provision for waste to be recycled as close to its source as possible.

Contrary to Strategic Objective 11, protect and where possible enhance the natural and historic environment, the proposed plant will be visible from as far as 15km away causing a blight on the countryside and doing the opposite of enhancing the natural environment.

Policy 26 of the Horsham District planning framework states that any proposal must be of a scale appropriate to its countryside character and location. I believe the proposed incineration plant is not of an appropriate scale and it does not enhance, conserve or protect any key features of its surrounding area, in direct contravention of policy 26. Furthermore, the policy states any proposed development should not increase the overall level of activity in the countryside, which would be the case with waste from across the south east being transported to the site.

INCINERATION DOES NOT REMOVE WASTE, it simply converts it into another form (gas, particulates, ash) and these new forms are typically more hazardous, though less visible, than the original form. Research indicates that there are no safe levels for fine particulates and many large studies have been conducted which have shown significant increases in cancers, heart disease and birth defects around incinerators, with a real possibility that genetic changes will occur and be passed on to succeeding generations. As a resident living less than a mile from the proposed site, this is undoubtedly my major concern. I seriously doubt that any of the people behind this proposal would actually want to live, with their families, less than a mile from such a site!

There has been insufficient analysis of the effects of incineration specifically relating to the North Horsham area, rather just a general argument for incineration versus landfill. For a fair assessment to be carried out the local area needs to be taken into account, the fact that there are plans to build 3 schools directly adjacent to the site, with 2 existing schools less than 2 miles away, demonstrates the need for a detailed environmental and health study on the impact of the incinerator specifically within the area of construction. Any such development should not be seriously considered without full consideration of the potential health impact to local residents.

Beyond everything else, I am struggling to understand why an outdated method like incineration is actually being proposed. Far safer alternative methods are now available including recycling, mechanical biological treatment, aerobic digestion and plasma gasification: a combination of these would be safer, would produce more energy, would be cheaper than incineration in the long run and would be much cheaper especially when health costs are taken into account. Also, as recycling is increasing at such a rate, an incineration plant will be practically redundant within a few years, so in order to reclaim their investment they will have to actively discourage businesses from recycling, in order that they still have enough to burn!

On a personal note, I have been looking to self-build for several years now in the Horsham area and would find it a travesty if this proposal went ahead given its severely negative impact on the countryside, when I have been told that it's not possible to self-build a small family dwelling outside the town boundary due to the planning office claiming it would not positively enhance the countryside or its surroundings, yet it would have far less impact than a giant chimney stack emitting dangerous chemicals.

The proposed incinerator contravenes the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the European Human Rights Convention (the Right to Life), and the Stockholm Convention, and violates the Environmental Protection Act of 1990 which states that the UK must prevent emissions from harming human health.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Ford

(North Horsham Resident)