

News Release from Nick Herbert MP

Immediate

Monday 1 June 2009

Nick Herbert renews call for 'zero landfill' in West Sussex

Arundel & South Downs MP Nick Herbert has renewed his call for an end to landfill in West Sussex.

Mr Herbert was speaking yesterday (31 May) at a major fundraising event organised by campaigners fighting proposals to dump 4.7 million tonnes of rubbish at Laybrook Brickworks near Thakeham.

Mr Herbert, who is Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said it was unacceptable that local communities should have to put up with the noise, traffic, pollution, flies, smell and litter from landfill sites.

The MP added that the methane produced by landfill is 23 times more damaging in terms of global warming than carbon dioxide.

In a renewed call for a policy of 'zero landfill', Mr Herbert said that there were better ways to deal with waste; that we should reduce packaging, increase recycling rates and convert more of our waste into energy.

In February, there was cause for celebration in West Sussex when proposals for a new landfill site at Rock Common near Washington were rejected after the County's Planning Committee heard evidence from local campaigners, councillors and Nick Herbert.

However, Mr Herbert has warned that the war against landfill is far from won. Following publication of the final South East Plan last month, West Sussex still faces the prospect of having to accept nearly 2 million tonnes of rubbish from London.

And, with the planning application for a landfill site at Laybrook imminent and the recent extension of Horton Landfill Site near Small Dole, local communities still face an uncertain future. At Sunday's event, Mr Herbert pledged that he would continue to give his strong backing to local communities in their battle against landfill.

After the event, Mr Herbert commented: "Our successful fight to save our local hospital services showed that people power can work. So I urge local people to fight on to prevent rotting rubbish from being dumped in your community.

"If you want to know what it's like to live next to a landfill site, just ask people down the road at Small Dole, who for years have had to put up with the flies, smell, lorries and disruption. We've successfully stopped landfill at

Washington. Now we must stop it at Laybrook, too. I will do everything I can to support you. In the 21st Century, it's time to end landfill, and the environmental damage it does, for good.”

Mr Herbert was joined at the event by Sir Charles Burrell, owner of Knepp Castle, and Horsham MP Francis Maude whose constituency is affected by the proposals for Laybrook.

Ends

For further information, please contact Matthew Jones on 07946 231372.

Notes for Editors

1. The picnic concert, organised by Thakeham Village Action, was held at Knepp Castle on Sunday 31 May from 3pm with the kind permission of Sir Charles and Lady Burrell. It attracted around 500 people and raised more than £18,000 for the campaign against proposals for a landfill site at Laybrook.
2. For the website of Thakeham Village Action (TVA), who are campaigning against the proposed landfill site at Laybrook Brickworks near Thakeham, visit <http://www.thakehamvillageaction.org.uk/>.
3. For details of TVA's campaign, visit <http://www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk/>.
4. Following a 'waste summit' organised by Nick Herbert last year, the Chanctonbury Landfill Action Group (CLAG), Thakeham Village Action (TVA) and the Small Dole Action Group (SDAG) joined forces to form a new campaigning organisation called Zero Landfill. For further details, visit <http://www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk/pages/zerolandfill/>.
5. A photograph of the event at Knepp Castle is attached, showing (from left to right) Francis Maude MP, Sir Charles Burrell (owner of Knepp Castle), Secretary of TVA Jean Locker and Nick Herbert MP.