



Thakeham Village Action

Press Release from Thakeham Village Action
For immediate release

1st June 2009

THOUSANDS RAISED IN FIGHT AGAINST LANDFILL

Hundreds of people joined together at the picnic concert at Knepp Castle helping raise funds for the fight against landfilling at Laybrook.

Opposition to a proposed rotting rubbish landfill at Laybrook Brickworks, Thakeham continued to grow yesterday when some 500 people attended a picnic concert and auction at Knepp Castle. The event, organized by Thakeham Village Action raised over £18,000, every pound of which will go towards fighting the proposed landfill.

Dawn Lyall, the event organizer and campaigner for TVA said: “The success of today demonstrates the strength of feeling against Cory Environmental’s proposal to turn the clay pit at Ibstock’s Laybrook brickworks into an enormous landfill. The thought of our beautiful environment being completely ruined and the health of our families genuinely threatened is utterly horrendous. We will do everything we possibly can to stop the proposed plan.”

Amongst the supporters at today’s event were Nick Herbert MP and Francis Maude MP, both of whom addressed the crowd. Francis Maude MP said: “Nick and I are with you all the way. I will do all I can, working closely with you so that this wonderful area that we live in is not blighted.” Nick Herbert MP added: “This is incredibly important. The flies, noise, lorries, disruption and smell. I will do everything I can as local MP and Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to stop it. We must move towards a zero waste policy and put an end to landfill.”

Willie Austen and his band led the afternoon’s entertainment in the glorious sunshine with the support of two local bands, The Sirens and The Fragilistics.

The auction **included** holidays to Kenya, Menorca and Greece, concert tickets, a fly fishing trip, flight from Goodwood and the opportunity to bid for a private chef for a night. In addition, a raffle was held with star prizes including restaurant meals and gift vouchers, plus the ‘Laybrook Lucky Drum’ where every ticket was a winner.

TVA thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the event by donating items and to everyone who attended and helped raise such a significant amount of money, also to Charles and Issy Burrell for their continued support and use of their land. Jean Locker, Secretary for TVA said: “Opposing this landfill is going to be very expensive. Lawyers and consultants fees alone will run into tens of thousands of pounds and we must be prepared for that. We are absolutely delighted with the sum raised today.”

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Campaigners for TVA will continue to work tirelessly to raise public awareness of the atrocious prospect of landfill at Laybrook Brickworks, between Thakeham and Ashington and little more than two miles from Storrington.

To find out more and register your support, visit www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1) For further information, contact 01903 744382 or 01798 813208.
- 2) Thakeham Village Action has been campaigning against proposals for a non-inert (rotting rubbish) landfill tip at Laybrook brickworks for over seven years. TVA is a member of Zero Landfill.
- 3) For more information on Zero Landfill go to: <http://www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk/pages/zerolandfill/>
- 4) Thakeham Village Action's aims are the preservation, protection and enhancement of the Parish of Thakeham in the County of West Sussex and its surrounding area. It was founded in 1999.
- 5) For further information about the Laybrook planning application, facts about landfill and other waste disposal alternatives, go to www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk.