



Thakeham Village Action

Press Release from Thakeham Village Action
For immediate release

14th September 2009

OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE PROTEST AGAINST LANDFILL

Over a thousand people, adults and children, with dogs, cycles and horses, plus some vintage vehicles to carry those less able to walk and several tractors, took to the road on Saturday the 12th to demonstrate their opposition to non-inert (rotting) rubbish landfill. Not only are residents battling a planning application by Cory Environmental for a rubbish dump at Laybrook, between Thakeham and Ashington in the heart of West Sussex, protesters also demonstrated their opposition to the environmentally damaging practice of dumping rubbish into holes in the ground everywhere, in West Sussex and throughout the country.

The No Laybrook Landfill Parade started at the Ashington and went along the proposed lorry route, the B2133, to the Laybrook site. For everyone's safety, the road was closed for the event, which gave the demonstrators the chance to really understand the narrowness and dangerous nature of the B2133, a road already twice as dangerous as the average rural B-class road. At the protest parade's end near Laybrook quarry on Goose Green Lane, demonstrators heard rousing campaign speeches, including speeches supporting the campaign from the two local MPs, Nick Herbert (also Shadow Environment Secretary) and Francis Maude (also Shadow Cabinet Secretary).

Not only were paraders protesting against a landfill at Laybrook damaging the countryside, polluting the water and air, damaging people's and farm animal's health, increasing the risks of serious injury collisions along the B roads to the site; they also paraded against the continuation of landfill itself, the most environmentally damaging form of dealing with waste, throwing rubbish into holes into the ground so that it can rot and pollute rather than capturing and using the valuable resources it contains. Protesters also challenged Cory's claims that more landfill space in West Sussex is required now, TVA's own consultants say this is not the case.

At the parade, Nick Herbert MP said: "Across the country, people are saying that they don't want rotting rubbish dumped in the ground next to their communities. Worldwide, countries and cities are changing the way they deal with rubbish and going green. In countries like Germany and the Netherlands, they're barely doing it any more because they've got the technologies which they've invested in to treat rubbish, not just as something you dump in the ground but as a resource for materials and for energy. It's a national shame that Britain is still the dirty man of Europe, so far behind our European peer group countries, still thinking it's OK to dump rotting rubbish in the ground and it's not OK".

Then Francis Maude MP said: "This can be stopped. There is nothing inevitable about this landfill. This is yesterday's solution to yesterday's problem. We've got in this country to find

better ways of dealing with our waste – that means more recycling as Nick has said, but huge amounts more can be done before we get into this old, tired, played out idea of dumping it in the ground in the countryside, in the wrong place, for the wrong reasons, with the wrong result. So this fight doesn't end here, it doesn't end in a week's time when the consultation period ends, it doesn't end when the decision gets made by West Sussex County Council. This is a fight that goes on until we win it. So all of us who live in the area, all of us who represent residents in the area, we're utterly determined to see this through, to fight it to the end."

Afterwards, Jean Locker, Thakeham Village Action's Chair of the No Laybrook Landfill campaign, said: "This protest parade, with over a thousand people peacefully demonstrating, clearly showed the overwhelming opposition to a rotting rubbish landfill here at Laybrook. That so many people were prepared to demonstrate on a lovely Saturday lunchtime, many not from the local area, showed the depth of feeling against landfill here at Laybrook and anywhere. The County Council should now have got the message that landfill is not wanted and not needed, not at Laybrook or anywhere".

Thakeham Village Action reminds everyone that there is just one week left, to 18th September, for residents to write to the County Council, by letter or e-mail - to Planning Services at West Sussex County Council, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester PO19 1RH or planning.services@westsussex.gov.uk, quoting reference WSCC/048/09/T.

To find out more about the campaign go to www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk .

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further information, contact 01903 744382 or 07785 263901.
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. For more information on Zero Landfill go to: <http://www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk/pages/zerolandfill/>
3. 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.
4. For further information about the Laybrook planning application, facts about landfill and other waste disposal alternatives, go to www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk.