

Council is landfill junkie

WEST Sussex County Council may have been quietly pleased to have received a planning application from Cory Environmental for a new landfill facility at Laybrook Brickworks, Goose Green, just outside Ashington.

Unlike its neighbour, Hampshire County Council, which has reduced the percentage of waste consigned to landfill to a laudable 16 per cent, West Sussex remains a landfill junkie with a lamentable 65 per cent still being disposed of in this way. Can it process this application in a totally impartial way?

Like all addicts, West Sussex remains in denial as to the extent of its dependency and harbours a secret craving for the additional capacity of 200,000 tons per annum

which the proposed facility will provide.

Perhaps it believes that just one more fix will help it buy more time to kick the habit but the consequences are serious.

Once planning permission has been granted, even if West Sussex subsequently manages to reduce its landfill requirement to nil, Cory Environmental will continue to operate the site, shipping in waste from wherever it can and from whoever is prepared to pay.

In reality, what does this mean?

According to Cory's own environmental impact assessment, there will be convoys of HGVs to and from the site, six days a week, for the next 20 years: averaging one vehicle movement every three minutes, with greater

frequency during periods of peak flow. Cory claims that this will not result in any significant environmental impact!

Once this planning application has been validated, the county council will publish it in the usual way. At that point, there will be a brief period for those who are opposed to this rubbish idea to lodge their objections.

Objectors may also wish to consider directly lobbying their respective county councillors.

With future elections in mind, they may be more receptive to ensuring that they focus fully on the wishes of those people that they represent.

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