

Protecting our countryside is not a case of NIMBYism

PROTECTING our countryside from the pollution of non-inert waste landfills is not NIMBYism.

The large-scale DEFRA study published in 2003 concluded that 'small but significant excess health risks are associated with living closer than 2km to landfill sites'.

It states: "In terms of emissions to air, it is known that landfill gas (mainly methane and carbon dioxide) created by the decomposition of putrescible wastes in landfill can continue to be emitted for some 25 to 30 years after closure of a landfill site. It is also known that volatile organic compounds (such as benzene and vinyl chloride) that are toxic or carcinogenic may cause proximate health effects. Emissions to soil and water, termed leachate, may continue for several hundred years, and typically contain very high concentrations of organic compounds and heavy metals, detrimental to human health."

The traffic to and from landfill and onsite operations (such as compacting) can generate unwanted

noise and vibration. Airborne dust from these activities can cause soiling and together with litter is unsightly.

Odour is mainly caused by emissions to air of landfill gas containing hydrogen sulphide and compounds containing organic sulphur. Vermin is both a nuisance and a potential health risk. Visual intrusion subtracts from the individual and public benefit of a view.

Under section 36 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, when considering waste licence applications, the Environment Agency is required to take account of whether the waste activity will cause 'serious detriment to the amenities of the locality'.

The overdue WSCC proposal to modernise its approach to waste management with mechanical biological treatment at Brookhurst Wood near Horsham is very welcome.

But despite all the evidence and the scale of public objections that

WSCC has received over several years it still persists in planning to increase the number of landfill sites for non-inert waste.

The Ibstock Brickworks site at Thakeham is close to residential properties, fishing lakes and the Alpacas stud farm. The heart of Thakeham village including the conservation area, first school, parish church and the mushroom farm is within 2km.

The proposed route for 200 HGV waste vehicle movements a day from the A24 at Ashington along the B2133, a pleasant tree lined country road, is too narrow for this added volume of traffic of such large lorries.

Everyone needs to register objections to this planning application encouraged by WSCC. To use this site for non-inert waste landfill for 20 years plus would despoil this quiet country village and the surrounding area for generations.

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