

NEWS

Picnic and concert for landfill fight

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

The event, organised by Thakeham Village Action raised more than £18,000, all of which will go towards fighting the proposed landfill.

Dawn Lyall, the event organizer and campaigner for TVA said: "The success 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 the event were Nick Herbert MP and Francis Maude MP.

Francis Maude told the crowd: "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, who is Shadow Secretary of State for 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.

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 prizes including restaurant meal and gift vouchers, plus the 'Laybrook Lucky Drum' where