

Act now before it's too late, says brickworks campaigner

RESIDENTS from Thakeham, Ashington and the surrounding villages are fighting to prevent the creation of a landfill site at Laybrook Brickworks Quarry. Cory Environmental plans to dispose of 4.7m tonnes of rotting waste in Goose Green Lane, Thakeham. But campaigners, led by Thakeham Village Action, say it will damage health and destroy the environment in a rural area where the country lanes between Thakeham and Ashington are unsuitable for the stream of lorries

that would be generated.

Residents were devastated when it submitted a planning application to West Sussex County Council on January 15. Clare Roberts, of Coolham Road, West Chiltington, told the Gazette: "Speaking to the local community, it is astonishing how few people are aware of this horrible prospect and, importantly, what they can do to help stop it.

"Cory Environmental is planning to dispose of 4.7m tonnes of rotting, stinking waste at Laybrook, damaging our health and

destroying our beautiful environment. Not only is landfill not wanted, it is not needed.

"There are now much more environmentally friendly alternatives to simply dumping waste in the ground and covering it up in the hope that nobody will notice or care.

"Thakeham Village Action is leading the way in building awareness and sharing vital information with the local community. As a local resident, I urge everyone in the immediate

areas of Thakeham, Ashington, West Chiltington, Shipley, Dial Post, Coolham, Billingshurst and Southwater to log on to www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk to find out more. If we don't take action now, it will be too late."

Thakeham Village Action said: "From 2011 for the next 30-plus years, hundreds of lorries could be thundering down the B2183 via the A24 at Ashington to Laybrook Brickworks, carrying 4.7m tonnes of non-inert waste, where it will be dumped in the ground and covered

up. This is the proposal that Cory Environmental has submitted to West Sussex County Council. It is a horrendous prospect for residents, businesses and visitors to Thakeham, Ashington, Shipley and also Coolham, West Chiltington, Billingshurst and Southwater."

It says the proposed landfill site, in a country area, will be the size of Brighton Marina or 130 full-size six football pitches.

The group says other methods of disposing waste should be used, including mechanical biological

treatment, anaerobic digestion, incineration-generating energy and pyrolysis.

It has also pointed out that 10 English waste-disposal authorities, including Hampshire, Greenwich, Lewisham, Portsmouth and Sheffield landfill practically no rotting rubbish waste.

Cory Environmental held public meetings and exhibitions and said the majority of concerns expressed by residents related to traffic and odour. It said it had taken these on board in finalising its applications.