

311 WASTE TRANSFER STATION AT UNIT 2 AND 3, HIGHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LASHAM, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE GU34 5SQ (APPLICATION NO: 54247) (SITE REF: EH168)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding a change to working arrangements at a Waste Transfer Station in Alton.

The officer introduced the item, showing an aerial photograph of the site and the route taken by lorry traffic to and from the site, avoiding Lasham Village. Batteries, electrical equipment, solvents and oils would be processed on the site. Liquids are stored in special trays to prevent leakages and spillage. Access to the site was also shown and the Committee were shown photos of the exit, with 'no right turn' signs to remind lorries to not route through the village.

The site was felt to be well separated from the village and all material processing would take place inside the building. A fire at the estate last year that burned down one of the buildings. The Fire Authority had not raised objection and indicated the need for a fire risk assessment which had been undertaken and subject to further discussion.

The Committee received four deputations on this item that spoke against the application. Stephen Clarke, Maurice Goor and Gina Toth, local residents, all spoke over concerns regarding the safety of the site, pollution, noise and traffic problems. Stephen Clark told the Committee that the water to the local village was contaminated following the fire, and that there was still rubble on the site left over from the incident. Maurice Goor was concerned that the site would not be monitored effectively and that there was still a bad smell from the site. Gina Toth spoke of lorries being routed through the village as a result of sat-nav systems taking them to the centre of the village and not the site itself. Ms Toth also informed the Committee of pinch-points along some of the roads that were unsuitable for large vehicles.

Mr John Fairclough, a further depute, spoke on behalf the applicant and felt that the information provided in the report was a comprehensive summary of the proposals. Extensive work had been done with the Environment Agency and it was confirmed that the applicant was also working to get the rubble removed from the site. The water quality was being continually monitored. Interlink, the company whose building recently burnt down, were no longer using the site.

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee thanked officers and the applicant for their engagement over the proposal. The fire that had happened in 2011 was very serious and resulted in the village being evacuated, with one of the exploded batteries landing in a garden 200 metres away. Cllr Kemp-Gee also agreed that there were concerns over an increase in lorry movements and lack of enforcement as to their route.

During questions of the deputations, the following points were clarified:

- The fire that happened on the site was completely separate to the applicant's company and not related to the applicant in any way.
- Reference in the report to emergencies related to delivery vehicles breaking down, and the necessity to keep the site open to ensure service is maintained. It was not anticipated there would be emergencies on the site itself.
- The two full-time drivers would be briefed on the route, as well as suppliers and other tenants on the site.
- The batteries used by the applicant are not lithium based [no danger of exploding] and any batteries dealt with would be in much smaller quantities.
- The applicant is currently working to install monitoring equipment on site and an emergency plan is also currently being written.
- The site is 200 metres from the village and approximately 85 metres from the nearest property Highfield House, which adjoins the industrial estate
- The applicant was unaware of whether the site had its own post code, but said this is something that could be looked into for sat-nav purposes.

Councillors considered that a Site Visit would be helpful in order for them to assess the site and location. This was put to the vote:

Favour: 14 (unanimous)

RESOLVED:

- a) That the application be deferred pending a Site Visit at Waste Transfer Station at unit 2 and 3, Highfield Industrial Estate, Lasham, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5SQ