



Sophie Mawdsley
BCP Council
Town Hall
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY.

21 May 2021

Dear Ms Mawdsley,

Reference: Ferndown Town Council response to planning application: 8/21/0207/FUL – proposed development comprising the installation of a low carbon energy recovery facility for the generation of electricity and heat through a low-emission thermal process using residual waste; including a new administration building and associated car park areas, associated reconfiguration of existing and permitted use, an increase in permitted waste throughout, landscaping and associated works.

Thank you for giving Ferndown Town Council the opportunity to respond to this application.

Ferndown Town Council is unanimous in its strong objection to the wholly inappropriate proposals found within this application.

The facility which is to be expanded is situated close to the southern boundary of the largest inland town in East Dorset and is therefore a major threat to the health of Ferndown's 26,000 residents by reducing the air quality. To the south is the large conurbation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole housing 465,000 residents and considerably more holiday makers and day trippers in season who would to a lesser extent be affected. It could also impede the resort maintaining its good air quality figures. Closer to the incinerator are the airport industrial estates and airport personnel. All will be affected, dependent on variable wind direction.

The extraction chimney due to its proximity to an airport is insufficient in height to guarantee good local air quality as the reduced height will not allow for adequate disposal of fumes and chemicals. Conversely full height would be dangerous to aircraft but better for air quality.

There are numerous and widespread Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSi) in close proximity to the site particularly to the west, east and north. The prevailing winds will ensure that virgin land will steadily become polluted from the gases and particulates from the chimney to its detriment and also to that of the numerous species of wildlife currently enjoying these areas. The risks to



Ferndown Town Council, The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.
Telephone: 01202 892249. Email: CustomerServices@ferndown.gov.uk.
Website: www.ferndown.gov.uk





them would be legion.

Having an industrial waste burning facility in the midst of greenbelt land and so close to multiple SSSIs goes against the very nature of these two institutions of safeguarding. It can be only harmful to local ecology.

Also close-by is a sizable outdoor sports club which is situated where it is for reasons of good air quality and health-giving outdoor space - features that will no longer be guaranteed to the health-seeking users. It is similarly close to Portfield School which is managed by Autism Wessex.

The application does not encourage recycling as all plastic waste, whether recyclable or not, would constitute a fossil fuel and can be incinerated. This will inevitably lead to a reduction in recycling in the catchment area as other items are also incinerated.

It is clear that the waste materials sourced locally will be insufficient to sustain operations. Therefore, waste from further afield [other authorities] will be required. Vehicle movements are also likely to be exasperated by other vehicles removing the waste ash for disposal from the furnaces. Therefore, traffic movement from the Wessex Way to the east, Ham Lane to the west and through Ferndown town centre from the North will all be increased to service the facility. As well as causing additional congestion and noise there will be extra pollution from the HGVs. Additionally, in Longham the roadside nature of many properties means that vehicle-emanating vibration would be an increasing issue.

No mention has been found in the documents of how many very heavy vehicle movements a day the removal of the toxic waste ash from the site will require. There is also a safety concern involving such a movement in residential areas such as Longham and Ferndown, and ultimately the safe disposal of such hazardous waste materials.

It is clear that as well as producing electricity the plant will produce a larger quantity of heat. There appears no mention of how this will be dissipated or used. Maybe this will be lost to the air to worsen global warming. There is perhaps a lost opportunity to pipe this to heat local homes or industrial units as in the manner of Battersea Power Station situated on the south bank of the River Thames that decades ago supplied free heat to blocks of flats across the Thames on the north bank.

A multi-million drive to install cycle lanes on all Ferndown's major roads will reduce the road capacity for all vehicles. Thus, Ferndown's already problematic traffic can only worsen with all the HGVs needed to maintain supplies for the incinerator and remove waste materials potentially at peak times adding to the frequent gridlock of the area.



Ferndown Town Council, The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.
Telephone: 01202 892249. Email: CustomerServices@ferndown.gov.uk.
Website: www.ferndown.gov.uk





Clearly these concerns will be totally against the green agenda that is being followed to make our town a more healthy place in which to live.

BCP has a stated aim of making its council area carbon-neutral by 2030. Clearly this cannot happen with such an operation being carried on within its own unitary area. We trust that the fact that the BCP awarded Eco Sustainable Solutions LTD the contract for waste disposal only last year will not influence this planning decision.

At a time when the Government has just brought in controls on wood burners and coal fires in domestic properties and has outlawed gas heating in new properties after 2025 it would appear disingenuous to allow the burning of obnoxious items such as plastics on a commercial scale.

It should be noted that Ferndown and Dorset planners rejected a proposal in 2016 for a similar facility at Blunts Farm.

For these reasons and many more Ferndown Town Council trust you will refuse this harmful application.

Thank you for your consideration of Ferndown Town Council's concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Louise Harrison, Town Clerk, Ferndown Town Council.
townclerk@ferndown.gov.uk



Ferndown Town Council, The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.
Telephone: 01202 892249. Email: CustomerServices@ferndown.gov.uk.
Website: www.ferndown.gov.uk

