

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SMALL DOLE ACTION GROUP.

Viridor and WSCC United: 1 Small Dole Residents: 0

- Today, the West Sussex County Council Planning Committee voted 9 to 2 to allow Viridor Waste Management Ltd to increase the life and capacity of the Horton Landfill Site at Small Dole.
- This planning permission will allow Viridor to add further rubbish on to previously closed cells throughout the entire site. The new planning permission will expire on 1st October 2010, but the Small Dole Action Group estimates that it will actually take until approximately 2014 to achieve this.
- Chris Warren, Chairman of the Small Dole Action Group, said: "We cannot criticise the committee for their decision on the information they were given by their officers. The officers' report was highly misleading, and many important facts did not emerge".
- "Many will see this as a sad day for local democracy. We will be making a formal complaint of maladministration on the part of West Sussex County Council to the Local Government Ombudsman concerning the handling of this application. We also have a number of significant technical issues with the Environment Agency."
- "At the meeting, a statement from the Henfield Medical Centre was read out, expressing concern about health issues in Small Dole and surrounding areas, seeking further information from the Environment Agency. Several councillors asked for more information about health and pollution, but the Committee voted to pass it nonetheless."
- "We would like to thank the local residents, many of whom came to Chichester today, and our local Parish, District and County Councillors for their support".

www.smalldole.com

8th April 2008.

Notes for Editors:-

- The Small Dole Action Group was formed in January 2007 to represent the interests of the residents of Small Dole. The aims of the group are to ensure that the completion of landfilling operations at the site takes place as soon as possible, and is carried out to as high a standard as possible, taking into full account the amenity of local residents and recognition of health and safety legislation. We wish to see the restoration of the site for agriculture to a high standard as soon as possible.
- The Horton Landfill Site, Small Dole has operated since 1991. Originally intended to close by 1st April 2004, a four year extension was then granted. This planning permission expired on 1st April 2008.
- The current planning application (DC/07/0814(UB)) is stated to be for an additional 400,000 m³ of capacity added onto the top of the existing landfill. The plans submitted would, however, allow the operators to rework the previously closed parts of the site up to these revised contours, exposing asbestos waste previously buried. The Small Dole Action Group believes that this would take the closure date to approximately 2014, not October 2010 as stated on the planning application.
- Within a 1 km radius of the landfill site, there are some 366 houses with approximately 1400 residents, mainly to the north east. Some 660 people also work daily at the Mackley Industrial Estate, to the east. In addition, the Hillside Scout Camp, where some 3,000 young people camp outside and cook out of doors throughout the year, lies immediately across the road from the site. The prevailing wind in this location is from the south west, meaning that pollution from the Horton Landfill site must pass directly towards the homes of local residents.
- As of 31st May 2007, 267 local residents had individually signed a statement to the effect that:-

"TO THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

"We, the residents of the village of Small Dole demand an end to the environmental abuse we have been suffering for the last 40 years. This is now as a result of the current land raising scheme of 6 million tons of putrefying household waste, hazardous materials and unknown commercial rubbish now forming an intrusive landform, 120ft (36 metres high) and of 35 hectares in area. The dumping has been carried out on the edge of the village under various planning approvals by the West Sussex County Council.

"The population have had their lives blighted by the continuous obnoxious stench and other associated problems such as roadside litter, dust, traffic, and flies. There are now questions of a health impact from the various effluents.

"Furthermore we believe that the Council and the Monitoring Authorities have failed us in their Duty and their Duty of Care to the people of Small Dole by subjecting them to this continuous onslaught."

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