



# Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council

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Councillor Martin Tett  
Leader  
Buckinghamshire Council  
County Hall  
Walton Street  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UA

23 November 2021

Dear Martin,

## **Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre**

I understand it was not of your doing, but the parish council was surprised to see announcements, premature or otherwise, on Facebook that Bledlow Ridge HRC is to be reopened. We would have expected to have received an advance briefing from one of our ward councillors or Carl Etholen as a director of Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre Ltd.

## **Our policy**

The Parish Council has had to balance the wishes of those like me who would benefit from the HRC with those who live close by – no one wants to live near a rubbish dump – and those who live along the lanes which form the site's only approach routes. Thus we have asked that the HRC is operated safely and with the minimum of disturbance to the local population.

## **Budgetary considerations**

From the 'premature announcements' we gather you are starting the process of setting a budget which will allow the HRC to be reopened. Rather than simply opening up as before, we hope Buckinghamshire Council will take the opportunity to address the issues we raised in our submission to the recent planning appeal which I attach for your convenience, and any additional points identified by the Secretary of State's Inspector such as evidence regarding the catchment area.

## **Present and future waste volumes**

The site is limited to processing 5,500 Tonnes of waste p.a. Given the limited capacity of local approach routes to the site this limit is absolutely necessary. Even before it closed the HRC was working at or beyond this limit.

Year	material processed
2016/17	5501.7 tonnes
2017/18	5175.9 tonnes

With the expansion of Princes Risborough, Longwick, and Kimble and across the Oxfordshire border in Chinnor and Thame, demand must surely grow beyond the site's allowed capacity. How do you plan to manage this?

### Assurances requested

We ask that you give the Parish Council and the local population the following assurances:

1. That the 5,500 Tonnes p.a. will be enforced.
2. That the HRC will not be reopened until the issues identified both by Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council and the Inspector have been addressed.
3. That a system of governance is put in place such that those directly affected by the HRC have a substantial influence over the way it is operated.

### An early reply please

I look forward to receiving the above assurances well in advance of your Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December when I understand there is a proposal 'to award the contract for the Household Recycling Centre to your preferred bidder ... commencement date 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Breese'.

Simon Breese  
*Chairman, Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council*

## Appendix 1

### Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council submission to the Wigans Lane Planning Appeal

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council (BcSPC) note that Buckinghamshire Council is minded to refuse permission for application CM/0020/20 in its submission to the appeal, whereas in March 2020 the Development Control Committee was invited to approve, subject to conditions.

We note the failings of the application with regards to the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Wycombe Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is silent on such matters.

The NP identifies the importance local residents place on the protection of the AONB (BcSNP 4.4):

Objective C of the BcSNP: “...*To ensure that development ... protects the rural character and tranquillity of the parish and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*”

Councillors also considered the need to balance this against Objective B of the Neighbourhood plan:

“...*To encourage development which addresses local housing and community infrastructure needs.*”

Having discussed this at the meeting of the Parish Council on 1st April 2021, should the Inspector be minded to approve the application the Council asks its previous position be taken into account;

1. The scale and operation should be “as was” on the existing ½ acre site.
2. Any changes to the site should require subsequent separate planning applications.
3. The waste accepted should be limited by the project title i.e. household waste only.

BcSPC continues to support the nine planning conditions recommended by the officers to the cancelled 23rd March 2020 BCC Development Control Committee meeting (Meeting Pack pages 25 - 27).

We also support the Buckinghamshire Appeal Position Report’s requirement for the approval of a pre-commencement management plan, which we suggest should include at least:

- Measures to ensure the site receives household waste only.
- Measures to limit the throughput to 5,500 tonnes p.a. such that traffic levels remain at sustainable levels for the rural road network.
- Measures to mitigate and control litter and waste on approach roads to the site.
- Agreement and regular review of HGV routes and timings to minimise impact on the local community.

## **Appendix 2: officers recommendation extracted from the meeting pack of the cancelled 23rd March 2020 BCC Development Control Committee meeting**

### **Appendix A - Schedule of Conditions**

#### **Time limit for commencement**

1. The development shall commence no later than three years from the date of this consent. No later than seven days before the date of commencement, written notification of the date of commencement shall be provided to the County Planning Authority.

Reason: In accordance with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

#### **Approved Plans**

2. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out other than in complete accordance with the submitted documents and the following drawing:
  - Drawing no. 01 Rev A Location Plan & Site Plan

Reason: To define the development which has been permitted so to control the operations in accordance with policies 16 and 28 of the BMWLP.

#### **Pre-commencement Conditions**

3. Prior to the commencement of the development, a site management plan identifying the potential impacts of the development and the measures to be taken to mitigate them including from litter shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved site management plan.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane in accordance with policy 16 of the BMWLP.

#### **On-going conditions**

4. The security fencing around the boundary of the site shall be maintained throughout the duration of the development and the site gates shall be secured closed outside the permitted hours of operation.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane in accordance with policy 16 of the BMWLP.

5. The site shall not open other than during the following hours:

8.00 am to 6.00 pm daily 1st March to 31st October

9.00 am to 4.00 pm daily 1st November to 28th February (29th February in Leap Years).

Other than that staff may enter the site half an hour before opening and must leave the site half-an hour after closing.

The site shall not open on the Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day Bank/Public Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane in accordance with policy 16 of the BMWLP.

6. No lighting shall be used other than during the following hours:

8.30 am to 4.30 pm daily 1st November to 28th February (29th February in Leap Years).

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane and to preserve the dark skies of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in accordance with policies 16, 22 and 24 and WDLP policy DM30 and BSNP policy 10.

7. No additional lighting shall be provided at the site other than in accordance with a detailed lighting scheme which shall be first submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane and to preserve the dark skies of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in accordance with policies 16, 22 and 24 and WDLP policy DM30 and BSNP policy 10.

8. The annual tonnage of waste imported to the site shall not exceed 5,500 tonnes. Returns of the tonnage of waste imported to the site during the preceding Quarter shall be provided to the County Planning Authority no later than 15th January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15th July and 15th October in each calendar year that the site is operational.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of local residents and visitors and users of Wigans Lane and to limit the impact on the highway network to that which has been previously permitted and on which the acceptability of the development has been considered, in accordance with policies 16 and 17 of the BMWLP.

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended or any subsequent revisions, modifications, revocation or re-enactment, no industrial buildings shall be erected, extended or altered pursuant to Schedule 2 Part 7 Class H and no extension or alteration of a building shall be carried out or replacement plant or machinery installed pursuant to Schedule 2 Part 7 Class L.

Reason: The site is located in the Metropolitan Green Belt and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and these restrictions on permitted development rights are necessary to ensure that no development which would otherwise be inappropriate in the Green Belt or which would not conserve and enhance the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in accordance with policies 21 and 22 of the BMWLP.