

It didn't rain on our parade!

Editorial - No Landfill Parade - Laybrook Application Process - No Landfill Bandwagon - Odour Monitoring - Housing Development & Planning Strategy - Memories of Summer Festival - Windlesham Fundraiser Ball - Tea, anyone?



Editorial

From Summertime festivals to Autumn parades and on to our big Christmas Fundraiser - welcome to the new Thakeham Oak! A lot has happened since last time, but the fight against local landfill and excessive housing development goes on. It has been fantastic to see the amazing support for our campaign demonstrated by participants in the No Landfill Parade - from ordinary locals to MPs and media - and by the large number of people who have written in protest to the Council. Since then, Cory Environmental has withdrawn its application and just recently re-applied - please read on to find out more. To raise further funds for our campaigns and finish the year in style, we will have a dinner and dance at Windlesham School on 19th December. This promises to be a great event - hope to see you there!

No Laybrook Landfill Parade

When West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) reconvenes to consider Cory's second attempt at a planning application, Councillors must surely be more aware of the strength of public opposition to the whole idea of landfill at Laybrook. The hundreds and hundreds of people who joined the Parade from Ashington to Laybrook on 12th September gave a human face to all the written objections already submitted to Chichester. And the varied make-up of the paraders articulated the many grounds there are for objecting to the proposal: the children were a reminder of the fears about the long-term health threats; the bicycles, vintage cars, open-top bus and lorry represented the road users whose safe passage along the B2133 would be even less certain with at least 100 juggernauts trucking to and from the Laybrook site

every day; the horses, alpacas, tractors and combine harvester all stood for a rural and farming environment which would be permanently blighted.

Unless County Councillors were on another planet they can hardly have failed to pick up on the media coverage of the Parade, but they will in due course be reminded of the event with a DVD of the day's proceedings. The DVD's footage of brightly coloured banners and placards, marching feet and rolling wheels switches to the bus-top podium from which TVA's Jean Locker and MPs Nick Herbert and Francis Maude urged us to keep up the fight against landfill at Laybrook and elsewhere. Interviews with local residents give voice to the many concerns raised by Cory's application.

A short clip from the DVD will be posted on the No Laybrook Landfill website, but in the meantime many thanks are due to everyone who helped make the Parade a real demonstration of people power. Principally, of course, we thank the people who turned out on a Saturday afternoon, but also the Sirens who enlivened the march with their music, the owners and drivers of all the vehicles which took part, the White Lion and Hot Stuff for refreshments, the artists who produced banners and placards and the marshals - especially those who unselfishly manned the Dan Hill and Ashington roundabout junctions. Finally, we thank the first aiders who happily were not even called on for so much as a plaster on a Parade which was peaceful, civilised and, though serious in intent, fun too.

Laybrook Planning Application - What's Happening?

As many of you are probably aware, after legal challenges instigated by TVA, Cory Environmental withdrew their planning application for a landfill at Laybrook on the 18th September (the same day that the public consultation period ended!). Cory announced at that time that they would submit a new planning application and, at the time of writing, they have just recently done so.

TVA has received information from the County Council officers that all the 1,200 or

so objections made to the first application will be automatically carried over to the new application. Also, everyone will be written to and asked if they want to change or add to their objection.

TVA has been lobbying for a full eight weeks to write in with objections, since we now know that the County Council asked for changes to be made and those could well be significant. At the time of going to press, we do not know if our pleas have been heard.

Keep an eye on www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk, the local newspapers and leaflets coming through your letter box for the start and end date of the new consultation period. When you see the new dates, if you have not already written, or if you wish to add anything to your previous objection, then please write to the County Council.

The No Landfill Bandwagon is Gathering Pace

All the three main political parties have made statements in the last few weeks to move England towards a no landfill society. TVA says: Not before time! The environmental damage caused by non-inert rotting rubbish should have ended years ago, as it already has in Germany, the Netherlands and elsewhere in continental Europe. Also, TVA understands that West Sussex County Council is bringing out a strategy for commercial and industrial waste. The sooner that this strategy moves from words into action the better.

Odour Monitoring

In the last Thakeham Oak, we outlined our intention to commence odour monitoring, particularly that emanating from the mushroom site in Storrington Road. The purpose of monitoring is to see whether the odour is getting better or worse and to give us data for the future that will enable us to draw comparisons.

TVA has a list of odour monitors who are prepared to collect daily data on whether there is a smell in their area, and to provide information on climatic conditions such as wind direction, ground conditions (wet or



MPs Francis Maude & Nick Herbert speaking at the Laybrook Parade

dry) and any other weather factors that may be material. This will be consolidated onto a spreadsheet and graphs will be produced showing where the smell is and when. Wind direction will be a key factor in this.

Once we have more than three months of tracking under our belts, we will be happy to share this information with the Parish Council, Horsham District Council and also Sussex Mushrooms, if this would help them in considering options that might make the environment more pleasant.

The recording of data is happening in different parts of the parish including Storrington Road, Cray's Lane, The Street and High Bar Lane. If you would like to participate in the monitoring please let us know via thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk.

Housing Development & Planning Strategy

The District Council is at it again - suggesting vast quantities of land for housing, far beyond what anyone could imagine is needed and far beyond what the Government indicated in the South East Plan they thought was needed.

Among the sites listed are the mushroom sites (both Abingworth Nursery and Main Site), Rushfield Nurseries, land off Water Lane - the sites that TVA has been campaigning against for over 10 years now and will continue to do so until the landowners and developers realise that they are unsuitable and unsustainable sites

for housing. They have also suggested a new town in the countryside between Adversane and Pulborough, to the west of West Chiltington! Nick Herbert said (in the West Sussex Gazette) this was "barmy" - we could not agree more.

All of this was proposed in two documents - the Core Strategy Review, known as CSR, and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, or SHLAA. TVA has sent in a strongly worded response telling the District Council to think again; to come up with only enough land for housing that we local people need, not dictated from on high, mostly on previously developed brownfield land, in the right places within and next to the existing larger towns.

We hope they listen, so that when the next stage in the process, the "Preferred Strategy", comes around next year, no sites in Thakeham or the surrounding area will be included and everyone can be spared the obviously unnecessary task of having to object to unsuitable sites. But if they foolishly do so, then TVA will write to you asking you to send in your objections and tell the Council again, for the umpteenth time, that large housing estates in Thakeham are a non-starter.

Memories of Summer Festival

At the end of July, Thakeham witnessed the bi-annual Summer festival, which comprised the flower festival, art show, music galore and a range of village activities that contributed to a fabulous weekend. Once

