



Ken Acons  
Principal Planner  
Minerals & Waste Development Framework Team  
Environmental Services, DCC  
Shand House, Matlock  
DE4 3RY

10 Summer Drive  
Wirksworth  
DE4 4EL  
01629 824912  
pidgeons@w3z.co.uk  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 2006

Dear Mr. Acons,

Re: Possible sites for new waste management development  
Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document

I am writing on behalf of the Wirksworth Civic & History Society in response to the above document.

We wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the potential siting of a site in Wirksworth.

The reasons for our objections are as follows:

*The area:*

- such a development on this site runs contrary to the aspirations of the Town in preserving the best of the old and encouraging new projects which are of benefit to the Town; it undermines all the work of the last thirty years to this end
- the site is designated for light industrial use; the Civic Society did not oppose the zoning of this area for light industrial use as it was considered desirable to find sites which provided job opportunities; care was taken with Ravenstor to ensure the design was appropriate its position on the edge of the conservation area and an area of high landscape value; a waste disposal development would not fit into this concept
- the effect on the town's conservation area
- the impact on tourism in the Town, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway project & the National Stone Centre
- the impact on wildlife on & around the site

- the impact on an area of interesting historic landscape, including strip fields dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier
- the impact on an area of geological interest, including the National Stone Centre
- aesthetic considerations in that the site is rising ground & therefore visible

*Its residents*

- the human cost -the potential impact on those living close to the site and on the residents of the Town as a whole, including noise, disruption, disturbance
- dramatic increase of traffic, particularly heavy lorries in the area on B roads which are not designed to take the weight of lorries likely to be used
- increase in even larger HGV vehicles travelling through the Town centre where a bottleneck in St. John's Street already creates a serious hazard in the vicinity of the zebra crossing; this increase will pose further dangers to the health & safety of residents & visitors; particularly in the light of the proposed increase in the number of elderly pedestrians walking from the Care Centre to the shops
- potential pollution, such as contamination from standing waste, burning off methane in a valley, pollutants seeping into soughs which feed into rivers that provide drinking water, general degradation of the environment usually present in & around waste management areas; potential hazards to the health & well-being of the residents.

It is our view that the development would be better sited in an area which is:

- at a distance from residential areas
- on an A road suited to use by heavy lorries
- of low significance aesthetically, historically, geologically, ecologically
- not frequented by tourists
- hidden from public view

We trust that our response will provide the County Council with a sufficiently robust argument to remove Wirksworth from the list of potential sites.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Pidgeon  
Secretary, Wirksworth Civic & History Society

cc. Cllr Irene Ratcliffe  
Cllr Mike Ratcliffe  
Civic & History Society  
NOW  
Matlock Mercury