

South Heighton Parish Council

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Stephanie Mills
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South Heighton Parish Council
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12th September 2019

Dear Heather

South Heighton Parish Council response to SDNPA planning application SDNP/19/02722/FUL – Extension of the Titan Marine Recycling Yard, land North East of New Road Industrial Area

South Heighton Parish Council considered this planning application at their meeting on 10th September 2019 and resolved to strongly object to the application.

The western edge of South Heighton (to the South of the proposed development) has seen considerable industrial development in recent years and the Council echoes the comments of many residents that enough is enough. The recently completed flood defences were constructed to protect the area from flood risk, not to present an immediate opportunity to expand waste business operations further into the National Park.

The proposed new tree screens (G2 and, particularly, G3) will offer insufficient protection for residents of South Heighton and the Council is concerned that additional noise-producing activities will have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of nearby residents. The introduction of a crusher, operating at 112dBA is predicted to only increase noise levels at the existing receptors by 2dB, however the crusher has been evaluated at a third party site and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict

the full increase in noise levels until all equipment is in-situ, at which point it will be too late for affected residents and visitors to the South Downs National Park.

The Council is further concerned about the inevitable increase in vehicles caused by this expansion in an area already saturated with heavy goods vehicles which will be compounded by the upcoming closure of overnight parking for lorries at Newhaven Port and the construction of the new port access road.

The proposed site falls within the South Downs National Park and, specifically, outside of the Area of Focus identified in the East Sussex Minerals and Waste Plan Policy WMP 7a 'Sustainable Locations for Waste Development'.

Much of the design and access statement focuses on the land being inaccessible from anywhere other than the existing yard to the South and concludes that this would make it an ideal area for expansion of the recycling yard. The Council counteracts this claim and posits that the inaccessible nature would, in fact, make the pocket of land an unspoilt haven for wildlife within the South Downs National park; a cornerstone of National Park designation being "to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area". The Council concurs with the view of the East Sussex County Council Environmental Team that further assessment must be undertaken on the potential impact of the proposed development on great crested newts and the general biodiversity of the site.

The Parish Council feels that allowing the National Park to be further encroached upon for the purpose of waste recycling under this application sets a dangerous precedent for the future protection of our precious South Downs National Park and constitutes an unnecessary development that the Council urges the South Downs National Park Authority to reject.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the council member.

On behalf of South Heighton Parish Council

Stephanie Mills