

I write as the local West Sussex County Councillor for East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood, the division within which the proposed development site sits, to express concerns with respect to the impact upon local residents in terms of increased traffic movements and general road safety - not to mention that this southern edge of town is already built-up despite being in an area considered AONB.

In addition, whilst the road is designated as a 30mph speed limit, this remains a very fast stretch of road, where there have already been two accidents since April this year as speeding is a routine occurrence in the area, with pathways for pedestrians both narrow and limited. These should be improved particularly given there is a local nursery (Toybox) in the near vicinity.

I am also particularly concerned with the fact that the adjacent Evergreen Farm landfill restoration project - approved by WSCC 5 years ago - to deal with apparent toxic waste emissions on what was the old Standen Landfill tip shut back in the 80s, is still underway. When this application came to the county council I spoke as local member and was not in support of this project given it involved a significant uplift in HGV movements daily along this narrow stretch, with no real hard evidence from Public Health that this work was absolutely necessary. It would appear, that 5 years on this project has yet to complete and appears to have stalled which I understand is due as a result of a change of operator and also intervention from the Environment Agency. This raises another concern, given the proposed site - an allocated site in the draft District Plan - neighbours a site with apparent toxic waste emissions and public health issues.

As an aside I have asked WSCC Planning department to investigate through their compliance team and suggest MSDC Planning officers engage with WSCC on this matter.. Either way once the Evergreen Farm site is again underway, it will only add to the pressures on the roads in what is an already established residential area on the southern boundary of the town should this proposal be approved.

I note Highways have not expressed any objections in their recent submissions which often is used as a steer for the local planning authority but the level of objections already submitted from local residents would suggest that they know better and I as their County Councillor support them.