

## **Public Participation**

### **Statement from Adele Martin, Ludgershall & Campaigner of No2Waste on Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD – Proposed Submission Arrangements (Item 7)**

#### **Statement**

I understand from the No2Waste Campaign Group Leaders that the Castledown Business Park has been removed from the Waste Site Allocations document.

Whilst this is brilliant news from our point of view, given the various valid and genuine reasons for our oppositions, my husband and I are still concerned to discover that Pickpit Hill remains in the Waste Site Allocations document. This in itself is just moving the problem less than 1/4 of a mile away from the original allocated site. It will still remain close homes, future development in the area, the Academy, not to mention the same potential problems with increased traffic, noise and air pollution and danger to our children and the students of the Academy.

We understand from the No2Waste Leaders that Pickpit Hill is still listed with the following potential uses: materials recovery facility, waste transfer station, inert waste recycling/transfer, composting, local recycling and household recycling centre and the suggestion that traffic is diverted away from Tidworth along the A3026 through to Ludgershall and along the A342 to Andover to join the A303 is still proposed. We further understand that the reason it is still in the Waste Site Allocations document is because the land is owned by the MOD who are happy for its inclusion.

With this criteria still in the document for Pickpit Hill how can we be sure that Hills and their transfer station, or one (or more) of the other more undesirable operations listed, won't come back on the table? Or they apply for planning and once planning permission is granted the MOD lease or sell them further land for them to expand. It is our opinion that Pickpit Hill is not an enviable site for development; given the layout of the land and the poor access. It would be a mammoth task and very costly to develop and land and road structure.

Having briefly discussed these issues with the No2Waste Leaders, we agree that Pickpit Hill is still too close to the Academy. It will also be too close to the new housing development on the Eastern Quadrant in Tidworth. Basically all the issues we raised in the campaign, i.e. air/water/noise pollution, traffic congestion etc, are still major concerns as far as Pickpitt Hill are concerned.

Also to bear in mind is the large increase of heavy vehicles that will be going to and from the site, passing the Academy especially as it is still being proposed that traffic is diverted away from Tidworth.

There are two steep hills either side Pickpitt Hill which the heavy vehicles will need to climb in order to get to the site, causing delays in traffic and unnecessary risks being taken by drivers stuck behind slow moving or stationary heavy vehicles waiting to get into the site at key points during the course of the day.

The footpath runs the entirety along the A3026 between Ludgershall and Tidworth, children and students are using this at least twice a day going to and from the Academy. Given that the Academy works from early morning into the evenings, students are using this route at various times during the course of the day at least 5 days per week.

Furthermore, the weather conditions we can experience through the winter months can be treacherous at the best of times for a normal flow of traffic without taking into account the additional heavy vehicles which would be using this road. We appreciate that the Council endeavors to keep the roads clear as best as they can but despite their best intentions this is not usually the case around our area. This in itself would increase the danger to our children and students.

The noise pollution to the residents who live along the A342 would become unbearable not to mention the air pollution. Most residents would not even attempt to open their windows to air their homes or enjoy family afternoons in the garden, at the Old Castle or at the Polo Field due to the air pollution this site would still create. The air pollution would rise above Ludgershall and Tidworth creating a permanent health risk to the residents.

We have many elderly residents, most of which have lived here all or most their lives, and younger children who walk to the shops and alongside what is already an extremely busy road with only one pedestrian crossing.

I will be writing to the Duke of York, Prince Andrew again on this matter given his personal interest in the Academy as President and keeping him informed on all matters relating.

## **Response**

### ***Traffic, transport and environmental concerns:***

The assessment work undertaken by the council in preparation of the draft plan identified a range of highway matters to be addressed through any subsequent planning application process. The draft plan presents the findings of the initial transport assessments and sets out indicative design standards for access/ egress.

In addition, it [*the plan*] also identifies the requirement for a full Transport Assessment (TA) to be prepared in support of any subsequent planning application. Matters in relation to potential cumulative highway impacts associated with planned housing and employment development in the area will need to be addressed through the application and TA process.

Notwithstanding the results of the appraisals undertaken to inform the draft plan, the council would also expect any subsequent planning application to fully address the relevant policies of the adopted development plan. Critical policies to address include those set out in the adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies DPD, including:

- WDC1 - Key criteria for ensuring sustainable waste management development
- WDC2 – Managing the impact of waste management
- WDC3 – Water environment
- WDC4 – Protection of recreational assets
- WDC7 – Conserving landscape character
- WDC8 – Biodiversity and geological interest
- WDC9 – Cultural heritage
- WDC11 – Sustainable transportation of waste

Clearly, where applications on allocated (and un-allocated) sites fail to address the full range of relevant policy criteria, the council may be left with no alternative but to refuse the grant of planning permission. It should be recognised that the site has only been identified for local uses commensurate with its size and location.

***Role of the plan:***

The submitted statement makes reference to landowner aspirations; and questions the role that any future user of the site may play in promoting future waste uses at Pickpit Hill. In response, it is important to stress that the role of the Site Allocations DPD is not fettered by the commercial interests of the landowner and / or potential future users of the site. To do so would go beyond the scope of due planning process.

Detailed decisions in relation to future users of the sites and / or future uses will be a matter for a subsequent planning application process.