

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 1st MAY 2014
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

Present: Councillors M. Brakes, Mrs R. Ginn, Mr N. Grant, Mr R. Knight, Mr M. Loates, Mr T. Rickett, Mr D. Searle, Mr M. Senior, Mr R. Turner (Chairman)*, Mrs B. Walters, Mr I. Wassell*, Mrs S. Wilton (Vice Chairwoman)

In attendance: Stephen Rennie – Committee Clerk
Joshua Powling – West Sussex County Times
Seven members of the public

* denotes absence

PART 1 – OPEN SESSION

PET125/14 PUBLIC FORUM

Brian Johnson commented on the planning application by Brittaniacrest Ltd at the former site of Wealden Brickworks, Langhurst Wood Road, commenting that it is very different to the Biffa MBT which seems very high-tech in comparison. Further, that the Biffa site predominantly takes domestic waste from within the County, whereas this proposed site intends to take around 200 tonnes of construction, industrial and domestic waste from inside as well as outside the County.

Mr Johnson also commented that the application will also recycle the old buildings already on site and will mean concrete crushing that is in the open air causing noise and air pollution, and that there is a proposed 270 daily vehicle movements which, in addition to the existing permission for 392 movements for Biffa, could cause serious traffic issues. Brittaniacrest also made no effort to contact local residents for consultation.

PET126/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Turner.

PET127/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Knight declared a **Personal Interest** in planning application WSCC/018/14/NH as the directors of the applicant company were known to him.

PET128/14 TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION OVER POTENTIAL SECOND RUNWAY AT GATWICK AIRPORT

Councillor Rickett attended the stakeholders meeting on Tuesday 29th April on behalf of the Parish Council, and gave a short presentation to Members on the three options proposed for the second runway at Gatwick Airport, and mentioned that any decision would not be before Autumn 2015.

Councillor Rickett also commented that the experts believe that technology is progressing and aircraft noise levels are dropping at such a rate that there will be no major increase in noise by the time the runway is built, and that there was unfortunately no information available on potential flightpaths due to the air traffic for the whole of Europe being reviewed in 2016.

There would undoubtedly be disruption on the surrounding area including County Oak, Manor Royal and Ifield village, as well as the environmental impact including the need to divert the River Mole to the West, but this would also include the creation of new parkland and a lake to retain public open space and minimise flood risk.

Major works to the road infrastructure would be required including the A23 diverted to the East with the M23 becoming four lane with new access to the airport, as well as the railway station being re-built for added capacity.

Economically, it is thought that big airlines would move into the airport with up to 20,000 new jobs being created and anywhere between 7,000 to 25,000 houses required in the Gatwick Diamond area. Conversely, if the second runway did not go ahead airlines could well move out of Gatwick causing a large number of jobs to leave with them.

Councillor Rickett commented that there is much more consultation to follow and a Steering Committee is being set up for local bodies in this regard, and that he would be happy to be the Parish Council's representative.

Councillor Searle commented that whichever option the Parish Council might choose, it is imperative that any and all infrastructure improvements that are required should be in place well before the second runway is open. Members were all in agreement that the expansion of Gatwick was an opportunity not to be missed, and that it could be detrimental to the area long term if it were missed.

Members thanked Councillor Rickett for attending the stakeholders meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and for his presentation.

