

Residents update

Proposed Materials Recycling Centre at the Chalk Pit College Road

Planning Date

Residents are reminded that the closing date for the receipt of objections for the proposed change of use and 10m high industrial buildings at the Chalk Pit is 15 March 2021. Details of the application can be found at [Surrey County Council - Planning Application Display - SCC Ref 2020/0159 \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/planning-application-display).

This application has caused a significant concern across the Borough and neighbouring Reigate and Banstead. If you want updates do contact Ken Reid at epsomchalk@btinternet.com.

We do not consider the proposals to be appropriate for this Green Belt site given the size of the proposed buildings which will impact on the character of the Downs and streetscape in this area together with the additional impact on traffic, noise and dust.

Nuisance

Residents have advised of significant dust following the fine weather of last weekend and we have been sent the following two pictures

	
Dust Cloud clearly visible over Chalk Pit This moved to the North toward the Glyn School Pavilion and Nescot	Dust on Car 2 days after washing

Respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and wood dust are likely emitted from the operations at the Chalk Pit given the waste being recycled. They are listed by the HSE alongside asbestos as three of the five dusts where they issue specific guidance. They are not the type of dusts we want to be inhaling!

Dust is identified within the planning documents as an issue as follows:

Harm: Harm to human Health

Significance: Moderate

Magnitude: Medium

How can RCS harm your health?

By breathing in RCS, you could develop the following lung diseases:

Silicosis

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Lung cancer.

Given this risk NJB Recycling has, in relation to their site, proposed that the materials recycling should be subject to a number of measures to reduce the risk including carrying out recycling in a building and misting.

These measures are **not in place** as we write which has resulted in an increase in the dust we see. We have no idea what levels of invisible respirable dust is in the air and what impact this is having on our health – the consequences will likely not be seen for many years.

Many residents have complained to the Environment Agency and indeed a resident attended a meeting called by The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, who is working tirelessly to stop the nuisance, with amongst others the Environment Agency to see if a solution could be found. Disappointingly there is no timescale for regularising the position. It appears **another risk assessment and further surveys are required**. These should have been in place prior to the operator being allowed to start operations.

In addition, four Residents Association Borough Councillors, one of whom is a County Councillor, are actively engaged in seeking immediate remedial action and are objecting to the planning application. In addition, Tina Mountain, a Surrey county Councillor, is also actively opposed to the planning application. Since this is a waste handling application it falls within the remit of Surrey County Council rather than Epsom and Ewell's Borough Council in the first instance.

The operators are being allowed to **profit** from ignoring the noise and dust assessments that are in the public domain on a site where they do not have the necessary consents at the **detriment** to residents who are subjected to significant noise and dust issues.

If you are affected by Noise or Dust please call or email the Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60
[Incident Communication Service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Incident.Communication.Service@environment-agency.gov.uk)