

PL/2019/03208/PPFL Arden Brickworks

This email is the response of Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council to the above application.

Given the concerns of local residents and the considerable number of objections made the Parish Council requests that the application is referred to the Planning Committee for determination. It is also requested that, should current circumstances permit, Members undertake a site visit.

The application which is seeking consent to continue the use of part of Arden Brickworks (now known as Arden Eco Park) as a Material Recovery Facility(MRF). The original application, PL/2009/1063, was granted conditional approval in November 2009 for the site to be used for a period of 10 year as an MRF. That period expired in November 2019.

A major concern relates to the application itself in that most of the diagrams and documents are dated from the time of the original application in 2009 (see below) and certainly as far as the site itself is concerned do not represent the site as it is today e.g.:-

- 1) Ecology Appraisal June 2009
- 2) 001A- Site Layout 22/1/95
- 3) Transport Statement June 2009
- 4) AAe-ARDN-37- Main Processing Area Dec'12
- 5) CE-ARDN-DW36 - Utilities and Recycling Area and temporary training area 2/10/2009
- 6) CE-ARDN-DW35- Open storage & MRF Area 2/10/2009
- 7) CE-ARDN-DW34- General Layout Plan 2/10/2009

At the time of the original application operations were conducted at the foot of the quarry workings. This minimised the noise impact and the escape of dust. Over the past 10 years the quarry has gradually been filled into the extent that activities are now significantly higher than ground level and archived Google maps are available to confirm this. The result of this has been an ever -increasing number of complaints by residents of noise and dust notified to both SMBC and the Environmental Agency. There were a number of conditions placed against the original approval some of which have not been adhered to on a regular basis. It is understood from local residents that activities on the site regularly start before the required 8.00am start time as stated in Condition 4 in the approval document and there have been instances where the site has been worked on Sundays and Bank Holidays, again in contravention of Condition 4. It is noted that the Applicant's Planning Statement accompanying this application states, in paragraph 3.23, "The MRF operates on a similar time pattern to the adjacent quarry and to that at Berkswell Quarry namely 07.00 to 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and 07.00 to 13.00 Saturdays". It has not been possible to find any documentary evidence of Condition 4 in the original approval having been varied and refute the operating hours as described in the Applicant's Planning Statement. The comment made in paragraph 3.22 that "Noise from the crusher or any machinery is largely contained within the site by method of working....." is also refuted as the current position of the machinery renders any containment ineffective.

A further condition (Condition 11) in the approval document states "There shall be no burning of waste materials on the site". Again, local-residents report that fires or to be more accurate smoke, is quite often seen emanating from the site. In addition to the noise and dust coming from the site, local-residents have to endure the regular vibration associated, we assume, with the heavy crushing machinery.

Finally attention is drawn to the adopted Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan which whilst having no specific reference to the Arden Brickworks site does have included in its objectives, the following which are considered to be relevant:

Objective 2: Maintain and enhance the green, semi-rural nature of the Parish and conserve the local character and distinctiveness of the Parish.

Objective 5: Safeguard the Green Belt within the Parish as an integral and important part of the local Arden landscape and heritage.

Objective 6: Support and maintain the farming community and rural activities as part of the characteristic nature of a semi-rural community.

It is suggested that approval of renewal of the licence for continued use of the site as a Materials Recovery Facility would completely disregard these objectives of the Plan and consequently the Parish Council fully supports the objections made by residents and also strenuously objects to the application.