



Charnwood

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Director of Community Services
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Ask for: Richard Brown Planning Officer

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My ref:RB/LP/LCC/6

Your ref:



Dear Sir/Madam,

Representation from Charnwood Borough Council in response to the Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework and Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Framework (Preferred Options)

The Borough Council thanks Leicestershire County Council for the opportunity to comment on Leicestershire and Leicester Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks. The Borough Council considered the documents at its Cabinet meeting 21st September, and resolved that the following representations be made (min 78 refers).

With regard to the Waste Development Framework, the Borough Council acknowledges that a degree of flexibility is necessary so that planning permission could be considered on less contentious non-allocated sites if they come forward. However strong objection is raised regarding Policies 5 and 10 of the Core Strategy. The flexibility that the Framework provides for potentially contentious waste management proposals to be considered at the planning application stage on non-allocated sites is inappropriate. The Borough Council considers that for more contentious facilities at the lower end of the waste hierarchy, alternatives should be clearly set out in the Framework itself. This could be on the basis of a reserve site list. In particular, the Framework should provide clearer guidance on the role the County Council and envisage for incineration including the identification of potential sites if necessary. This would provide the opportunity for stakeholders and other interests to make representations on these proposals through the plan preparation process.

The Borough Council objects to the Waste Development Framework's proposed allocation of Newhurst Quarry, Shepshed as a location for energy from waste facilities (Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Biomass Waste to Energy), due to the sites location in relation to prevailing winds and its close proximity to the large centres of population at Shepshed and Loughborough. The Framework fails to justify the selection of Newhurst Quarry, as a suitable location for energy from waste facilities.

In particular, the Sustainability Appraisal does not adequately assess the potential impacts of proposed energy from waste facilities at Newhurst Quarry in relation to the sites proximity to the large population centres of Shepshed and Loughborough. In addition, as the only preferred site identified for these facilities there is also concern that facilities could attract waste from a wide area. The Borough Council wish to make it clear that it would have strong objection to any proposal to site an incinerator at Newhurst Quarry. This is due to its position in relation to the prevailing winds and large centres of population at Shepshed and Loughborough.

Newhurst Quarry is a geological SSSI and a RIGS. The Borough Council understands that the current Waste Local Plan mitigation measures were drawn up with the agreement of English Nature to retain the geological interest of the site. Measures involved the retention of exposed quarry face to a height of 80m to preserve the site's geological interest. It is acknowledged that detailed mitigation would not be set out at this stage in the preparation of the Waste Development Framework, but the Borough Council considers that the geological interest of the site is of paramount importance which needs to be addressed in the preparation of the later stages of the framework. As a portion of the site overlies a major aquifer, there is a potential impact on surface and groundwater. Protection measures should be incorporated to address the risk of contamination.



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The Borough Council also wishes to raise serious concerns about the potential environmental impact of the proposed allocation of Brooksby Quarry for landfill. A watercourse runs through the site and downstream to Rearsby in Charnwood. The proposal could have a potentially significant negative effect on the quality of ground and surface water in the area. Appropriate protection measures should be incorporated into the design of the site to ensure that ground and surface waters are not at risk from contamination.

With regard to the rejected sites at Anstey Lane, Thurstaston and Wanlip Sand and Gravel, Syston, the Borough Council supports the reasons for rejecting these sites.

Although not part of the Cabinet's formal resolution, members were concerned that there has been no consultation event organised to take place within Loughborough. There are significant implications on the town from the Waste Development Framework, and the Borough Council requests that an event for Loughborough is organised.

The Borough Council has no comments to forward in relation to the Minerals Development Framework.

A copy of the relevant minutes and Cabinet report are attached for your information.

Yours Faithfully



Richard Brown

Senior Planning Officer

Encs: Minutes

Cabinet Report

