

**HORSELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**November 2005**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL WASTE DISPOSAL PLANS**

You will be aware of the confusing and conflicting information about Surrey County Council's proposed waste disposal strategy and WBC's proposals to develop a waste treatment plant at Heather Farm on Horsell Common.

As many people as possible should make their views known about the proposals at Heather Farm and Martyrs Lane in SCC's waste strategy before the 12<sup>th</sup> December. It is important to comment on their waste strategy which identifies 13 sites in the county for possible waste treatment facilities, of which two are in Woking: Heather Farm and Martyrs Lane. WBC's plans for an anaerobic digestion and pyrolysis plant at Heather Farm are being pursued independently of SCC's strategy.

It must be understood that WBC is responsible for collecting waste: it is NOT responsible for its disposal. SCC extract a levy from Woking Council Tax payers for the provision of services one of which is, as said, the disposal of waste. WBC's plans for waste disposal at Heather Farm are based on the spurious notion that the plant will be an energy producing one, not simply a waste treatment plant.

SCC has sent out a consultation document to a selected number of residents in Surrey (5000). This document is very heavily loaded with questions, which will give Surrey the authority to do exactly what it wants. If you have not had a copy of SCC's questionnaire it is available online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/wasteplan](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/wasteplan); then click on Waste Plan Consultation. It is also available from libraries or from borough or district council offices. **Our recommendation is that you don't answer the questions on the form, but write a letter explaining your views and position on their proposals.**

HRA have been holding discussions and meetings with other resident groups and associations in the borough and in Surrey and have gathered a considerable amount of information and facts. What has become clear in these and other discussions is that neither Surrey nor Woking can at this stage actually produce a concrete plan or give details of the type of disposal, which they intend to use. However it would appear that SCC is leaning towards incineration somewhere in the County. This lack of clarity makes both SCC's and WBC's consultation process highly misleading.

With regard to the Woking site proposals, both the Martyrs Lane and Heather Farm sites are within the Green Belt area. Heather Farm is also in an area subject to SSSI, SAC and SPA regulations. An SSSI is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, an SPA is a Specially Protected Area covered by International regulations, and an SAC is a **Special Area of Conservation**. In accordance with the Woking Local Plan, NE2 page 29, "development will not be permitted on these sites because of their importance and any development proposals within or around them will be subject to special scrutiny. Due to their international significance **Government guidance is that any development proposal which is likely to significantly affect an SPA or SAC and which is not connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation will be subject to the most rigorous scrutiny against a number of detailed tests. In most cases, development would only be permitted if there are imperative reasons for overriding public interest.**"

The Martyrs Lane site is close to Heather Farm and, in terms of environmental impact, should be subject to the same concerns. The existing area used for waste management and recycling there is only a very small proportion of a much larger site and it might be a logical site for a larger and better organized facility for recycling. Its use as a thermal treatment plant, however, should be resisted for the same reasons as Heather Farm.

We would suggest that those who have not received a consultation document write a letter, outlining your concerns, to SCC. Letters should be addressed to Surrey Waste Plan, Freepost, SEA 12430, Thornton Heath, CR7 7XT before the 12th December.

If you want to oppose incineration, (or as it is sometimes referred to 'thermal treatment') in Woking and stop Woking becoming the waste dumping ground for Surrey write and let your opinions be known to the above address.

Some of the areas that you might wish to cover in your letter could include the following.

- I. I do not believe that the Martyrs Lane or Heather Farm sites should be used for thermal treatment. Thermal treatment would worsen already poor local air quality.
- II. A thermal treatment plant on Martyrs Lane or Heather Farm would not comply with national planning guidance PPG2 which states if a plan is identified as a major development the development must have no greater impact than the existing development and should contribute to the objectives of the green belt. The chimneys and taller buildings at the Heather Farm site would have a strong visual impact in an area covered by an SSSI, SAC, SPA and Woking's Local Plan. Local residential properties will be adversely affected.

- III. Heather Farm is in a flood plain and there is a risk of waste delivered and stored being flooded and creating distress around the area, Drainage water would go into the Bourne and pollute it,
- IV. The storing of waste would encourage vermin and other noxious elements. Residual waste containing organic matter would attract also scavenger birds, these in addition to chimney emissions would effect the Flora and Fauna on the Common and pose a potential hazard to local residents
- V. There will be considerable strains on an already over congested road system as waste could come from all over Woking and adjacent Boroughs. Access would have to be from the M25 the A320 Chobham Road, Littlewick Road and other roads in Horsell and Woodham. All of which are already heavily congested.
- VI. Martyrs Lane recycling facility should be retained. SCC just have announced that the centre in addition to increasing recycling opportunities it will be reorgnised and improved. It is a much needed and used facility by all the residents of Woking. Recycling sites should remain supporting and encourage the recycling habit..Recycling reduces the need for disposal.

If you would like to discuss your letter with the HRA then you can call:

Dorothy Smith (President, HRA) on 01483 836 831 or  
Rob Harris (Chairman, HRA) on 01483 855 449

## **Horsell Residents' Association**

**invites you to a public meeting to hear**

***Hear Surrey County Council present and discuss their waste plan proposals. Take this opportunity to ask questions and let your opinions and views be known.***

**Heather Farm on Horsell Common and Martyrs Lane have been identified by SCC as possible sites for thermal treatment, or incineration.**

**The meeting will be held in the Horsell Village Hall on Friday 16<sup>TH</sup> December at 8.00pm.**

**Would you please pass on information regarding this meeting to neighbours and friends in your locality; or in other areas; who will be affected by SCC's proposals to use Martyrs Lane and/or Heather Farm for Thermal Treatment or Incineration of some form i.e. mass burn, incineration, pyrolosis or gasification.**

**If you are able to help deliver some notices of the meeting in your area would you please contact Dorothy Smith or Rob Harris on the above telephone numbers or email on (Dorothy) [Horsell@onetel.com](mailto:Horsell@onetel.com) or (Rob) [rlgharris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rlgharris@yahoo.co.uk)**

