

Wanlip Sand & Gravels Ltd. – Planning application for Construction of an Inert & Green Waste Sorting & Storage Facility.

Observations from Wanlip Parish

1) Impact on Highway Network and Road Safety

The submission sets out the number of vehicle movements with regard to deliveries but does not seem to include those vehicles being used to transfer waste produced to other locations. Whilst the number of these movements may be small they are likely to aggravate concerns related to safety.

The application refers to a low incidence of accidents related to the current facility. However, at the moment the facility has a short slip road exit that may not be adequate for the increased movements. It should be noted that there are two other slip roads on to the A46, one each side of the carriageway, both of which have a history of minor accidents. As Wanlip parishioners regularly use the A46 to visit Syston we ask that the Highways Section of the County Council is asked to give careful consideration to the safety of the egress from the facility.

2) Dust, Litter and Odour

The application states that the crushing operation will be limited to times when there is no wind in dry weather. Also, although it states that there will be no litter, it described arrangements to have it picked up if there is any. Also, to avoid odour the applicant states that material will be removed within a few days of arriving. In our experience, issues that require management as described above rarely get dealt with as predicted. Therefore how will the applicant ensure that the declarations at this stage will be implemented? The last thing the village wants is to have a running battle with the operators to get them to honour their commitments. Will the facility be regularly inspected to ensure that dust, litter and odour are not being unreasonably generated?

3) Size

The application uses the terms ‘low key’ and ‘small scale’. Is it the intention to limit the number of vehicle movements to ensure that the operation remains as declared? Again our experience is that private operators will take every opportunity to develop their business without making further applications to receive permission once they have exceeded their consent conditions. In the meantime will the operator turn users away should the business ‘take off’?

4) General

Because of the potential environmental pollution that can be generated by this sort of facility and its proximity to two population centres, together with the difficulties of enforcement, we recommend that the application is be refused.