

Warboys Landfill Action Group
Landfill Site Planning Application Update
17 December 2009

The Planning Application is for Permission to complete the site and restore it to land appropriate for nature. Controversially it includes an extension to the current cell 6 into land to the east and digging out brick waste within the void to increase the void by a further 330,000 tonnes. It will also extend the time to fill the site by up to 4 years possibly until 2015.

This application was heard at Cambridgeshire County Council today, 17 December, and we have to report that the application was approved.

Village representatives:

Warboys Landfill Action Group Chair Betty Ball
Village Representatives Sally Pryke (supported by Nigel Holmes and Brian Lake)
Warboys Parish Council Chairman Steven Kessel
Huntingdonshire District Councillor Peter Bucknall and
Cambridgeshire County Councillor Victor Lucas

all spoke to raise concerns on the scale of the extension proposed and the implications for the village. All expressed their wish to have the site completed safely and as soon as possible.

Village representatives felt the recommended option was the 'greedy option' and wanted an intermediate position with the site extended only as much as was needed for safety reasons. The main concern expressed was that the brick waste mass, in situ and stable since the 1940s, should only be excavated where it was absolutely necessary. Also it would take the void very close to nearby residents (90metres from nearest house) and very close to the fishing reservoir which links into vulnerable fen waterways. The stability testing undertaken was seen as being inconclusive and lacked supporting explanations.

The issue was raised that the site is still **non-compliant** under its Pollution Prevention Control Permit with regard to the leachate levels and is not 'hydraulically contained', the method relied upon to avoid leakage. Furthermore the flare has never been tested and none of these failures under the regulations have ever led to enforcement action by the Environment Agency (EA). The application relies on the EA to monitor and enforce conditions and the village has no confidence in them fulfilling this role based upon our previous experience of their 'monitoring and enforcement' methods.

Councillors were sympathetic to the villagers' problems and were put in a difficult position but finally opted for the larger extension believing it would ensure absolute safety.

Contact WLAG on 01487 822083