

12 February 2014

Kristina King  
Hampshire County council  
Elizabeth II Court West  
The Castle  
Winchester  
Hants  
SO23 8UD

Dear Miss King,

Application no; 14/00182/CMA  
Site Ref BA 103

**Little Bushy Warren Copse Composting Facility, Bushy Warren Lane,  
Herriard**

We are writing to **object** to the above application on the grounds that this site does not comply with previous planning conditions and is over developed and unable to cope with leachate runoff from the composting process or the HGV traffic bringing material to the site. There should be no additional material brought in.

This site is not well suited to composting, as it is a wetland with poor drainage. As the composting facility has grown, it is clear that it does not function properly.

These are the main reasons for our concern:

**1. Existing serious problems with leachate runoff**

For several years, Veolia have been having difficulties with excessive liquid runoff from the composting areas whenever it rains (winter and summer).

There are two lagoons and a reed bed on site but these do not have a big enough capacity. Veolia employ the local farmer to take away liquid in tankers pulled by tractors. This leachate has been frequently seen sprayed into Bushywarren Copse, onto the field adjacent to the solar panels and on fields the other side of the A339. During particularly wet spells, the tankers are constantly in and out of the Veolia site, using Bushywarren Lane to travel West and East onto the A339.

The neighbouring new AD Plant, run by Barfoots, have experienced flooding from Veolia's uncontrolled runoff and have been keeping some of the excess liquid in their own lagoon to relieve the pressure.

This practice is not sustainable.



*Spraying of leachate into Bushywarren Copse and onto fields, a practice that has been in operation for many years.*

Excessive quantities of liquid runoff from the site cause the following problems:

- Traffic created by the tractors towing tankers
- Liquid waste, which may contain nutrients is spread onto the fields in winter during the NVZ (Nitrate Vulnerable Zone) no-go period

- Spraying into Bushywarren Copse has been observed during the last three winters. We are concerned that this will affect the breeding of the rare Duke of Burgundy Butterfly, which was breeding in Bushywarren Copse in the 1990s. Its preferred habitat is the edge of woodland and scrubland areas where Veolia have been spraying leachate.

A Herriard resident reported the practice of spraying to the council two years ago but the practice continues.

This is a historical problem and not only limited to excessively wet weather conditions. In July 2003, the planning permission for the enlargement of the site BDB/56369 stated that:

'Prior to composting commencing within the extension site, a drainage scheme shall be submitted to the Waste Planning Authority for approval in writing. The scheme shall ensure there is no discharge of foul or contaminated drainage from the site into either ground water or surface water, whether direct or via soakaway.

**Reason: To prevent pollution of the water environment.'**

On a Site Visit 28.8.2003 it was proposed to install a reed bed system to deal with leachate, which was currently tankered away from the site.

**Reason: 'There would be no need for tanker lorries to visit the site.'**

**These conditions have not been met; tankers are a major problem still.**

## **2. Existing problem of queuing HGVs**

HGVs are frequently seen queuing on the lane first thing in the morning. The photo below, taken by an Ellisfield resident at 7.25am on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan shows what is now a common occurrence. The last lorry had its rear protruding onto the A339. Over the last few years, the voicing of residents' concerns about this practice to Veolia has not improved the situation.



More raw materials will mean more lorries. The site cannot control the current load of HGV traffic.

### **Conclusion**

The site is, by its nature, a water logged, marshy site – hence the original planning permission stated;

'The permission hereby granted shall be for a limited period expiring on either 31 Dec 2025 or the contract arising from Project Integra whichever is the earlier. Thereafter within six months all buildings, plant, machinery, foundations, hardstandings, access roads and waste shall be removed from the site, and the site shall be restored in accordance with a scheme approved under Condition 14 below.

**Reason: The site is unsuitable for permanent development.'**

We ask that HCC does not grant this application, as the site cannot handle the existing runoff of leachate. We ask that HCC take enforcement action to ensure that the runoff is dealt with along with the queuing HGVs before any additional material can be contemplated. There is a real danger not only to road safety but also the surrounding countryside should this application be granted.

Kind regards,  
Dee Haas  
Chairman EVA