

11 March 2025



Mr Andrew Rutter
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
Russell Road
Ipswich

HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

SCC/0017/25SE

**Haverhill Waste Management Site, Falconer Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8QE
Retrospective application for the construction of a Materials Recovery Facility
(MRF) and associated infrastructure.**

Dear Mr Rutter

I am writing on behalf of Haverhill Town Council to submit our strong objection to the retrospective planning application for the waste materials recycling centre at Falconer Road, Haverhill, CB9 8QE. The context in this is that the council has already raised with you the need for enforcement action to prevent the intolerable disturbances and nuisance that this applicant has caused by carrying out their operations without planning permission. It is simply not acceptable that the applicant is seeking to regularise the behaviour that is causing these problems.

1. Public Amenity

- **Opening Hours:** The council is very concerned to hear from neighbouring residents that the applicant does not follow the existing licenced hours for operation, starting every morning at 6am, including Saturdays. This is interfering with the quiet enjoyment of residents' homes and must not be baked-in to any subsequent planning permission. It is imperative that the centre's operating hours should be restricted to staff arrivals on site no earlier than 7:30am for an 8:00am start, with no operations at all on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Operations should cease at 17:30hrs daily. This restriction is necessary to minimize disruption to neighbouring properties and maintain the quality of life for local residents and neighbouring businesses.
- **Mud on Roads:** There must be a comprehensive wheel-washing plan to mitigate mud on roads caused by vehicles entering and exiting the site. This is essential to ensure road safety and cleanliness in the surrounding area.
- **Quarantine Area:** The application lacks details on the location of the so-called 'quarantine area' for materials that are not permitted to be processed, and the speed at which materials will be removed from the site. This information is crucial to ensure efficient and safe operations, preventing potential hazards and delays. Whilst we accept that occasionally prohibited material may be found in incoming skips, this problem could be largely averted by the applicant restricting operation to recycling aggregate waste and not diversifying into processing domestic waste skips.

2. Noise from Operations

The noise from dragging industrial skips around the site and HGV reversing sirens is currently inadequately managed and happens in the early hours of the morning. The company must provide detailed plans on how they will mitigate noise, including soundproofing measures such

HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE, HIGH STREET, HAVERHILL, CB9 8AR

Tel: 01440 712858

Web: <https://haverhill-tc.gov.uk>

as acoustic fencing and walling for the waste treatment shed (which has no walls at all, and is worse than useless for containing noise, dust, odours). This aligns with the NPPF's emphasis under 223(f) on promoting healthy and safe communities by reducing noise pollution and odours.

3. Odour and Pests

There are concerns about the indiscriminate types of materials being recycled, already causing unpleasant smells and attracting flies. Planning restrictions must be in place to ensure the site is restricted to commercial recycled aggregates without household waste and the application (and any eventual permission) must provide detailed information on the materials to be handled.

Conclusion

In light of these issues, Haverhill Town Council urge the planning authority to refuse this retrospective planning application for the waste materials recycling centre unless the necessary amendments and legally binding agreements to those ends are obtained. Given the disregard to the planning system shown by the applicant, anything less than full compliance from the applicant to address these concerns comprehensively and ensure that the facility operates in a manner that is safe, efficient, and respectful of the local community's needs and well-being, should indicate refusal as the only sustainable outcome.

Thank you for considering these objections.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Phillips
Deputy Clerk