



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Sustainable solutions needed to tackle growing waste problem

Plans to deal with Suffolk's waste by creating above-ground dumps should be scrapped and replaced by a more sustainable solution to what is a growing problem, environmental campaigners have urged.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) says the possibility, included in Suffolk County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Framework Consultation, is simple unacceptable in a county where much of the countryside is designated as protected.

The Society has also called for an end to be brought to exporting waste between counties, saying the practice raises serious questions about sustainability.

In its response to the county's consultation document, Richard Ward, Society Director, says a holistic and sustainable approach is needed to manage, minimise and recycle as much as possible – avoiding the need for above-ground land raise dumps.

"Our view is quite clear," said Mr Ward. "We are not convinced at this stage that land raise is acceptable in principle anywhere in Suffolk.

"While we appreciate that landfill sites are reaching their capacity, we feel land raise sites would have far reaching and hugely negative implications in a county where around 30 percent of the landscape is designated as protected.

"We also believe that Suffolk should dispose of its own waste, and not that of anyone else. We should not be importing waste created by other communities – this approach is just not sustainable. In the same breath, under no circumstances should our waste be exported elsewhere.

"Therefore, a solution to deal with the county's waste, within the county, has to be found, and this may involve hard decisions being made and different approaches and solutions, some of which may be new technology, being considered."

In its consultation response, SPS also questioned where the strategy fitted into the council's goal of becoming "the greenest county", and parts of the document which pledge to "protect and enhance" the environment by introducing measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of proposals coming forward, saying the two are contradictory.

“The council pledges to protect the environment, but in the same breath calls for mitigation. This is a contradiction because mitigation is not the same as protection,” said Mr Ward.

“You cannot protect and enhance the wider environment by minimising the adverse impacts of waste disposal proposals. If mitigation is needed at all, this proves the development is fundamentally wrong for the area in which it is proposed.”

“We are strongly urging the council to revise this objective to remove any contradiction before this strategy goes any further.”

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Note to editors:

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

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