

Motion to Demand the Immediate Suspension of Operations and Acceptance of Waste at the Walley's Quarry Landfill.

This Council notes:

The presence of 'foul odours' in the vicinity of, and associated with, operations at the Walley's Quarry landfill site.

The substantial volume of complaints received by the Environment Agency and the borough council regarding the presence of 'foul odours', reportedly more than 2000 in one weekend alone.

That the Environment Agency approved a permit change in 2020 which allowed the annual tonnage to be deposited on the site to rise from 250,000 tons to 400,000 tons.

The operator, despite what is considered to be compelling evidence to the contrary, continues to claim that the site is operating within acceptable parameters – including the emission of odours.

That regulation of the permit to operate the site, and ensuring compliance with associated conditions, is the sole function of the Environment Agency.

That the Walley's Quarry Task and Finish group has undertaken substantive scrutiny of the issues associated with the site

That local members, have sought to resolve the issue of 'foul odours' on a number of occasions with the operator and environment agency.

This Council believes:

That residents are rightly concerned about their quality of life, the health impacts due to the 'foul odours' associated with the site and the impact the foul odours are having on the community.

That Councillors have engaged in good faith with the operator and Environment Agency, by regularly attending the liaison committee and raising concerns about the smell.

That the Environment Agency has failed to take the concerns of local people seriously.

This Council resolves:

To recognise that the 'foul odours' associated with the landfill site cause substantive harm to the quality of life for residents within the borough.

To support the residents of the borough calling for the landfill to be closed and capped off.

To instruct the chief executive to write to the Environment Agency requesting an immediate suspension of the licence for waste operations at Walley's Quarry, including the import of waste material at the site, until the cause of the 'foul odours' has been identified and resolved.

To instruct the chief executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to request an independent investigation into the regulatory performance of the Environment Agency in their handling of the permit.

To instruct the chief executive to write to Public Health England and the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, requesting regular health screening for residents who are concerned of potential health impacts as a consequence of the regular presence of 'foul odours'.

To instruct the Chief Executive to send this motion to Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council and request that they make similar requests to the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Moved by Councillor Dave Jones

Seconded by Councillor Simon Tagg