

Winter wonders and worries

**Editorial – No Laybrook Landfill: Write Now! – Laybrook Landfill Dinner Dance
TVA’s Annual General Meeting – Meeting with Nick Herbert – Membership**

Editorial

At the time of writing, Thakeham is a winter wonderland. Glistening snow and cheerful children brighten up the days and prolong the holiday spirit which was given such an initial boost at our ball on 19th December. However, the same beauty and laughter also bring to mind the threats to the environment and to the health and safety of our children we are currently facing. Whether you are still snowed in or back to your normal busy life, please take a moment to write to the County Council to protest against the proposed landfill site at Laybrook - time is running out and we need to let decision-makers know that we don't need or want a landfill site in Thakeham!

No Laybrook Landfill – Write Now!

Please write NOW to object to a rotting rubbish landfill at Laybrook. Response must be made by 29th January.

All of us, wherever we live in Thakeham, will be affected by a rubbish dump in our area. Adding to global warming, adding hundreds of lorries to our roads, adding to smells and air pollution. If you have already written in, your original letter or e-mail has been carried across to the new application. However, TVA's advice is to write again, referring to the points in your earlier letter, saying that they have still not been met and adding anything else you want to say. And, if only one person in your house wrote last time, ask everyone else in your house (whatever their age) to write in as well, as each separate response counts.

In particular,

- A rotting rubbish landfill at Laybrook would be an environmental disaster for our whole community. Dumping rubbish into holes in the ground wastes our valuable resources.
- Rubbish lorries would thunder along our rural roads. Whatever Cory claims, there



is nothing to stop lorries travelling through Thakeham, Storrington or West Chilington on their way to Laybrook.

- Landfills are polluting. Foul smells will travel with the wind. Landfills pollute air, water and land, vast quantities of methane gas are produced causing global warming.
 - Landfills have been shown in lots of medical studies to harm people's health. With over 900 children going to schools near the site, this must be a worry to all parents. Studies have shown that the health of farmed animals and wildlife is damaged as well.
- For those who say "but waste has to go somewhere", the answer is that landfilling is no longer necessary. There are many alternative ways of dealing with our waste. After recycling as much as possible, the remainder can go into industrial-style waste processing plants recovering materials and energy. With the right technologies, practically everything can be used again. The County Council has recently approved such a plant to be built at Brookhurst Wood, near Warnham. This plant is big enough to take all the post-recycling household waste produced in the County and some from factories and the like. There is no reason why a second similar plant cannot be built

elsewhere in the County to handle the rest of the commercial and industrial waste.

Please write, quoting reference WSCC/087/09/T, to County Development, WSCC, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RG or e-mail planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk. To find out more visit www.nolaybrooklandfill.co.uk or contact thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk.

Laybrook Landfill Dinner Dance

Despite the wintry weather, over 120 guests put on their snow boots and ski jackets and braved the elements to attend the dinner dance on 19th December. It was held at the fabulous setting of Windlesham House School and we danced the night away to the brilliant sounds of The Hit Squad. Catering was by Lindy Walby and she and her staff did a tremendous job serving us all with a welcome hot meal. An auction and a raffle helped to raise in excess of £6,000. This money will help TVA in the continued fight against the proposed landfill at Laybrook. A huge thank you must go to all the people who supported the dinner dance, both on the night and in the preceding weeks.

TVA's Annual General Meeting

Thakeham Village Action holds its Annual General Meeting at 8.00pm on Thursday 21st January in Thakeham Village Hall. An update on TVA's two major campaigns, the proposed landfill at Laybrook and the future of the mushroom sites, plus details of TVA's other activities in the year, will be given. All members and supporters are invited.

Meeting with Nick Herbert

On Friday 4th December, three members of TVA met with our local MP, Nick Herbert. As the local MP, Nick has been a strong supporter in our campaign against the

proposed Laybrook landfill and, as Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has argued strongly against landfill generally. He has also spoken out strongly against the suggested housing proposal in Pulborough/Adversane and TVA welcomed the opportunity to discuss both housing and landfill concerns with him. Even if, thankfully, any proposed house-building schemes in Thakeham have so far not been on the scale of Adversane, TVA highlighted the fact that our rural village character can easily be put at risk if builders are allowed to develop greenfield sites. TVA's representatives said after the meeting that they felt it had been extremely constructive and helpful, that they considered Mr Herbert had understood local concerns and that they were pleased to hear Mr Herbert repeat his support for maintaining our part of West Sussex's rural countryside character and his opposition to a landfill site at Laybrook.

TVA Membership

2009 was a busy and expensive year for TVA. We need to take on more members for 2010 to renew our funds going forward and also to demonstrate to various parties that we do represent the views of many people in the community. The membership fee remains at £5.00 per household, but donations in place of, or in addition to, membership are welcome.

As an incentive to get people to submit their membership for 2010 as quickly as possible, TVA is pleased to say that our local MP, Nick Herbert, has agreed to host a member and their guest at the House of Commons for tea early in 2010. The winner will be drawn from all paid up members at the end of January and the prize should be taken up before the end of March.

Thakeham Village Action - Membership Subscription

I enclose a cheque (payable to TVA) or cash for £5. I include a donation of £_____

Name & Address _____

_____ Telephone No. _____ No. in Family _____

Send to Mark Keenan, Copper Beeches, The Street, Thakeham, RH20 3EP
(1st house on left immediately after the school),

or if you wish to help you can email thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk

I would like to receive information from TVA by e-mail, My address is _____