

Tracey Crouch MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Mark Pullin
Case Officer
Development Control
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

31 January 2013

Dear Mr Pullin

Planning Application MC/12/3046

I am writing with regard to the above planning application to provide for an asbestos waste transfer station on North Dane Way, Lordswood. Having been contacted by my constituents living in nearby Farley Close regarding this application, I have a number of concerns I would like to raise.

More than ever, we now know exposure to even the smallest amount of asbestos can lead to life threatening asbestosis diseases. Medway is itself already considered a hotspot for mesothelioma sufferers due to exposure to asbestos at Chatham Dockyard and other industrial sites across the towns, which has helped raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos locally. While it is without doubt that safety measures for those handling asbestos directly have improved enormously, there is no such defence in place to protect those in neighbouring areas in the event of an accident. For example, if a sealed bag were to split or, in the event of an even greater disaster such as fire or a tree falling on the site, then asbestos fibres could be blown throughout the neighbouring residential areas with little or no warning with potential long term fatal consequences.

It is therefore my strong view that given we know the risks associated with asbestos any facility which intends to handle the substance, especially in the quantities proposed by Asbestos First, should be sited as far away from residential areas as possible. This application would provide for a site where up to 70 tonnes of asbestos is handled each week 50 metres from a residential area and this has understandably caused a great deal of concern for local residents.

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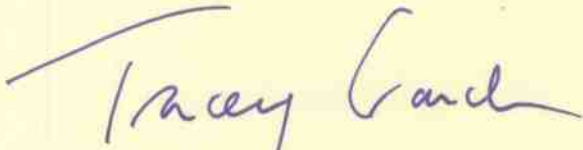
Chatham & Aylesford

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The current site on Shawstead Road and other sites in Cuxton, Gillingham and on the industrial Medway City Estate already operate asbestos waste disposal services and these in my view are perfectly suitable places for them to continue to do so, without the need to expand into the residential area of Lordswood.

I would be grateful if my concerns and those of my constituents could be taken into account when this application is considered.

Yours sincerely



TRACEY CROUCH MP

cc Cllr Alan Jarrett
Cllr David Wildey