

**Deputation
on behalf of Havant friends of the Earth and Havant Climate Alliance re.
the disposal of the former Landfill Site known as Brockhampton West**

We recognise that selling this site, with outline planning permission, to a company prepared to take on full liability for future contamination/pollution will be a profitable option for the Council.

Reference is made to the site providing for manufacturing or warehousing, and so providing employment. However there are other industrial sites in the Borough not being used and the large Pfizer site in New Lane is expected to become available soon.

Our preferred option for the site is for it to be developed as a Solar PV Farm which can be used to provide community energy or revenue for the Borough. This would support Havant Energy Strategy 2016 – 2020 “to increase local energy generation”. It would also support the Regeneration Strategy for Havant Borough 2018 – 2036 which refers to a vision for a Solar Farm in the Langstone – Broadmarsh area. Many other Councils are developing Solar Farms, including Portsmouth who are planning Solar PV at Dunsbury Park and on other sites in the City.

There are a growing number of former landfill sites being developed as Solar Farms, e.g. Cambridgeshire County Council: www.mlei.co.uk/projects/large-scale-renewable-energy/stanground-closed-landfill and in Wiltshire by Viridor at Westbury Landfill Solar Array. www.viridor.co.uk/energy/energy-sources/

This site on closed landfill, uses an innovative mounting system for Solar PV which is neither ground penetrating nor causing adversarial stress on the landfill cap.

Solar Farms can have added biodiversity by being planted and managed as wildflower meadows.

We can see that the Solar Farm option was assessed and deemed to have negligible financial return when upfront capital investment and management responsibilities were factored in. However we wonder whether enough has been done to find a company to buy the site, with both landfill and solar experience, which would also take on full liability for risks of contamination and pollution?

Finally, if the Council does go ahead as proposed, with selling this site for manufacturing or warehousing, we urge you to ring-fence the capital to support the regeneration of brownfield sites in the Borough, especially for the delivery of affordable homes, as described in Havant’s Regeneration Strategy.

Pat Brooks