

28/2/24

My number 20042261

I would like to add to my previous letter.

In November 23 Enso Energy Limited came to do a hydrological survey with a brand-new John Deere tractor two 4-wheel drive vehicles towing a water bowser and a borehole digger. I repeatedly told them the land was saturated weeks before and we were on a high-water table (they knew best though) and this was without the amount of rain we are having at present. They entered the fields through a gate off of Kent Street as this was the nearest field where they needed to do the work, and we did not want them messing up further fields or coming through the Industrial Estate. They entered through the gate and got ten to fifteen foot in and sunk, guess I knew what was talking about when I said how the levels in the water table were. They spent the day there and at 1pm we went across with a machine and pulled them out. They then abandoned the idea. This is one of the many reasons this should not take place at Oakendene.

Up to now there has been a lack of the parish council's involvement with trying to save our precious land, maybe they thought that the village will benefit from the hand outs and promise of regeneration. However, at an emergency meeting of the parish council on 26th February, I am pleased to see that they have finally realised that OAKENDENE provides a lot of jobs for the local people and gives a lot of business to the village shops when people go off for lunch or coffee, or just to get a sandwich. I can honestly say thank goodness the Cowfold V Rampion group are there to represent the community as they have done so well in gathering facts and evidence and given the people a voice who don't know how to deal with such things.

If this goes ahead the flooding risk for Oakendene will be catastrophic and will most likely over time force closure as no one will want a unit or compound that will flood. Where will the trade for the village be then. As I said previously, we are not on mains drainage and rely on the land to be our drainage system, and thankfully we have worked with nature over the years and have been able to achieve this. Should acres of our land be lost to this sub station then clearly this will no longer be the case. When will people and Government learn, you can not keep taking the land without facing consequences, flooding and the destruction of the countryside the wildlife that we are destroying when we will learn we have to work with nature to try and recover from the destruction we have already caused?

Also, I noted whilst listening to the meetings that the number of vehicles was going to be far more than originally thought this again has just not been thought out and other options not explored.

Oakendene is in the draft Horsham plan policy as a KEY area of local and FUTRE employment and should be safeguarded not DESTROYED.

There are other options and better options than the Oakendene and the route they are taking to get here.