

Date: 27 July 2009

Our Ref: DESS/JDG/smf

Dear Resident

Birchwood, Hoe Lane, Nazeing

This letter is being sent to you on behalf of the organisations involved in the regulation and monitoring of the wood chipping operation, currently undertaken by Scott & Scott, at the Birchwood Industrial Estate, Hoe Lane, Nazeing. These organisations (The District Council, Environment Agency, Health & Safety Executive and the West Essex Primary Care Trust) have been working in partnership to try to resolve the issues which concern residents and move forward in a way that is acceptable to all. I am writing to you on behalf of these partner organisations to update you on the current situation.

Attached to this letter is a briefing note which sets out some background information as well as providing answers to some of the most commonly asked questions. I have also attached a note from the Environment Agency setting out the content, and an explanation, of the Environmental Permitting Regulations as they apply to this operation.

We have tried to answer the questions which have been most routinely raised, but there will be others that we haven't covered. If you have a question which hasn't been answered, please contact the relevant officer using the number/email provided at the end of the question and answer briefing sheet.

In looking at the information provided it is very important to recognise that all of the regulatory controls are applied to the normal operation of the business, that being the chipping of imported waste timber. None of the regulatory authorities are able to control or regulate the impacts of a fire which arises outside of these normal operations.

At this time Scott and Scott are co-operating fully with the Environment Agency, and no new material has been delivered to the site. Regular unannounced visits are being made to the site to ensure this continued co-operation. In addition, works to provide a fence around the site are underway, with a deadline for completion, set by the Health and safety Executive, of 7 August 2009.

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We do understand the genuine concerns of residents. However, we have to work within the legal framework as it currently stands, even if that appears not to provide the solution that residents would prefer to see. We are however striving, within that framework, to find the best possible outcome possible for all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J D Gilbert', written in a cursive style.

J D Gilbert
Director of Environment & Street Scene

On behalf of:
Epping Forest District Council
The Environment Agency
The Health & Safety Executive
The Essex Fire & Rescue Service
The West Essex Primary Care Trust