

## Southleigh Forest Landfill Site ... Dead or Alive?

Denys Riley and Richard Jannaway

The Southleigh Forest Landfill Site ('Existing Tip' on the map) was worked for minerals in the 1930's and has been filled with commercial, industrial and domestic waste since 1983. Until, finally, on 20 May 2006 filling stopped and the obnoxious smells became a thing of the past. There is still heavy traffic in and out of the site as some 300,000 tons of soil are being brought in to 'cap it off'. As we have already reported, leachate treatment and electricity generation will continue as long as necessary, potentially until 2020. The site will then be grassed and eventually woodland restored.

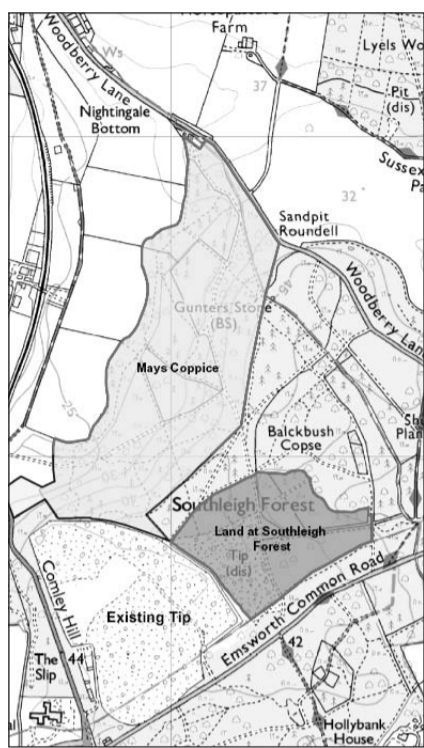
This excellent news was confirmed by the landowners Veolia (formerly Onyx UK Ltd) in June, who also confirmed that the proposal for an extension to the east of the site was not being progressed at the time as "It was not economically viable".

So all is now well? Well... not exactly. Close inspection of the next round of planning for waste management in South Hampshire shows two potential sites for landfill in or near Southleigh Forest. The first, EHS 024 marked 'Land at Southleigh Forest', has a proposed use for sand gravel and clay extraction with landfill restoration. It contains broadleaf woodland and is 'well screened by adjacent woodland'.

The other site, EHS 025, known as 'Mays Coppice', is much larger and is "suitable for Small, Medium or Large; C&DE, Recycling Plant, MRF, Composting, Recovery or Recovery including sorting or WEEE Disassembly Plant. The potential for landfill is to be evaluated". This site contains ancient woodland, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) and priority habitats. Both sites are close to the boundary of the proposed South Downs National Park.

It must be emphasised that there are no immediate plans to develop either site but when or if they get into the planning system it will be very difficult to prevent their eventual exploitation. Especially as, should they be combined, they would then definitely become "economically viable".

Once again the "price of freedom is eternal vigilance" and this time the vigilance is more difficult as it is needed in East Hants rather than Havant Borough.



Southleigh Forest showing existing and potential landfill sites.



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*Editors Note: Most of the businesses advertising in The EMS have been with us for years and we have very few complaints about their services. Buy With Confidence is a new scheme and many reliable and established traders have yet to sign up to it, so don't be put off if an advert in The EMS does not have the logo. As our advertisers sign up and get the right to use the above logo, we will include it in their adverts.*

## Cycling around Emsworth Steve Pearce

The Emsworth Community Board, together with Friends of the Earth and the Cyclists' Touring Club, organised a cycling stand at the Green Living Fair held on 11 November (see report on page 1). The objective was to encourage more people to cycle in and around Emsworth, thereby easing traffic congestion and helping the environment.

The display showed details of the Hampshire County Council project to improve pedestrian and cycle access to Emsworth town centre. This provides cycle access to the western end of West Street and involves widening the nearby bicycle crossing and several other improvements. Work is due to start in January and be completed by April 2007.

Visitors to the stand were invited to complete a questionnaire about their cycling, and non-cycling, habits. In summary, the responses showed that:

- There is a real opportunity to encourage more people to cycle in and around Emsworth. For example, only 55% of those who cycle for leisure also cycle into town.
- Those who do cycle around town have a clear message to encourage those who don't - it's more convenient than driving, it's healthy and it's environmentally friendly.
- The biggest disincentive to cycling around town is the speed and volume of traffic on the A259. The town centre access project should help to alleviate this problem.
- The benefits of cycle lanes and cycle paths are largely lost if they do not form a complete route. There are too many examples around Emsworth where cycleways stop when the budget ran out or the engineering got difficult.
- Pavements shared between cyclists and pedestrians must have a line marking the two sections wherever possible.
- Havant urgently needs a map showing cycle routes in and around the Borough. The conclusions of the survey have been submitted to the traffic departments of Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. They will be incorporated into a more comprehensive report by Emsworth Community Board on the measures needed to encourage more people to cycle around Emsworth. This report is due to be reviewed with HCC and HBC traffic departments in January.

If you would like to be involved in the campaign to improve cycleways in Emsworth, please contact Steve Pearce by email to [steve.pearce@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.pearce@btinternet.com) or phone 01243 431615.

## Red Cross moves into Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital Virginia Wilson-Smith

In November, the Mayor of Havant, Councillor Richard Brown opened the Red Cross Medical Loans facility now relocated in the Emsworth Hospital. At a very nice little party, sponsored by the Emsworth Business Association, the Mayor praised the scheme and those who had been instrumental in getting the Medical Loans into the Hospital.

Jo Thomas, the scheme manager, said that a number of people have volunteered to help out but she would welcome more which would enable them to open on some afternoons. At present, the opening hours are 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday. There has already been a big response, showing just how much the facility is needed in Emsworth.



Mayor of Havant, Councillor Richard Brown, celebrates the opening of the Red Cross loans facility with members of the Red Cross team.



## Emsworth Community Board

### Who are we ?

A group of 15 local residents whose common interest is quality of life in Emsworth. Members are elected, one third each year, at an AGM in April open to all residents. The Community Board is strictly non party political.

As part of the Havant Community Partnership we are able to liaise directly with the Local Authority and other local organisations.

### What do we do ?

Listen to, discuss and represent local opinion to the managing authorities. Identify, initiate and develop projects to enhance life in Emsworth. Monitor the local environment and services to identify potential improvements.

### When do we meet ?

Second Thursday each month  
7.30pm Emsworth Community Centre, Church Path  
(8 January, 8 February, 8 March 2007)

Residents are welcome to observe and contribute.

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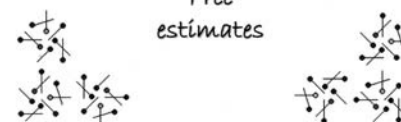


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