

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Current plans for Ford Circular Technology Park withdrawn

**Grundon Waste Management and Viridor have withdrawn their current planning application for a new state-of-the-art Energy Recovery Facility and Waste Sorting and Transfer Facility at Ford Circular Technology Park in West Sussex.**

The site, which already has consent for a residual waste treatment facility, was the subject of an initial planning application submitted in June 2020, with two extensive public consultations being conducted on the proposals. After listening to the feedback received, Grundon Waste Management and Viridor made significant updates to the plans and re-submitted them earlier in 2021. Those plans were then the subject of a further public consultation.

Following further feedback from officers at the planning authority, West Sussex County Council, the revised application has been withdrawn and will be reviewed to address outstanding planning officer concerns.

**Ford Energy from Waste Director Philip Atkinson said:** “We have decided to withdraw our current planning application for a new Energy Recovery Facility at our Ford site, so that we can address outstanding concerns before making a new application in the near future.

“We are pleased that officers at West Sussex County Council have recognised the overwhelming and urgent need for a facility of the type we’re proposing and that our current proposals raise no environmental health concerns.

“Our site is ideally situated, is already an operational waste management site and has been allocated within the Waste Local Plan by West Sussex County Council for future waste management use.

“We want to help West Sussex address its chronic waste management capacity gap, because it urgently needs to find an alternative to its current, unsustainable approach of just sending its non-recyclable waste elsewhere, including overseas, to be managed by others.

“While there are other consented facilities of a similar type in the south of England, these facilities have not been developed yet and as a result, there remains a vast quantity of non-recyclable waste which is being hauled around the country, and even into continental Europe.

“To compound this issue, the county council’s own figures show that it recycled 53 per cent of its waste in 2019/20 but is only targeting a one per cent increase in this figure each year. Put simply, this means there will still be many decades when West Sussex will need an environmentally friendly, cost-effective solution for managing the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste that cannot be recycled.

“At the moment, it doesn’t have an answer to this problem which will be compounded even further by housing growth plans. Arun District Council’s Local Plan alone will see 1,000 new homes built every year for the next decade, meaning even more waste will be produced locally. Energy recovery remains the best way of managing our non-recyclable waste and there is no site in West Sussex that’s better suited to meeting this need than our site at Ford.

“In addition, recent issues the country has faced in terms of its energy supplies highlight the real need to invest in domestic, homegrown sources of sustainable energy generation. So, while the primary role of the Ford Circular Technology Park will be to provide a solution to the waste management crisis in West Sussex, our facility’s ability to supply power to the national grid – or even local users – should not be ignored. We will continue our work to deliver a facility that addresses these very real challenges that the county faces.”

To contact the team email [info@fordctp.co.uk](mailto:info@fordctp.co.uk) or call **0800 804 4048**.

ENDS

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**Notes:**

Ford ERF is a joint venture between Grundon Waste Management, the UK's largest family-owned waste management company and Viridor, one of the largest energy recovery and resource management companies in the UK.

This is the second time the companies have partnered to develop a modern, state-of-the-art, energy recovery facility that diverts non-recyclable waste from local authorities and businesses away from landfill.

Lakeside Energy from Waste, near Slough, has been operational since 2010, successfully treating around 440,000 tonnes of the region's waste each year. It generates enough energy to power around 85,000 homes.

The two businesses have a combined experience of 155 years in waste management, recycling and environmental services.