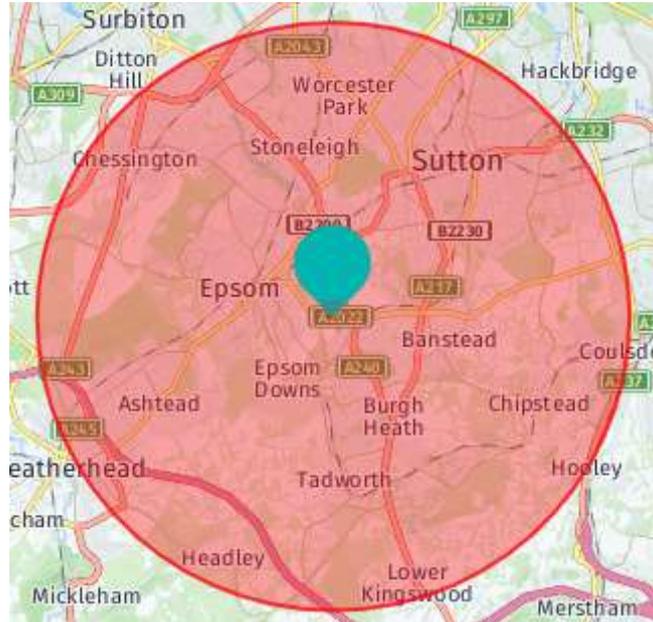


# Wake Up and Smell the Silica Dust (RCS)

## Proposed Materials Recycling Centre at the Chalk Pit College Road

Do you live in this area? If so read on



## Background

Residents in the College Area of Epsom became aware of waste operations in the area last summer on a site without the appropriate planning consent for the use of the site nor for new structures. Subsequently the Applicant has submitted a retrospective planning application for the proposals.

Residents need to consider the following:

1. The Applicant has **ignored planning** requirements
2. The Applicant has **ignored risk assessments** and operating proposals in his planning application. This has led to significant dust issues in the area previously unseen on this scale.
3. The application is for a site in the **Green Belt**, sits above an **aquifer** from which we draw our **drinking water**, is in a **residential area** with numerous **schools**

The application is wholly inappropriate for this location with residents identifying **11 grounds for objection**. The building proposed is over 600% larger than the existing open fronted structure he is replacing.

Residents have raised scores of concerns regarding amongst others dust, noise, road and traffic issues and lighting with the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. This has to date resulted in no visible action – **how the agencies can allow an operator who says his activities will harm people to carry on regardless beggars belief**. We are advised there are new surveys and new studies ongoing. It appears **profit before health!**

Please follow the following where regular updates are being posted:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/epsomandewellcommunity/permalink/2853032488295839/>

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/EpsomandEwell/permalink/10158983399429643/>

[Ewell Downs RA | Association for residents of Ewell Downs, Epsom, Surrey. \(wordpress.com\)](http://www.ewelldownsrainwaterassociation.co.uk/)

## Planning

The **closing date** for the receipt of objections for the proposed change of use and 10m high industrial buildings at the Chalk Pit is **15 March 2021**. Details of the application can be found at [Surrey County Council - Planning Application Display - SCC Ref 2020/0159 \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/planning-application-display).

This application has caused a significant concern across the Borough and neighbouring Reigate and Banstead. If you want updates do contact Ken Reid at [epsomchalk@btinternet.com](mailto:epsomchalk@btinternet.com).

## Petition

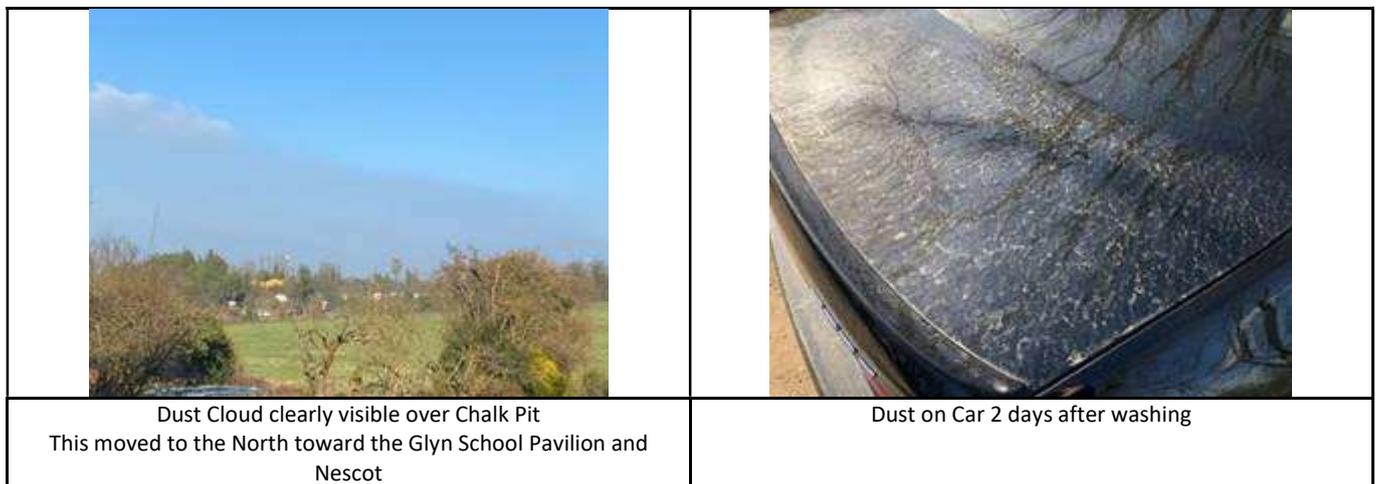
A local resident has started a petition and you are encouraged to sign it if you do not want this application to go through:

[Petition · Stop the Epsom Mineral Waste Recycling Plant Planning Permission · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-epsom-mineral-waste-recycling-plant-planning-permission)

Please sign the petition and share it with friends, families and colleagues!

## Nuisance Caused by Silica Dust (RCS)

Residents have advised of significant dust following the recent fine weather and we have been sent the following two pictures:-



Respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and wood dust are likely emitted from the operations at the Chalk Pit given the waste being recycled. They are listed by the HSE alongside asbestos as three of the five dusts where they issue specific guidance. They are not the type of dusts we want to be inhaling!

Dust is identified within the planning documents as an issue as follows:

**Harm:** Harm to human Health

**Significance:** Moderate

**Magnitude:** Medium

### How can RCS harm your health?

By breathing in RCS, you could develop the following lung diseases:

**Silicosis**

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**

**Lung cancer.**

Given this risk the applicant has, in relation to their site, proposed that the materials recycling should be subject to a number of measures to reduce the risk including carrying out recycling in a building and misting.

These measures are **not in place** as we write which has likely resulted in an increase in the dust we see. We have no idea what levels of invisible respirable dust are in the air and what impact this is having on our health – the consequences will likely not be seen for many years. A number of doctors have expressed similar concerns.

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP is working tirelessly to stop the nuisance as are our County and Ward Councillors both in Epsom and Ewell and Reigate and Banstead. The cross party working has been quite something.

The applicant suggests that the dust will affect receptors (which is what we and our children have become) within 1km of the site. On line research suggests that respirable dust with an average particle size will be much more widely dispersed and we are concerned that the invisible respirable dust will affect the area within 7km of the site even in winds of 10kmph! (source [Dust Particulant Distance Travel and Impacts on Adj Properties, incl Resp & Allergic Immune Responses.pdf \(citicite.com\)](#))

Our health cannot be looked at retrospectively.

**If you are affected by Noise or Dust please call or email the Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60**  
**[Incident\\_Communication\\_Service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Incident_Communication_Service@environment-agency.gov.uk)**