

Micheldever Action Group (MAG) has strongly objected to a planning application by Clean Power Properties Ltd to build what it calls an 'Energy Recovery Centre' above the railway sidings at Micheldever Station.

In its hard-hitting representation MAG urges Hampshire County Council (HCC) to reject the application for a plant capable of processing more than 150,000 tonnes of commercial, industrial and organic waste a year, because: :

- the location, in the heart of Hampshire's downland, is wholly inappropriate
- Hampshire's existing facilities for handling commercial and industrial waste are operating below capacity
- contrary to HCC policy, the site is not close to any declared sources of waste
- the site is greenfield and has never conformed to the 'brownfield' or 'post-industrial' designations used in the application
- the nearest dwelling is only 25 metres from the site boundary and at least 350 people live within 750 metres
- the site is a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
- the proposed technology has experienced serious problems elsewhere and has yet to be fully proven in the UK
- crops on surrounding farmland could be polluted by combustion emissions
- over 100 daily HGV movements would be highly damaging to the local environment
- the plant's commercial viability depends on state-subsidised, time-limited energy feed-in tariffs

MAG chairman Adrian Bates says: "As landfill fast becomes an unacceptable option, the handling of waste is now a serious and profitable business, which is why a big financial company is muscling in with similar projects right across Britain, Micheldever being the first. Clean Power hopes to make use of redundant Network Rail land, which is completely wrong for a power station in the middle of a small village surrounded by beautiful countryside".

The next official step is likely to be MAG was formed following a Parish Assembly held by Micheldever Parish Council last April at which residents unanimously opposed Clean Power's initial proposal. On 20 October 2012, over 100 concerned local residents attended an open meeting at Micheldever Station's Warren Hall and, by a show of hands, again declared their unanimous opposition to the development.