

Campaigners lose fight against sewage works

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans for an unpopular sewage works in Peacehaven lost their battle in the High Court.

They were seeking a judicial review of Southern Water's £300m scheme for Lower Hodern Farm.

But they pledged to act as a watchdog to ensure the utility company controlled odours from the plant.

Chairman of Peacehaven Residents Opposed to Urban Development (PROUD) John Hodgson said: 'PROUD won't be finished because there are an enormous number of conditions attached to the planning application.

'We are going to make sure that Southern Water adhere to them.

'If we have got to have this monstrosity, it's going to be the very best quality that they can produce.'

PROUD were at the High Court in London to ask for a judicial review of the scheme.

But after hours of legal debate it was turned down on Wednesday, April 29.

The group did have an option to appeal against this decision but said it could not raise the money to cover the costs if they lost.

Mr Hodgson added: 'We had taken it as far as we could.

'The only course we have now is to take it to the court of appeal but we just haven't got the funds to do that.

'The advice to us now is that we have reached the end of the road.'

Labour MP for Peacehaven Des Turner and Labour parliamentary candidate for Peacehaven, Simon Burgess, were also at the hearing.

Mr Burgess said: 'They can be sure the community will be watching and smelling carefully.

'The chair of PROUD John Hodgson has been an inspiration and deserves the freedom of Peacehaven.'

A Southern Water spokesperson said: 'We note the decision and remain committed to working with the local community on this project and bringing unprecedented environmental improvements to this important stretch of the south coast.'

A spokesperson for the county council added: 'We are pleased that the county council's procedures and decision have been vindicated by the court.'

The next PROUD meeting will take place on Friday May 15, at the Meridian Centre in Meridian Way from 7.30pm.