

## Stop Contract as 'twin' incinerator explodes

For bigwigs the timing could not have been worse.

As they champion the merits of an all-singing, all dancing incinerator for St.Dennis, an identical model up country has exploded - causing up to £10 million worth of damage and potential harm to the environment.

And in a further blow, councillors from St.Dennis and Roche saw the devastation at first hand - having accepted an offer from waste company SITA to inspect the plant.

The blast destroyed the inside of the incinerator - meaning tax payers had to fork out thousands of pounds to landfill their rubbish.

And SITA faces hefty fines after pollution went into the air and possibly a canal.

Now John Wood, councillor for Restormel Roche Rock ward, and Fred Greenslase, Restormel councillor for St.Dennis Rock ward, say plans to sign a £500 million waste contract, with an identical incinerator at it's heart, should be scrapped.

Cllr. Wood said : "For the people of Cornwall, this accident could not have happened at a better time. It proves these incinerators are not safe - that is all there is to it.

"It gives Cornwall County Council the opportunity and justification for reviewing it's stance"

The explosion happened at the five year old Kirklees plant in Huddersfield, when an engineer overrode it's computer system. A water pipe burst, which put out the incinerator fire. The engineer pored in 28,000 litres of diesel to re-start it, which turned the water into steam. The machine buckled and exploded.

Putrefying waste will have to be left for NINE WEEKS while the situation is being sorted out.

Cllr. Wood added : "We thank SITA publicly for giving us this most unexpected opportunity to witness for ourselves just what happens when a modern EFW goes wrong."

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The Voice tries to take the heat out of the incinerator debate and asks the question of our county newspaper

"Since you weren't there, how could these smiling faces of protest possibly be construed as 'violent' ?



Open letter from St.Dennis Incinerator group

**"Disgusted at the public being lied about, but facts ignored"**

STIG were dismayed on reading the Cornish Guardian last Wednesday that there must have been another protest in the village, that we were obviously not invited to nor would have approved of. The one that we attended was peaceful, if rather cross. The one that the paper described sounded downright violent.

It is interesting that Cornwall County Council have chosen to see the exercise of the democratic right to protest in such a threatening light. Even more illuminating is that as the only disinterested party that evening, the police force described the protest as peaceful, although with one minor traffic collision.

On this, STIG would like to make three points.

Firstly; that if the County Council cannot be trusted to tell the truth about a demonstration, then how can we trust their word in other matters ?

Secondly; surely "public consultation" should not be carried out behind locked doors with invited persons only. The threats to end even this highly limited consultation can only be evidence that the Council has tired of even this very limited part of the democratic process.

Thirdly, the "minor traffic collision" was instigated by Sita UK boss Peter Wright, when he drove into protestors.

STIG is disgusted that lies about members of the public can be printed in the newspapers, but factual (if distasteful) events that actually happened are ignored.

On this we can only conclude that the lives and health of local people are valued less than the reputations of the bosses of big businesses.

## **Cornish Guardian**

### **His research links incineration with higher infant mortality**

Wednesday 29th. November 2006

#### **A letter from Michael Ryan, Shrewsbury**

Residents of Cornwall who think incineration is safe should look at the different average infant mortality rates in electoral wards that are upwind and downwind of Sita's Kirklees incinerator which exploded in September.

The "upwind" wards of Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South, Crosland Moor and Netherton, Golcar, Greenhead and Denby Dale had a total of 3,715 live births recorded in the three year 2003-5 and 13 infant deaths during the same period, giving an infant mortality rate of 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. The "downwind" wards of Dewsbury (East, West and South), Batley (East and West), Birstall and Birkenshaw, and Mirfield had a total 5,560 live births and 55 infant deaths during the same three year period, giving an infant mortality rate of 9.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Sita also operates Edmonton Incinerator (North London) which adversely affects at least three London Boroughs. Chingford Green ward (Waltham Forest) had an infant mortality rate of 17.1 per 1,000 and was the highest in that borough during 2003-5. Ponders End ward (Enfield) is adjacent to Chingford Green and had the highest infant mortality rate in that borough at 12.5 per 1,000. Northumberland Park ward (Haringey) is the closest ward in that borough to Edmonton incinerator and also had the highest infant mortality rate in that borough at 15.6 per 1,000.

More information on incinerators can be found at [www.ukhr.org](http://www.ukhr.org).

I've examined infant mortality rates around 15 incinerators, two power stations, two oil refineries, one cement works and a foundry and found the same pattern in every case, i.e. higher infant mortality rates in the downwind wards compared to upwind.

#### **S.T.I.G. Footnote :-**

Michael Ryan, Chartered Civil Engineer became interested in health issues after realising that the deaths of two of his children could have been caused by emissions from nearby Shrewsbury Hospital incinerator.

# Western Morning News

## VILLAGE NAMED AS SITE FOR £80M INCINERATOR

11:00 - 21 July 2006

The site for a multi-million pound incinerator in Cornwall has been revealed, sparking fury among protesters. After months of intense speculation, council bosses yesterday named the village of St Dennis in Mid-Cornwall as the location for the £80 million waste plant.

On Tuesday, a contract was signed between Cornwall County Council and French company Sita, which will be running the plant. Councillors were split 35 to 28 in favour of the scheme, with four abstentions.

Planning permission for the waste plant at Rostowrack Farm, St Dennis, which will provide around 70 new jobs, has yet to be granted.

Villagers are backing the call from local politicians for a public inquiry.

Although Rostowrack Farm is a greenfield site it can be built on under the Cornwall Minerals Plan 1988 as a site for the development of plant ancillary to the china clay industry.

Protesters last night expressed their dismay over the decision which will see the plant constructed just 400 yards from the village of 2,000.

Lynne Simms, of the St Dennis Against Incineration Group (Stig) last night vowed to fight the proposals.

She said: "We are beyond furious about these plans to ruin our village. I always feared it would be St Dennis. The whole village is angry - we will not take this lying down.

"Before the decision we had between 40-50 members. Now that our fears have turned into reality more people will join us. I've already spoken to around 20 and they are set to join us.

"I think a lot of people thought if they kept quiet nothing would happen to us - but now we have something tangible to fight against the council will see they have made a huge mistake in taking us on."

The group argues that lorries taking rubbish to the incinerator will clog up the roads around the village and will produce harmful emissions damaging the environment.

Jackie Salmon, secretary of Stig, said: "All I can say is I'm very sad. When you think of all the derelict land there is in Cornwall and all the brownfield

sites, that they should choose a piece of land which is farming agricultural land at the moment and which is only 400 yards from our village, which has got over 2,000 people in it, is beyond belief."

Grandmother-of-two Sally Lobb, 50, was born in the village and has lived there all her life. She said: "My two grandchildren live a stone's throw from where the council wants this incinerator. I'm terrified about the emissions and what it will do to the children's health. There is already a lot of asthma around here - it's a disgrace the way we are being treated. But we will fight this."

Political groups in Cornwall have also expressed outrage.

But leader of Cornwall County Council, David Whalley, defended the decision. He said: "I sympathise with the people of St Dennis but of course there are some advantages. It will bring new jobs into the area and it will provide some additional employment."

## **Western Morning News**

### **£80M INCINERATOR DEAL STOKES VILLAGE ANGER**

11:00 - 19 July 2006

A multi-million-pound contract to build a controversial incinerator in Cornwall has been signed.

The preferred bidder for the £80 million operation, French-owned SITA, will carry out the work.

Yesterday, after a two-and-a-half-hour private debate, Cornwall county councillors voted by 35 to 28 for signing the contract. There were four absentions.

The announcement as to where in Cornwall the incinerator will be built has yet to be revealed and has sparked fury from protesters, who turned up outside County Hall in Truro, with banners.

It is understood the four possible sites initially considered have now been whittled down to just two, although the council is remaining non-committal.

Coun Jim Currie, leader of the Conservative group, walked out of the debate after his amendment was rejected.

Mr Currie was pushing for the contract to be brought back in front of the council in the event of any changes.

"I'm really disappointed," he said. "We have effectively signed away total control to a private, profit-making organisation.

"SITA will simply do as it pleases now and there won't be a thing the council

can do about it - they can rewrite the contract if they so wish. We have been far too rash in this decision and should have taken more time."

Coun Andrew Waters, who voted against signing the contract, said: "I'm not against incineration but there are far too many grey areas in this contract - it needs to be looked at again."

A new company, SITA Cornwall (Ltd), is being formed to manage the contract which will last for 30 years, although the project has yet to obtain planning permission. There has been intense speculation that SITA will site the incinerator near the village of St Dennis.

Last night Lynne Simms, spokesman for St Dennis Anti-Incinerator Group (Stig) vowed to continue the fight to stop the development. She said: "Naturally we're disappointed the vote was passed - but to be truthful it's what we expected. Now that the contract is to be signed the real fight starts."

The group, which has 40-50 members, argues that lorries taking rubbish to the incinerator will clog up the roads around the village and will produce harmful emissions. Mrs Simms added: "Up until now it's been 'well it might not happen' but now the public can see the situation is serious, we expect more support."

But those who back the signing of the contract said it was time to press ahead with addressing Cornwall's waste management problem.

Adam Paynter, the executive member for environment and heritage, said: "Until now, because of commercial confidentiality, we have not been able to provide members with details of the excellent deal that has been negotiated for Cornwall. I am sure that other authorities - which have got less for a higher price - will be envious."

Currently Cornwall landfills around 72 per cent of its waste, and recycles or composts 28 per cent. In future, just 20 per cent of the county's waste will go to landfill under the terms of the new contract, which includes a requirement for the contractor to recycle all separated waste collected by the district and borough councils. Leader of the council, David Whalley, said: "We are confident that the contract with SITA provides a value-for-money, environmentally sound solution to Cornwall's long-term waste management needs."

Earlier this week Cornwall's five Liberal Democrat MPs demanded a public inquiry into the construction of the site.

The five MPs say Government pressure for a solution to Cornwall's waste, which is being hit by huge costs from the landfill tax, should not lead to a "rushed" solution taken by councillors alone.

Dan Rogerson, MP for North Cornwall, said: "With the landfill tax threatening to impose a huge burden on council tax payers, and tipping land running out

in Cornwall anyway, the need for new waste solutions is clear. But Liberal Democrat policy is that an incinerator is the last resort after waste minimisation, recycling, and examining all alternative technology. A full public inquiry would allow every aspect of this proposal to be scrutinised and challenged in public, and independently resolved."

Andrew George, MP for St Ives, said: "While we appreciate a public inquiry is likely to be costly, it is important we have an opportunity to both test many of the assumptions behind this particular solution and to test the resolve of the Government to favour the type of energy from waste technology proposed. Whatever the outcome, it is critical the contract seeks to maximise recycling and efforts to protect the Cornish environment."