

Minutes of the first open meeting of the proposed Rainworth Against
INcineration
held at Rainworth Village Hall, 18th October 2006

The meeting commenced at 7 p.m. with an encouraging number of local residents present. The meeting was opened by Mr. Alan Tift, councillor for Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) who suggested that a committee be elected to co-ordinate whatever route local residents intended to take. The meeting was advised that when Veolia were offered the contract, two specific stipulations were made:

1. The site should be in either the Mansfield or Ashfield areas
2. The site must be positioned away from housing

Immediate concerns had been that the proposed former Rufford Colliery site does not fulfil either of the above two criteria, Also questions were raised regarding pollutants to the environment and also possible risk of fire. Mr. Shlomo Downen, who was heavily involved in the successful Mansfield Against INcineration scheme offered an insight into the areas that may need to be addressed in order to formulate a successful campaign against the proposal. Mr. Tift suggested that everyone should consider, before the next meeting, how they may be able to help the campaign.

During the course of the meeting, a mention of the Eastcroft incinerator in Nottingham gave indication that there was a possibility of it closing in five years' time. The main concern is that the Rainworth incinerator would then accept all of the waste from here too.

Questions raised:

If the amount of disposable waste were to drop because of more successful recycling, would waste be moved in from further afield to keep the new incinerator working at full capacity?

What would be the impact of increased lorry traffic travelling to the site?

Impact on the local environment?

Impact on the value of residential property in the area?

Impact on the health of local residents?

Rainworth Parish Council has offered funds to facilitate meetings, but it was made clear that the funding would be made available to groups both supporting and opposing the proposal.

Veolia have asked for a first meeting to discuss with the local community the way forward. The meeting was advised that this open meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th October at 4.30 p.m. at the Village Hall. This meeting has not been widely published, but a number of those present agreed to rally at the hall before the start of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m. and, in closing, Mr. Tift offered to chair the meetings for the immediate future until a chairperson is elected. It was agreed that all future meetings should adopt a formal procedure.

The next meeting of the proposed R.A.I.N. will take place at Rainworth Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November, at 7 p.m.