

P.A.IN – People Against Incineration

Minutes of the meeting held at Rainworth Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday 5th March 2007

CHAIR – Bernard Thompson, VICE-CHAIR – Trevor Stevens

APOLOGIES

John Wood, Paul Frost, Sue Cullen

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (5.2.07)

Agreed and signed as a true record

MATTERS ARISING

None from minutes.

John Burrows has offered his resignation as co-ordinator of the distribution team. Unfortunately pressure of work has forced the issue, but both he and his wife have pledged to continue to help as much as they can. Thanks were offered for the important work that he has done so far in co-ordinating the distribution of the first batch of leaflets throughout the village.

Joyce Kitts has volunteered to take over his role. More assistance would be most welcome.

At this point the meeting agenda was changed as Alan and Linda Tift were leaving the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Alan thanked all those who had helped at the Table Top Sale in any way, commenting on the enthusiasm that was evident.

He reported that there were rumours that we currently have 40 members. Actually we have 75 paid-up members and in excess of 140 who have shown significant interest in joining. Membership cards have now been dispersed. We also have members joining from other areas, the furthest afield being in Hull.

Alan reported that Mr. Andy Statham, Head of Environmental Dept. at Newark & Sherwood D.C. would possibly attend a future P.A.IN meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

Linda echoed the thanks to all volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning with real team spirit on 4th March to help with the Table Top Sale. £280 was raised (details included).

Bank balance currently stands at £1795.38 (details given).

LEGAL & RESEARCH TEAM

Guest speaker Mr. Mike Evans, Head of Newark & Sherwood D.C. Planning Services addressed the meeting. His main objective was to explain the process of a planning application, to offer everyone a greater understanding of the steps which can be involved.

- All applications are referred by statute to the Parish Council
- Details will then be reported to the Planning Committee at the District Council
- The difference with this situation being a Waste matter is that it comes under a special regulation of parliament. It is deemed a County matter and Nottinghamshire County Council will make the final decision. The Parish and District councils are the consultees.
- The consultation process will include a survey by the proposing company on the environmental impact – this is submitted to the County Council – which is then forwarded to the District Council and beyond to complete the consultation process.
- All groups and bodies will have a chance to have their opinions heard and the County Council will be notified. As a result, any statutory consultation period may be exceeded.
- In this case, a key document will be the Newark & Sherwood Local Plan. The company (Veolia) must consult this plan and be aware that this area is not normally designated for planning permission.
- In an approval in 1996 for a coal stocking site in this area, the County Council required the site to be restored to heathland.
- Because this application constitutes a departure from the Local Plan, the County Council MUST refer to the Government Office in the East Midlands with reference to any planning approval, following which there may be two options:
 1. Leave the decision to the County Council
 2. "Call-in" and submit the case to an independent assessor to consider the local and regional picture.
- It is likely that the application will result in a public enquiry – resulting in an appeal to the Secretary of State.

- The hearing should be held locally and the final decision will be binding unless the inspector makes any error. There is a possibility that up to two years could lapse before the final decision is made.

Questions followed:

Shlomo thanked Mr. Evans for his explanation. He asked:

- how the scope of the screening process for the environmental assessment would be prepared
- The (incinerator) model does not take into account the impact of no wind
- When emissions leave the stack, smog travels with the wind. This has an acid like effect and a secondary impact, yet only the primary impact may be considered
- Not only areas of nature are of concern, but also the aquifer in this area is important. It seems that the aquifer may however not be considered, since only landfill has been the consideration and not the impact of waste incineration.

M.E. The County Council will ensure that through consultation the content is complete. He would expect the company to consider all elements and the court process can ensure that these are included, with reference to the Environmental Impact Statement.

Bernard

1. The nature of the land in this area holds air over the bogs and this must be considered.
2. Will the recent EU directive be applicable to this application?

M.E. All directives must be addressed. The company must comply.

3. Is there a conflict of interest between the County Council making the application AND possibly approving it?

M.E. If there is any doubt, this will be addressed by the assessor. A point to consider also is that there are changes being made for planning applications. For very large schemes, the newly formed Planning Commission would consider the issues.

Trevor Can we (P.A.IN) as a group be made a statutory consultee?

M.E. Legally, no. However, set up as a proper established body, we would be required to be notified.

Trevor Monitoring of smoke from stacks is not being carried out – it is only the filtered smoke INSIDE the stack. If we were a statutory body, could we make these points heard?

M.E. The County Council should provide any information being requested.

Floor There is still concern that a conflict of interests will affect the decision.

M.E. In that case, the decision would be made to “Call-in” an independent assessor.

P. Cullen – Rainworth P.C.

1. Will Severn Trent as the water supplier be called in as a consultee?

M.E. Possibly not.

2. Will Mansfield District Council be asked to be a consultee?

M.E. He was certain that they would be consulted.

Shlomo

1. The projected cost of the planning application and accompanying documents could be in the region of £1000 (Veolia was asking for £380 for the Crown Farm sorting facility application and accompanying documents!). This would be beyond the reach of our group to have access to a printed copy.

M.E. He would expect Veolia to provide a copy, but a transcript would also be available on the Internet.

2. We (P.A.IN) feel that we should be connected as stakeholders, when it is our waste that is proposed to be processed

M.E. We should attempt to focus our minds on the one issue. These questions are outside of the planning system and are possibly more appropriate to direct to the district council. There should be a clear distinction between the planning application and local authority procedures.

Floor Why is land that has been decommissioned from other redundant incinerators not being proposed for use instead of land so close to housing?

M.E. The Company (Veolia) is entitled to make the application.

Floor What is a binding decision?

M.E. An Inspector is appointed by the Secretary of State to make the final decision or to refer back to the minister. Binding makes the decision independent of the local authorities.

At this point, all questions were completed and the Chair thanked Mr. Evans for his input.

DISTRIBUTION TEAM

All areas of the village have now received the first leaflet.

LEGAL & RESEARCH TEAM

The team met at the Tifts on 3rd March and then travelled to Nottingham for the regional meeting organised by FoE.

- We will be seeking help from an expert specific to incineration campaigns.
- A planned meeting with Paddy Tipping will hopefully strengthen our case if we are unable to obtain statutory status.
- A great deal of work is done between meetings. More volunteers/researchers would be most welcome.
- A delegation from P.A.IN will be travelling to London on 24th March to attend the National Anti-Incineration Network meeting. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along.
- We are currently targeting Center Parcs for their response to our campaign.
- Discussions have taken place to obtain more guest speakers for P.A.IN meetings to balance the speakers at the Liaison Group meetings. It is proposed to organise public meetings, to give anyone the opportunity of hearing speakers delivering words from both angles, without being members of any group. A statement has been compiled to be read at the next Liaison Group meeting, indicating our feelings and our proposals for forward movement together.

A show of hands at this point indicated that there was large agreement to negotiate with the Liaison Group through 3KQ.

A. Tift argued that any presence might be interpreted as endorsing the policies of Veolia. Shlomo replied that a public meeting did not endorse, but merely showed an inclination to listen. Mr. B. Fairhurst indicated that he was not prepared to negotiate. L. Tift queried if he had actually made his resignation to the Liaison Group in writing, which he stated that he would confirm.

PUBLICITY

Trevor reported that there have been in excess of 3000 hits on the website.

He thanked Linda for her organisation of the Table Top Sale.

Car stickers are now available at £2 + postage if ordered on-line.

Bin stickers – orders are being taken for the first delivery

Radio Nottingham Action Line is running a programme - Groundswell at Joseph Whitaker Sports College on Wed. 21st March at 7.30 p.m. (arrival at 7 p.m., book your place in advance by phoning 0115 9348484).

Questions will be directed to a panel of experts, including Allen Tift (and questions need to be submitted in writing to the BBC on the evening before recording starts)..

RAFFLE - £46

REFRESHMENTS - £22.53

NEW MEMBERSHIPS - £28

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Linda made a proposal for a newsletter. What are peoples' feelings? Starting point could be "Diary of a dustbin". Contributions would be welcomed.

Steve Barnes has been in touch with the TV programme Country File whose organisers are interested in featuring our campaign.

Paul and Sue Cullen have written to Alan Meale M.P. inviting him to our meetings. He replied that he would be more than pleased to attend, but only if our meetings are held on a Friday as he is normally out of Mansfield.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7pm Monday 2nd April, Rainworth Village Hall.

Signed as a true record

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Position