

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF P.A.IN
HELD AT RAINWORTH VILLAGE HALL, 10TH JANUARY 2007

The meeting opened at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman B. Thompson welcomed members from MAIN (Mansfield Against Incineration) who have joined the group and whose numbers and wealth of expertise and knowledge are valued and much needed.

APOLOGIES

Lynn Woodhead
Mr. & Mrs. Lowe, Ravenshead
L. Downen, P.A.IN
M. Bull, M.A.IN
H. Scrimshaw

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2006 were read.
Proposed L. Tift, Seconded R. Johnson

Matters Arising

Shlomo Downen (Legal & Research) introduced himself as a previous member of M.A.IN.

Living Legend Lottery Bid – There is controversy over possible conflicts of interest regarding the application to the Lottery Fund and the proposed waste processing unit to be built within this area. Shlomo (as he had promised) read out a letter from Austin Brady of the Forestry Commission and Chair of the Partnership Management Board of Living Legend. The author stated that the Forestry Commission cannot comment separately on the issue and neither could the Partnership Board comment on any planning matters. Our (P.A.IN) voiced comments have been passed to Notts. County Council for consideration. The bid itself must show that, to achieve any success, a wide consultation has been made. The Forestry Commission are long term tenants of the County Council on land adjoining the proposed incinerator site. Is it not therefore of wide interest that they be contacted for comment?

Question – The Wildlife Trust is aware of the proposals and has shown concern and interest.
Shlomo – Veolia will be expected to ensure that a natural habitat for certain protected species is either protected or provided.

Constitution – Shlomo presented the proposed constitution for adoption from M.A.IN and explained the Committee make-up. He encouraged members to read the details and report back if any changes were felt to be required. He encouraged everyone to contribute at these meetings for the mutual benefit of all. A number of suggested Ground Rules are proposed for observation at meetings.

Proposed to endorse the Constitution – J. Burrows. Seconded A. Tift.
Proposal to adopt the Ground Rules – J. Burrows. Seconded L. Tift.

Suggestion to put up a board at each meeting displaying the rules.

Comment – Mr. Fairhurst, Chair of Heathlands School board of Governors – It is important for those interested in the incinerator proposal to gain a balanced view by attending meetings of both the Veolia Liaison Group and P.A.IN.

Membership fees - The following fees were discussed and endorsed

- Single £3
- Joint £5
- Lifetime/Corporate sponsorship £50

Question – Is the lifetime membership too high?

Shlomo – It was found (in M.A.IN) that sympathetic businesses and/or organisations were happy to make a donation to the cause.

TREASURER AND FUNDRAISING

Linda Tift reported that the bank account is now open.

There are two bills to pay.

Membership payments can be made in the form of cash, cheque or by PayPal.

Nothing to report from the Fundraising team.

PUBLICITY

Trevor Stevens reported that the banner is now in place on private property on the road between Ravenshead and Blidworth.

The contact telephone number for the group is 0844 5861940.

Leaflets have been prepared for distribution.

Car stickers – still working on reducing the unit cost.

Waste bin stickers – Ongoing design and costing project.

Advertising carrier bags – Thanks to B. Thompson for the production of these items which will have considerable impact.

DISTRIBUTION

John Burrows thanked those who had produced the leaflets for house-to-house distribution.

Between 3500 and 4000 have been distributed in Rainworth so far. Completion will be within the next few weeks. Volunteers to join this group would be much welcomed.

Question – L. Tift. She has the P.A.IN contact telephone number at present and has received a number of calls from residents of Ravenshead, who are interested in learning more. Have we leafleted in this area yet?

Reply – T. Stevens. An advertisement has been placed in a local newsletter.

LEGAL & RESEARCH

A working meeting will be held at 249 Southwell Road East (Sue & Trevor Stevens) on 22nd January at 7.30 p.m. Main item for discussion will be the formulation of the planning objections. S. Downen urged input from all directions. He asked that anyone attending the Veolia Liaison Group meeting would report back.

Proposer for all group reports – R. Johnson. Seconded D. Jackson.

MATTERS ARISING

A number of visitors spoke from the floor. There was general encouragement to all to attend the Veolia meetings, gain information and ask questions. It was pointed out from the Chair that at the first meeting that Veolia held, a small protest group from P.A.IN were in attendance outside the

meeting place. An invitation into the meeting was given, but when permission was sought, no-one came back to follow up the invitation.

S. Downen – Veolia had lied with regard to their intentions for the waste processing site at Forest Town, so it was difficult to trust anything that they may state in the future.

A. Tift – He had been invited by Rowena Harris, the co-ordinator of the Veolia Liaison Group, to join them. He refused on the grounds that he felt it a worthless exercise since the group has no powers.

C. Canning - He has worked for companies both in favour of and against waste disposal units. He pointed out that organisations can manipulate numbers to their own advantage.

M. Jefferies, Councillor, Newark & Sherwood – He attends the meetings of both Veolia and P.A.IN. As yet, he has heard no valid information from either side. The Environment Agency state that there is no danger from the emissions.

Response – The councillor should be supporting the local electorate and not the County Council and Veolia.

L. Tift – There are no conclusive results showing that emissions are perfectly safe. Also, with regard to the potential transportation of waste, barges have not even been considered, with a view to the safety aspect and to reducing the number of vehicles carrying waste on the roads.

P.A.IN consider that the total impact on the environment is as important an issue as the incinerator itself.

Visitor – There must be a need to show figures detailing the adverse effects from incinerators.

Visitor – There are colliers still dying from the results of being subject to years of work in mining.

S. Downen – The proposal for the unit is not acceptable, even given the promises of cheap electricity which will be generated.

L. Tift – It is not necessary to continue with schemes which impact on health. A report in the Independent newspaper has shown that child mortality is rising in areas predominantly downwind of incinerators already in existence.

M. Jefferies – Research carried out before the Rainworth by-pass was built indicated that this was intended to relieve the village of commercial traffic. This suggests that Crown Farm was never intended to be the site for the incinerator. Veolia should not take the blame for the proposal, since it is the County Council who give the planning permission.

S. Downen – Historically, Veolia were mainly a water supply company. Their interest lies solely in making money and their intention to build the unit in Rainworth follows unsuccessful applications, firstly at Crown Farm, then at the Bentinck site at Kirkby in Ashfield.

J. Wood – The proposed site for the incinerator is adjacent to a site of Special Scientific Interest, this being Rainworth Heath. It comprises both wet and dry land, containing protected species.

Where is the sense in this proposal?

L. Tift – Notts. County Council have shown no respect for this potentially important area, but we can influence Veolia in that they have a social and community responsibility to the management of waste. We MUST continue to fight the plans for the incinerator.

Visitor – It is a known fact that certain local authorities are chipping waste bins to evaluate the amount of domestic waste and proposing to issue a levy for excessive amounts. If we recycle more, will our Council Tax be reduced?

M. Jefferies – At the present time, there is no (Newark & Sherwood) local authority policy or procedure for business waste recycling.

Visitor – Is the meeting aware that Sky TV is currently promoting Green Britain Week? Could we contact them and get a mention for our campaign?

J. Wood – Concern for leaching from unit into natural water deposits on the site.

Raffle and Refreshments

Raffle raised £50. Refreshments - £12.

Date of next meeting – 7 p.m. Monday 5th February, Rainworth Village Hall.

