

Press Release

June 2010

For Immediate Release

SAVI (Stop Aylesbury Vale Incineration) today warns of immediate threat of mass burn incineration in Bernwood Forest, Vale of Aylesbury

Bernwood Forest, Buckinghamshire.

The decision of Spanish owned WRG Ltd, for a mass burn incinerator to burn 300,000 tonnes of waste at Lower Greatmoor Farm Edgcott was robustly opposed in 2009 by a united body of twenty local parish and town councils, including Aston Abbots, Brill, Calvert Green, Charndon, Chearsley, Edgcott, Grendon Underwood, Kingswood, Oakley, Oving and Winslow.

Representatives of those councils were invited to a meeting hosted by SAVI at Waddesdon Manor Dairy on 26th May 2010 where they reaffirmed their commitment to oppose mass burn incineration in the beautiful Bernwood Forest of Aylesbury Vale, with the full support of local constituency MP and Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow.

Helen Howard, SAVI spokesperson, says "WRG should know they have an unwinnable fight on their hands as a result of their insistence to try to bulldoze planning permission through to build a mass burn incinerator, which is against everything we stand for – our families' health, clean air, the environment and the long term safety of the inhabitants – and which makes no economic sense for council tax payers in the Vale.

'Nationally, waste companies are battling, increasingly desperately, to grab rich long term pickings which would come in the wake of the development of a mass burn waste incineration plant. The fact that Spanish owned WRG, have now appointed PR spin doctors, "Green

Issues”, is the first step on what we anticipate to be a charm offensive to assure the local populace how they need not worry and it will be alright really.’

BUT IT IS ANYTHING BUT ALRIGHT

Scotland banned mass burn incineration plants like these, dressed up as Energy from Waste plants, in June 2009, unmasking them as ‘landfill in the sky’. There would no need for mass burn incineration when household waste levels are falling and the population is taking increasing steps to reduce rubbish further.

Many Councils have now improved recycling levels to 80% of all waste. Unfortunately Buckinghamshire County Council still has one of the worst records across the country for recycling. Instead of considering granting lucrative contracts to mass burn incineration operators, they should be investing in more recycling and tackling the production of waste at source. Surrey County Council has recently set a good example by deciding to drop its own, massively unpopular, mass burn incineration plans and is, instead, encouraging innovation on a smaller and more human scale, proximate to the generation of the waste.

SAVI’s remit is very clear - to “Stop Aylesbury Vale incineration”. WRG has now revealed its avidity to impose a massive mass burn incineration site within this historically beautiful and unspoilt area. The fact that the PR spin doctor “Green Issues” is trying to make this bitter pill taste sweeter is wholly rejected by SAVI.

THERE IS NOTHING GREEN ABOUT THESE ISSUES

The spin doctors have called for a first liaison meeting on 22nd June 2010 inviting a limited number of people to attend. SAVI is proposing sending two representatives from the legal team, Richard Howard and Spencer Wood, who will determinedly fight against the incinerator plans.

The fact the meeting has been called on a Tuesday, to avoid the Bucks Herald deadline and the fact that the planning application is due to go in at the start of the summer holidays, smacks of "spin doctoring" at its worst.

SAVI and the local parish councils will continue the fight to ensure that our environment and health are protected for future generations.

Editors' Notes

WRG Ltd, a Spanish owned company, has a poor record of environmental breaches and has been prosecuted on many occasions by the Environmental Agency including a case at Aylesbury Magistrates Court listed for a 4 day Hearing in November 2009, settled by WRG who admitted guilt with a fine imposed.

Bucks County Council made a preferred bidder procurement selection behind closed doors on 14th September 2009 at County Hall, Aylesbury between WRG Ltd and Covanta for a separate site at Rookery Pit, Bedfordshire. BCC refused to allow any public submissions at that meeting and excluded the public from parts of the meeting for 'commercially sensitive' papers, making a mockery of so-called democracy.

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For more information see our website www.besavi.co.uk