

SAVI
The Open Space
Edgcott Road
Doddershall
Buckinghamshire
HP22 4DE

Press Release

29 November 2010

For Immediate Release

SAVI slams BCC decision on mass burn incineration

Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Campaign group SAVI (STOP Aylesbury Vale Incineration) slammed today's Bucks County Council (BCC) procurement decision to back Spanish-owned WRG Ltd as its preferred bidder to build an expected 300,000 waste incinerator at Lower Greatmoor farm, Edgcott.

Helen Howard, SAVI spokesperson said, 'BCC should be ashamed of this decision which will cost ratepayers millions, poison our precious environment and adversely affect lives for generations to come.

'The Council has taken this decision behind closed doors and excluded people from any proper debate on the options available and the financial consequences. The cloak of secrecy surrounding the financial bids and implications is wholly wrong.

'The left hand of BCC also does not seem to know what the right hand is doing. On the one hand BCC allocates £1million to fight HS2 yet on the other hand it makes a procurement decision which will feed the very monster it says it wants to fight!

Councillor Tett in his letter immediately following the decision states:
[WRG] *"are also considering how the heat generated from the plant may be used."*

WRG and HS2 have already admitted they have been in preliminary talks about WRG supplying power to feed the HS2 monster and the inevitable developments which would accompany it – including a 1km long and ½ km wide 'maintenance depot' at Calvert.

BCC has also failed to take account of the growing evidence of the dangers – health, environmental and economic – in these proposals and failed to listen not only to Vale residents but also the rising tide of opposition across the nation to incineration. Incineration takes the focus off recycling and instead into mass burn which generates millions of pounds of profits for the waste company but damages our precious heritage.

'Over 26,000 people have said No! to this mass burn incineration in the ancient Bernwood Forest – but BCC still blunder blindly onwards. As well as the paper petitions from adults and children, twenty two parish and town councils passed resolutions and policies opposing mass burn incineration in the Vale. SAVI's e-petition had more support than all other environmental petitions on the 10 Downing Street website apart from the campaign against the third runway at Heathrow. John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons and Constituency MP for Buckingham and Winslow fully backs SAVI's campaign.

'This is just the beginning of what will be a grimly determined and hard fought battle. We will never give in until we see off this lunatic decision'.

SAVI will now focus on the expected planning application from WRG, to oppose which it has gathered environmental, and other expert reports.

Editors' Notes

WRG, a Spanish owned company, has a poor record of environmental breaches and has been prosecuted on many occasions by the Environmental Agency.

Bucks County Council Cabinet made a preferred bidder procurement selection behind closed doors on 29th November 2010 at County Hall, Aylesbury between WRG Ltd and Covanta for a separate site at Rookery Pit, Bedfordshire. BCC excluded the public from parts of the meeting for 'commercially sensitive' papers.

AVDC in particular has a very poor record on recycling – see table attached from DEFRA figures released earlier this month

Contacts: SAVI spokesperson Helen Howard on 07525 371288 (mob) or 01296 771222 (work) or Maggi Campbell Keith on 01296 770512

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

The recent waste statistics published by Defra on 4 November 2010 demonstrate the increasing proportion of waste now being recycled – except in Aylesbury Vale. The proportion of waste recycled nationally is 40% - AVDC can only manage a disgraceful 22%.

District Council	Tonnes Collected (p.a.)	Tonnes Recycled (p.a.)	Proportion recycled %
Aylesbury Vale DC	56191	12494	22
Chiltern DC	32862	17532	47
Wycombe DC	64632	27156	42
South Bucks DC	23785	7891	33
TOTAL	177470	65073	37
NATIONAL			40