

North Yorkshire County Council

'must not decide incinerator application'

Residents want independent planning inquiry

Residents of North Yorkshire have demanded that a planning application for a waste incinerator at Allerton Park submitted (today/yesterday) should be determined at a public inquiry.

The £1.4bn project is a 25 year contract to dispose of all of North Yorkshire's household waste.

The project is of major regional significance on grounds of finance and environmental impact.

Mr Antony Long, chair of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council, said: "North Yorkshire County Council have from the start referred to this as a partnership arrangement. They are effectively a co-applicant in the planning application. They cannot be allowed to determine the issue."

"The huge financial cost and environmental impact have generated lots of public opposition. This means that the plan has to be debated in public where the facts can be discussed openly and in full."

"We're not opposed to waste being managed at Allerton and never have been. What we are fighting against is a scheme that is a colossal waste of money and which is bad for North Yorkshire's environment. NYCC has ignored much better solutions. Just building a massive incinerator to burn waste is Stone Age technology. This is the wrong technology in the wrong location" he said.

Local parish councils, residents groups and other campaigners are now urging everyone concerned by this proposal to write to their MPs and the Secretary of State for the Environment demanding that the plan be called in and determined at an independent public inquiry.

Mr Steve Wright, chairman of North Yorkshire Waste Action Group (NYWAG) added: "We oppose the Allerton application because it is in conflict with both North Yorkshire and Harrogate Borough Council's planning policies. They want to build this incinerator in the open countryside, miles from anyone who could use the heat generated by burning the waste. Trucking waste from all corners of North Yorkshire to Allerton will mean an extra 50,000 lorries on local roads – it is plain madness".

Mr Jon West, a former member of the now disbanded Community Liaison Group set up by Amey Cespa, the Spanish-owned company that has submitted the planning application, has already condemned the lack of public involvement in the process a 'sham'. He said: "AmeyCespa took no notice of what we had to say and cynically used the CLG as a PR exercise to support their aims."

Mr Wright said: "Our MPs have said they will push ministers to get the proposal determined at a public inquiry. It is vitally important that everyone should write to their MP, sign the petition against the plan and support us with donations so we can fight this proposal."

Ends