

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 11 MAY 2021

Present: Councillors Fiona Warburton (Chair), Rob Breakwell, Rex Turner, Phil Hughes, Harriot Bates, Stephen Novick, Peter Davies and Sasha Hart.

31 members of the public and 1 member of the press were also in attendance.

1690 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Gill Corfield and David Corfield.

1691 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

None.

1692 Planning

Broad Energy

CCAJ introduced the joint extraordinary meeting. FW chaired the meeting, due to GC having declared an interest in the application. CCAJ explains how the public can make comments and respond to the application. The deadline for commenting on this application is the 24th May 2021. CCAJ encourages everyone to pass on the information to those who were unable to attend the meeting or do not have access to the internet.

The following points were some of the concerns that were raised by members of the public:

The potential health issues that could arise from living near an incinerator, especially as the site is in such close proximity to Buttington Trewern CP School.

The proposed incinerator will increase air pollution. The fumes from the incinerator will likely get trapped in the regular inversions we get in the area.

The proposed site sits very low down in Buttington Quarry, it will be sending a stream of pollution towards Middletown, which will be approximately the same height as the top of the incinerator chimney stack.

If a particular type of waste is burnt, the incinerator will have to be turned off and the trucks will still be arriving with no where for the waste to go.

There is already an increased anxiety/mental health worry over the proposed incinerator.

The unsuitability of the road over both the Cefn and Buttington bridge, which already sees a high number of traffic accidents.

The vast increase in traffic the proposed incinerator will likely cause and the effect on air quality.

There were also concerns and queries over the removal of the toxic ash from the incinerator, how will it be removed, disposed or stored? Powys also produces under 20k tonnes of non-recyclable waste and therefore a significant concern is that as there is insufficient waste to burn locally, waste will be shipped over long distances and that the incinerator hasn't been proposed on a regional 'needs' basis.

CCAJ has confirmed that the loss of property value is not a material planning consideration, however it was agreed that this is still a concern for the local community.

It was thought that an incinerator would likely undermine the need to recycle and that the proposed incinerators business model was already flawed, as supermarkets are cutting back on packaging and in 5/10 years there will be far less packaging.

The developers of the proposed incinerator have made claims about creating jobs, however the incinerator will create very few long-term jobs for the community.

Another very worrying concern was the inaccuracy in some of the development plans/statements, a local residents property has been recorded as being 180m in distance from the proposed incinerators' high ridge, however it is actually 57m in distance. The traffic assessment that has been carried out by the developers does not take into consideration the Cefn Bridge, which is already a dangerous bridge with multiple weekly accidents occurring.

As we live close to the Welsh border, our local area is often seen as the 'Gateway to Wales', therefore not only will the proposed incinerator have a visual impact on our local landscape, it will also have an impact on tourism in Wales. Visitors to the area and local residents alike enjoy the rural setting of the area and do not want to see it industrialised.

FW has agreed that we have heard a lot of comments opposing the proposed incinerator and ask if anyone has any points they would like to make in favour of the proposed incinerator, however there were none.

It was agreed that we have received an overwhelming response of opposition from our local Community, as well as a unanimous response of opposition from the meeting tonight and therefore it was agreed that TCC would strongly oppose this application.

Based on the comments we have heard at tonight meeting, it was agreed that we have 18 pretty compelling arguments against the proposed incinerator in Buttington. The safety of the site was also a concern, along with the possibility of rat/vermin infestations or the harm it may bring for the local wildlife and animals.

FW and AE will work together to draft a response to the consultation based on the comments we have received from the local community. The response will then be sent to all Councillors for approval before being submitted to the planning inspectorate.

ACTION: FW/AE

1693 Correspondence

Previous correspondence received regarding the proposed incinerator have all being objections emails/letters, however nothing new has since been received.

1794 Date of Next Meetings

18 May 2021 via MS Teams.