

## **DISC News – The Decision - June 29th 2010**

Dear Supporter

We now have the proposal from North Yorkshire County Council about the Waste PFI – **It's Allerton Park Quarry and it's Amey-Cespa**. The report is copied to you as an attachment to this letter.

This is our first response

**North Yorkshire County Councillors are being asked to “urgently reconsider” a controversial scheme for a multi-million pound waste incinerator – just hours after announcing it would go ahead.**

**DISC, the action group formed to fight the proposal say the announcement that the incinerator is to go ahead at Allerton Quarry represents “a massive failure in leadership” and is a decision “based on foundations of sand”.**

**David Andrews, the Chair of DISC, said: “this large scale long-term facility will bind the council into a technological and financial straightjacket and we are urging all county Councillors to vote against the PFI in their own interests. The alternative is massive long-term pressure on vital frontline resources for areas like school maintenance, care of the elderly, the NHS and flood alleviation.**

**“What makes us so adamant in our opposition is that all the available evidence points to the fact that this incinerator is not needed. Other options like increasing recycling and reuse need to be given far greater attention.**

**“We have said all along that this decision is arguably the most important decision the Councillors will make. It's certainly the one with the greatest impact on the lives of those who live and work in this region, and on generations to come, and sadly they have gone for an easy option that is quite simply the wrong decision.**

**“We believe they have to think again and we will do all in our power to ensure the pressure on them to do just that remains until they see sense.”**

We will get our full response to you as soon as possible. Please see the end of this letter for things you can do. Also look at [www.marton-cum-grafton.org](http://www.marton-cum-grafton.org) for some useful information

**Please note that this has nothing to do with Allerton Castle.** Dr Rolph of Allerton Castle vigorously opposes this proposal.

Most of this was confirmed by County Councillor John Watson at the public meeting at Marton cum Grafton last Friday. It will be a mix of incineration (it's called Energy from Waste or EfW to make it sound nicer), Mechanical Biological Treatment and Anaerobic Digestion and will process about 450,000 tons of which somewhere near 200,000 tons will be incinerated.

John Watson is Deputy Leader of North Yorkshire County Council and is the County Councillor for the area which includes Marton cum Grafton so he knows what's happening. Strangely he asked the 100 people at the meeting not to publicise the details – we know politics is a very strange affair but we're struggling to understand how you can ask 100 people to keep a secret. He also stated that he did not believe a full financial analysis had

been done as a result of changes in recycling rates, the financial climate and improved waste treatment technology.

The meeting was held so that local people and many local Parish Councils could exchange views on waste treatment with Andrew Jones MP for Harrogate. His constituency includes both Marton cum Grafton and the Allerton Park site.

Andrew Jones MP is against the present proposals and is concerned that not enough account has been taken of the increasing levels of recycling, the changing financial climate and the massive improvements in waste treatment technology. He has promised to support our cause with the Treasury and the Department of the Environment.

Full details of the meeting at Marton cum Grafton and some of the **things you can do** can be found on Marton cum Grafton's website [www.marton-cum-grafton.org](http://www.marton-cum-grafton.org). Go to the sections titled NYCC's incinerator plan and Opposing NYCC's Plan.

**Please have a good look at this site** – it includes a lot of the information we intended to bring you in this newsletter.

**This can still be stopped. It has a long way to run and your support is essential.**

**We'd welcome the support of the people from Dalton area.** This will still affect the quality of the air you breathe and the taxes you pay. You fought well last time and we hope you will help us now.

## **Recent activity that you need to know about**

**Decision Delayed** – The announcement was due to be made at the beginning of June. It would have told us who the contractor will be, the location and the method of dealing with the whole county's waste.

Just before the announcement, the new government put a hold on all Private Finance Initiatives – PFIs. Bearing in mind that this project will cost £65 million in the first year and over £1.25 billion over its 25 year lifetime, we thought this was a very sensible move in the present economic climate.

**Waste Conference** – A major waste conference was organised on May 18<sup>th</sup> by County Councillor John Savage (Ainsty Ward) at the prestigious Allerton Castle. This was a balanced conference giving arguments both for and against incineration. 125 people attended including many of the people who will be involved in making the final decision for NYCC.

It was further confirmation that incineration is unnecessary, unhealthy and expensive. You can see the keynote talk by Dr Paul Connett on Youtube. Please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeh4QzHhGyU> or search on Connett Allerton. There are 5 parts lasting about 50 minutes in total – skip the first couple of minutes. Dr Connett reinforces many of the points we've been making.

This news article tells you a lot more <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/localnews/Exclusive-Cameron-lobbied-to-halt.6341257.jp>.

**UKWIN** – UK without incineration – We've also been working with UKWIN and have built up a great deal of information against incineration. See <http://ukwin.org.uk/knowledge->

[bank/incineration](#). There is massive amount of information on this website about why we are fighting incineration.

## Why are we against incineration?

**1. Finance** – the financial implications for North Yorkshire and Great Britain are enormous. The project will use £65m in its first year and at least £1.25 billion over its lifetime of 25 years.

NYCC won't be able to take advantage of new technology when it comes along because of the investment it has made in this uncertain technology. Nationally we're talking about many billions of our money.

There are incinerators planned for all over the country to a point where there will be a serious surplus of capacity. The only way they will be kept going will be to import waste from elsewhere. DISC don't want to see this happen. We don't want the fumes from this burning to end up in the air we breathe.

**2. Recycling** – because incinerators are hungry beasts, they need feeding. This is a big disincentive for councils to recycle. Some big cities around the world, including San Francisco, are moving towards Zero Waste. That means that everything has been re-used or recycled. Incinerators make that impossible. You could help encourage recycling by going to [www.harrogatefoe.org.uk](http://www.harrogatefoe.org.uk) and then to their online petition.

### 3. Look at these links:

- [Depresses recycling and wastes resources](#)
- [Releases greenhouse gasses](#)
- [Is often forced through against strong public opposition](#)
- [Relies on exaggerating future quantities of waste instead of strongly increased recycling and composting](#)
- [Creates toxic emissions and hazardous ash](#)
- [Poses significant health risks](#)

## What can you do?

**Write** to your county councillor and your MP to let them know what you think. You can find out who they are using <http://www.writetothem.com/>. Please write to them even if you know they are against incineration – they need your letters as evidence of the opposition to these proposals. We know that County Councillor John Savage (Ainsty Ward), Andrew Jones MP (Harrogate & Knaresborough), and Nigel Adams MP (Selby & Ainsty) are against incineration and we expect this list to grow quickly over the next few weeks.

**Get your friends to write** - this is not a NIMBY campaign, it's a concern for the people of North Yorkshire and their financial and physical welfare. We need to make sure that local and national politicians know that everyone's concerned.

**E-petition** - recently North Yorkshire County Council voted to encourage e-petitions. We are setting this up at the moment. This will be their first! We'll send you full details as soon as it's set up.

**Volunteer** – we have a lot of excellent volunteers but we would really welcome someone with database or organisational skills to maintain contacts with our growing number of supporters.

Yours sincerely

David Andrews  
01845 501807 or 07767 350688  
david@generalsurvey.co.uk