



Ball de Comhairle Chontae Chorcaí

Member of Cork County Council

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Peace Commissioner.
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" St. Jude's,"
Midleton,
Co. Cork.

11th. February, 2005.

Proposed Incinerator in Cork Harbour.

Given that the Oral hearing in connection with the licence for Indaver to construct and operate a waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy is ~~about to open~~ ^{UNDERWAY}, I would like, as a democratically elected Councillor from East Cork, to express my views on the project.

Firstly, I believe that the entire process by which the decisions have been taken so far represent a gross travesty of democratic principles and processes. The decision to allow the incinerator to be built is a blatant contravention of the Cork County Development Plan which was adopted by the Elected Members of Cork County Council following an extensive public consultation process. What value is placed on the entire Development Plan if such a decision can be taken against the wishes of the legally established Planning Authority and against the very specific and well founded advice of the Planning Inspector who reported on the project to An Bord Pleanála? Incidentally, in his report, the Inspector listed fourteen detailed reasons why the project should not be allowed to go ahead.

The entire question of waste incineration is one to which the most searching of questions must be addressed. In an era when we are urged to be increasingly aware of our environment and the necessity to preserve it – both in our own interests and those of the generations yet to come – isn't it strange that our government is intent on rushing us headlong into a

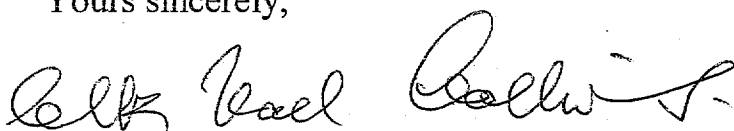
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process that is likely to work against the very objectives that they themselves have set out. Every day, in very expensive advertising campaigns, we are urged to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste. This applies to industrial and commercial as well as to domestic waste. Yet, if this incinerator goes ahead, it will require an enormous quantity of waste to keep it going. To my mind, there will be no waste left to reduce, reuse or recycle if this fiery monster is to be kept fed.

The other matter – to my mind the most important matter - relates to the question of public health. Incinerators produce one of the most toxic substances known to man today in the form of dioxins. Health is one of the most precious gifts that we as human beings can possess. It behoves all of us to act in a way that will reduce the risk to our health by minimising the production of these toxins. Given the prevailing winds in this part of the country, the towns of Cobh, Midleton and Carrigtwohill will be in the front line to receive these emissions. All of east Cork will be exposed to some degree.

If there was no alternative and if reliable technology existed to reduce that danger to a minimum, there may be a case to be made for the incinerator at Ringaskiddy. Given the valid objections that exist on Planning, Environment, Waste Management, Traffic and Public Health grounds, coupled with the massive public opposition and the sheer stupidity of undermining the very desirable campaign to encourage better management of all our waste, I would urge the Government to think again in relation to encouraging such a plant to locate in Ringaskiddy.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr. Noel Collins,

on behalf of CHASE