

Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for an operators Licence to use a yet to be built Incinerator Facility at Poolbeg Peninsula, Ringsend, Dublin.

27 APR 2008

ORAL HEARING
RECEIVED

Objection by: **Ringsend Irishtown and Sandymount Environmental Group**

Recd From: Mr. Damien Cassidy

OH Sub No. 56

Madam Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My names is Damien Cassidy. I am Chairperson of our Environmental Group.

I also have a history of involvement in Conservation campaigns, starting in May 1960. I am Chairman of the Trustees of the Voluntary Workers who restored Kilmainham Gaol as a National Museum. I was Secretary of a 3 person Trustee Board who restored the old school in Ringsend and opened it in 1970 as Ringsend's first Home Financed and Voluntary Workers Restored Community Centre.

No State or Municipal Aid was available but we built our own Centre without it.

Since then, I have campaigned successfully to prevent the sale of St Catherine's Church in Thomas Street outside which, Robert Emmett was hanged in 1803. The Campaign to save the last operating water powered Fuelling Mill at Kilmainham, the Campign to save some of Dublin's finest Businesses and Architecture, one of these being Bewley's Cafés.

16 Moore Street, Historic Surrender Headquarters of James Connolly, Jury's Hotel, The Burlington and Clarence Hotels and many other matters which I won't monopolise your time with.

What relevance is all this to the issue of an E.P.A. Licence to allow the operation of an Incinerator at Ringsend?

If, given my background in Conservation, I cannot stop the rot at my own doorstep, then I have lost my major campaign to save my own Environment.

In Ringsend, The Municipal Authorities, without local knowledge, built Europe's largest Sewerage Treatment Plan, coincidentally beside where it is now intended to place Europe's most unnecessary and unwanted Incinerator, intended to attract 600,000 tonnes of Municipal Waste through our beaches and Housing Estates with consequent movement of trucks to the site. I have heard estimates of between 300 to 600 truck movement, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with the added attraction of a Sewerage Sludge Burner.

The Environmental Protection Agency was set up by Legislation to do what the name implies – Protection our Environment.

The Planning Authorities have failed us.

The Planning Appeals Board, knowing that the objections were all Voluntary Groups and Individual Residents allowed us to be overwhelmed by the City Council with its deep pocket to public funds and International so called 'Expert Witnesses' decided to

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grant Permission for the facility against the united wishes to the Democratically Elected T.D.s and Councillors, not only of our area but of the entire City of Dublin.

We maintain that the Planning Permission so granted is now invalid as a result of matters which have come to light at this oral hearing; for example the operator has changes 3 times and we still don't know who it is to be or who will have responsibility on site.

Permission was given based on Planning Designs, which are still in a state of Evaluation as admitted here. Every single point raised by the objections has been left unanswered, kicked into touch by the promoters who have spent upwards of 20 million Euros to try and make an apple look like an orange. What they really have done is presented you with a Lemon.

They have given you no solution to any of the traffic problems which already exist and as this is a Peninsula, traffic will be exacerbated out of Human Control if you grant this Licence.

We do not accept that Mr Rudden the site Selector gave any consideration to alternative sites when he paid his unsolicited visit to our area.

How can Mr Rudden, Mr Twomey or anyone else tell you that he accidentally discovered this particular site for his ideal when a simple search on the Internet would have told him that. The site he chose had been rejected in 1995, following a decision by An Bord Pleanala as a site for an Incinerator, a fact which remains on your files. Traffic was cited as a the main reason for refusal. Now 13 Years late, with the addition of Europe's largest Sewerage Treatment Works, and the fresh presence of 3 Cement Depots beside the site the traffic is 100 times worse now than in 1995 when An Bord Pleanala rightly turned down permission for the site to be used for what was then a much smaller incinerator.

Has traffic gone away?

No, it is now congesting. Sean Moore Road, Strand Road, Church Avenue two dangerous bottle neck levels. Trucks have killed at least 2 of our residents and constantly causes chaos without any incineration plant.

There is no infrastructure or space on the Peninsula.

Here are the headings which in our view, as a Environment Group, give your Chairperson to deny the promoters a Licence:

TRANSPARENCY

My fellow objections working voluntarily and denied access to expert witnesses have shown that the promoters are hoping to sell the E.P.A. a pup as they did at Planning Stage, incomplete Design, wrong names. etc.

The Application for Waste, a work licence was made to you in 2006 based on a site map which is wrong and misleading it suggests that the nearest residence is over a mile from the Plant Proposed.

Since the Purchase by Builder McNamara and the Docklands Authority of Ringsend Bottle Works it is now clear that Residential Development is planned on sites adjoining the Incineration.

Why was this not made known to the An Bord Pleanal at the Croke Park Hearing of our Appeal?

We submit to you that the Purchase of the Glass Bottle Site for mixed Development included Residential ends, any question of your being at Liberty to Grant this Licence or if you do grant it then the E.P.A. will forever be on record as ignoring the warnings so clearly given to you at this hearing.

The Lives and Health and Safety of our people are at stake. This crazy project should be shown the door by the E.P.A. now. We were not wrong about the Sewerage Plant. We still do not know the cost to the taxpayer of Remedial Work still in progress 5 years after the plant opened.

And are we alone in this view? No, Chairperson, we are not.

In my opening submission, I explained that Frances Corr, May Kane and I had gone to Brussels and addressed this problem to the European Parliament. Our petition has been accepted and is now being studied as you know from the letter from the E.U. which should be sent in to you.

WASTE

What is our view on waste?

We want you to approve a site somewhere else in someone elses backgarden. The answer is NO.

To our Group, the word Waste is a misnomer as the peoples of the 3rd World who gather at Tipiteads know waste can be made useful. Waste can be cleaned, recycled and reused.

When the Sewer Plant was opened it was said that they would clean the water to the extent of making it drinkable. If their plant worked properly, this could have happened, but as you know, it did not. They want to double its size and use the E.P.A. as a fall guy to get rid of the sludge which should never have been created in the first place.

We warned D.C.C. before the Sewerage Plant was built that there were concerns at its in Design just like the present application (no fail safe cut off). Our engineer, who demanded sight of the Plans to examine their fail safe or alarm system we were ridiculed and refused access to the Plans. This has been repeated here.

Chairperson, when you have a chance to look through the evidence you have so patiently heard, the Appeals made to you by our people on Tuesday, the scores of unanswered questions which we and you have put to the promoters. Ask yourself: Do you smell something wrong with this application?

Is their yet again hidden agenda which will only become clear when you have committed the E.P.A. to back this project. I smell that Rat Now. in the manner of presentation of the promotions case, the constant buck passing and failure to answer to questions.

It has only today become clear that our renowned and beloved Shelly Bank Beaches are to be invaded by the Developers to access the site in any part of Dublin Bay.

In any part of Ireland, if you tried to foist this odious plan on one of the oldest communities in this city, if you tried to destroy the Beach of Clontarf, Killiney or Howth, you would get short shrift from the residents.

We are more mannerly in Ringsend, Sandymount.

Our case is summarised in these words "You can push the boat out too far".

We have taken the Municipal Landfills for 30 years, We have taken the Toll Bridge Traffic, We did not take the Sewerage Plant. It was foisted on us. But this hideous, ugly stinking Incinerator will, I assure you, break the camel's back. Thurs far, shall our people be pushed and then they will fight.

This has not been an even playing field filled with public money being used to try and ridicule us. We will not be cajoled, bought off or misled by unanswered questioned. We believe right is on our side. We believe also that the E.U. is on our side. They have told us as much.

Finally I do not accept that this proposed plant is safe for our Environment. I have serious concerns not only about traffic emissions to the atmosphere, dioxins accidents at the plant, fire and other hazards.

My final word goes out to Dublin City Council. Throw your Books and Diagrams into your green bins – We will recycle your paper works go back to the drawing board , Prepare a plan to clean and recycle our waste. The city and county and the world and its atmosphere will appreciate it .

As to your plan, Bin It.

THANK YOU.