

B.0 CONSULTATION REPORT

- B.1 A public consultation exercise was undertaken as part of the EIA process in order to take on board any concerns that local residents have in relation to the proposed landfill at Meenaboll, Co Donegal. This took the form of a public open days held on 20th May 2003 in Fintown and 21th May 2003 in Gartan. The event was advertised in the local press prior and radio. At the event Council Officers and representatives from Kirk McClure Morton were present to answer any queries that may have arisen in relation to the Project.
- B.2 Community and Enterprise were asked to assist the Environmental Services team named overleaf in approaching a public consultation/information exercise on the subject of Donegal County Council elected members' decision that a planning application be developed for the development of a landfill site at Meenaboll. The Community and Enterprise Division of Donegal County Council were available at the consultation events to record the comments of the public.
- B.3 The team consisting of Donegal County Council officers (County Chemist, Environmental Awareness Officer, Recycling Officer, Community and Enterprise Development Officer for the Area, Water and Sanitary Services Area Manager), and the technical consultants for the project, Kirk McClure Morton were present to answer any queries that may have arisen in relation to the Project.
- B.4 The public consultation took place in the form of an information day: all personnel involved in the exercise attended each venue on said dates. Each officer brought information and materials for dissemination, and the displays included not only plans for the proposed work on the landfill site, but also general information about recycling and Council recycling policy/activities, and about the Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate. All personnel were available to answer specific questions and individual members of the public were referred to whoever was best able to answer their query if a detailed one.
- B.5 Comments and concerns stated by the public at these meeting are provided overleaf.

Proposed Landfill Site at Meenaboll

Consultation in Fintown 20 May 2003

Comments and Concerns stated by the public in the Fintown area in relation to the proposed landfill in Meenaboll.

Traffic:

- The increase of heavy vehicle numbers converging from four arteries through the Fintown area may cause traffic congestion and safety problems plus perhaps an accompanying odour. Road infrastructure particularly Fintown to Letterkenny needs to be improved.
- Concerns that it will no longer be possible to move sheep on the road.
- Extra traffic on all local roads.
- Road safety problems.
- Effluent from lorries.
- Traffic to and from site
- Road improvements between Fintown and Letterkenny.
- Bridge at Treankeel needing repair. (7 bridges in this area)

Wildlife:

- Impact on the local wildlife??
- Concerns raised – what is the impact?

Noise:

- Noise from additional vehicles.
- The provision of generators on site will provide a constant “hum” for neighbouring population and wildlife. Use wind power instead

Management of the Site:

- What kind of management is proposed?
- Should be properly managed, high standards.
- Complete screening of the waste would be safer for “attacking birds”
- Privately run or council run site? If private – what waste will be going into landfill? Difficult to check this. Strongly felt that it should be council run so that there is a knowledge of what is going into the site.
- Local representatives on committee for management of site.

Water Quality:

- Because this area is not a natural hole to fill, digging out material and filling it with waste on the sloped area may result in soil creep and water seeping into permeable rock this affecting water quality.
- Concern about a tributary that is flowing through the site (to Cummirk river and on to the Finn river) and the accompanying impact on water quality.

- Rainfall of 1600 mm has grave implications for the environment.
- Effects on water quality.
- Ensure no water pollution.
- Water Schemes for the Local Area?

Others:

- "The centrality of this site for future management of waste costs is a benefit for the council but not for the area."
- Not enough people locally to oppose this development.
- Local Community Employment.
- Smell from Landfill site.
- What precautions are been taken against flies?
- Cost.
- "I would dispute that this is a Category 1 area as there are no services and its very isolatedness is an example of Category 3 status e.g. Bloody Foreland"
- Rainfall for this area is 1600mm.
- Not enough notice for landfill consultation day.
- It was suggested that a visit to an existing landfill site (which would be similar to the proposed operation) should be organised for concerned local residents.
- Complete screening of waste.
- Meenaboll is the best selected area, such service is urgently required to deal with local regional waste disposal.
- Complete screening of waste.
- "Perks" for local community? e.g. water schemes for local areas (3)
- Thought that the initial plans were for an incinerator
- Thought that this site would cover the entire county.

Additional comments to be forwarded independently.

Proposed landfill site at Meenaboll

Consultation in Gartan 21 May 2003

Comments and concerns stated by the public in the Gartan area in relation to the proposed landfill in Meenaboll.

Traffic:

- The increase of heavy vehicles on the main Glendowan and Meenaboll roads.
- No lorries on Glendowan-Meenaboll road carrying waste.
- The increase of bad road conditions due to increased traffic to site.
- Is existing road infrastructure sufficient?

Wildlife:

- Harmful to local wildlife, especially the Golden Eagle??
- What measures will be taken to prevent damage to wildlife?

Noise:

- Noise levels? particularly during the summer months.
- What precautions are being taken with regard to noise on the site?

Management Of The Site:

- How much will it cost to establish the landfill and manage the site? Who pays?
- Will management of site be privatised? Concern about this.
- Who will pay for the overall costs, the local community??
- Should be ongoing liaison with the local community in the management of the site.

Water Quality:

- What effects will this have on the water? What guarantees can be given that this will not affect the quality of the water at Gartan?
- Concerned about water quality in the area and health of local population
- Contaminated water from the dump in very wet weather.

Others:

- This is a scenic walking route. Why is this not reflected on area map?
- Good presentation. Information was well presented.
- Smell during hot weather.
- What precautions are being taken with regard to smell from the landfill site?
- Heavy snow – will it affect water quality, etc.?
- No waste bins in any of the Glendowan or Meenaboll areas.
- Special rates to locals in this area.
- Concern about undervalued sites in the surrounding area as a result of the landfill.
- Important that there should be no change in the quality of life of local people.
- Diseases in surrounding areas being carried to cattle and sheep?
- Proposed landfill over a geological fault??
- High uranium levels in this area – this needs to be fully checked and the implications of this needs to be fully addressed.
- What benefits will this bring to the local area?
- Why has the Fanad area has not been considered for the landfill as it looked like the more acceptable site on the slide presentation?
- How much will this cost the individual?
- Currently major problems for locals in this area with regard to collection of waste.
- Information regarding waste minimisation, composting and recycling was readily available on the day.
- Environmental fund to be set up for local communities.
- What will be done to improve infrastructure and/or services?
- What are the local benefits to the area?
- There should be no cost to locals to dump in this site.

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.