

**Baltrasna
Skerries
Co. Dublin**

Sub. (65)



Tel: 8490265
Email: bren@brendan-ryan.ie
Web: http://www.brendan-ryan.ie

Labour Candidate for Dublin North Constituency

21st December 2006

Ian Mumane

EPA
Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford

RECEIVED	
Time	13-19 pm
21 DEC 2006	
Signature	<i>Abbie</i>
Environmental Protection Agency, HQ. P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.	

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the application for waste license (WO231-01) on the following grounds:

- **Danger of contamination to Ring Commons water supply**

The aquifer which lies partially under the proposed site is at a risk of being contaminated should any leachate leak at all from the landfill site.

I am concerned for the large number of agricultural businesses in the vicinity of the proposed landfill site. The aquifer lies partially under the proposed site which leads to a serious threat of water contamination to these businesses, clean water being essential to the running of these agricultural businesses. These businesses grow vegetables for human consumption. Therefore, a threat to the water supply used in their growth and production is a matter of the gravest concern for consumers and growers alike. I have been unable to source any commitment or a guarantee given by the officials at Fingal County Council at the recent An Bord Pleanala hearing that the aquifer under the landfill under any circumstances will not be affected by the proposed landfill facility.

A natural resource exists and it should not be put under threat.

- **Fingal produces 50% of national vegetable output**

Fingal is also Ireland's primary horticultural region, producing 50% of the national vegetable output and 75% of all glasshouse crops grown in the country. The areas of production are, however, coming under severe pressure from other development and the rural towns are increasingly becoming dormitories for the City.

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The proposed landfill will directly take away hundreds of acres of Fingal's prime land and would also have the potential to damage more of the land surrounding the proposed landfill site. The land on which the proposed landfill is to be situated is agricultural land of very high quality. This prime land should be preserved and used (as it presently is) for agricultural purposes instead of contaminating it with waste.

- **Public/private venture**

The applicant for the waste license, Fingal County Council, propose to enter into a PPP (Public Private Partnership) with a private enterprise in order to develop and manage the proposed facility. In such an arrangement, Fingal Council Council will not have 100% control over the proposed landfill. Instead this control will be shared with a **profit driven** organisation.

- **Transport**

Should this development proceed it is anticipated that up to 700 extra vehicles will access the site on a daily basis. A large percentage of these vehicles will originate in Dunlaoghaire Rathdown CoCo, South Dublin CoCo and Dublin City CoCo areas and will travel via the M50 which is already highly congested. In my opinion no consideration was given to strategic planning in identifying a site or sites in the greater Dublin area particularly in the context of the increasing reliance on private transport.

- **Elevated position**

The proposed landfill site is in an elevated position and very close to the highest point in Fingal and thus would have a negative visual impact on the landscape of area. Our countryside is a source of pride, inspiration and well being for local people and visitors alike. The challenge we face is to manage our landscapes so that change is positive in its effect and that we protect existing landscapes. The proposed development would have a negative impact on this objective.

- **Archaeological Evidence in the Nevitt**

Archaeologists have found a number of significant archaeological sites within the proposed landfill site. Given the history of this part of Fingal in particular, the proposed development on the site would destroy and undermine part of our heritage. Very serious consideration should be given to the impact of granting a waste license at this location.


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- **Health risks**

The possible health risks to the residents surrounding the landfill and also the pupils of Hedgestown National School must be considered. I am concerned with the probability of vermin that may travel from the landfill site to the nearby school. Even if the vermin issue can be made obsolete with use of chemicals I am concerned with the use of these chemicals so close to a school with very young children. The vermin and birds that are attracted to landfill areas will cause further problems for growers and producers of fresh vegetables in the area.

Yours sincerely,

BRENDAN RYAN
Labour Party Candidate - Dublin North

SEAN RYAN T.D

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