

Pinkham Way Alliance

Press Release - for immediate release

Residents unite to stop north London waste plant

Residents in Barnet and Haringey have united to fight plans to build a massive waste recycling plant next to a residential area on the busiest section of the A406 North Circular Road (Pinkham Way - north of Muswell Hill).

The plans, which go before Haringey Council in May, would see a 23m high building (75 feet) covering an area the size of two football pitches, built within 250m of the nearest dwellings.

If the plans go ahead there would be an additional 1,200 vehicle movements through the Colney Hatch Lane/A406 junction each day (two trucks a minute, ten hours a day) adding to the already intolerable traffic congestion in Muswell Hill, Friern Barnet and the surrounding areas.

Bidesh Sarkar, chair of the Pinkham Way Alliance, said if the plan goes ahead residents would suffer as a result of the extra traffic and air and noise pollution. That would lead to a severe reduction in their general quality of life.

'We are determined to stop this plan in its tracks,' Mr Sarkar said. 'We know that the north London boroughs have to deal with their waste, but this is the wrong solution in the wrong place.'

The former industrial site earmarked for the development has been untouched since the 1960s and has become a refuge for bats and other flora and fauna. In 1988 Barnet and Haringey councils designated it as public open space and established some of it for nature conservation.

Barnet Council is planning to railroad through its decisions on the plans at a council meeting next Tuesday (March 29). Mr Sarkar said: 'Barnet has been trying to sell off this land for 40 years. It stands to gain millions for a site that would otherwise be worthless: but they don't realise that for us, it's priceless. We intend to be at the council meeting to ensure our voice is heard.'

'This plant would be the biggest of its kind in the UK, and it would result in massive disruption in our lives and the lives of our children. All of the similar plants in Europe are built far away from towns and cities where they do not disrupt the lives of ordinary citizens.

'Our human rights would be violated if this huge, ugly building, with all its attendant traffic, noise and pollution, were built on our doorsteps. We urge Barnet, Enfield and Haringey councils, and the four other north London boroughs involved in this madcap scheme, to think again. They must come up with something more sensible that will be better for the environment, better for local council tax payers and voters, and better for London as a whole.'

Notes for Editors

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is due to put its plans before Haringey council in May. See our website www.pinkhamwayalliance.org