

**Pinkham Way Alliance**  
**September 21 2011**  
**Press Release - for immediate release**

**Haringey Council forced to repeat its consultation over Core Strategy**

The London Borough of Haringey has been forced to consult residents for a second time over its core strategy after the planning inspector highlighted flaws revealed by the Pinkham Way Alliance.

Haringey's Core Strategy, which is its plan for the future development of the borough up to 2026, is undergoing a statutory inspection to ensure it is legal and appropriate. But the planning inspector has voiced serious concerns about the validity of certain aspects of the strategy and forced the council to consult residents again.

The issues the inspector wants clarified were all raised in our representations and in letters from our solicitors Knights to his hearing in public in July.

They include:

- How does the Council consider the designation of the Friern Barnet site as a Locally Significant Industrial Site (LSIS) to be consistent with its nature conservation designation? The submitted Sustainability Appraisal does not appear to give detailed consideration to the implications of this change; the Inspector draws your attention to the concerns expressed by Knights on pages 6 and 7 of their letter dated 5.7.11 to which a response would be appreciated.
- The rationale for altering the Friern Barnet site to become an LSIS is somewhat limited; upon what basis was this decision made and against what specific evidence base? How has the Council considered alternatives? Is the site, as indicated by the Council, actually a 'well established industrial area'?
- Could the Council please clarify the nature conservation designation of the Friern Barnet site and, in particular, whether the current designation as a Grade 1 Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation is intended to be maintained for the purposes of the Core Strategy; how will such details be shown?

(See the inspector's letter here [http://www.haringey.gov.uk/letter\\_from\\_inspector\\_21\\_july\\_2011\\_3.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/letter_from_inspector_21_july_2011_3.pdf).)

The council has now said it will re-consult local people starting on September 22, but we understand it is not planning to publicise it widely – something the inspector has already criticised the council over (see his letter).

Pinkham Way Alliance chair Bidesh Sarkar said:

'We are pleased that the planning inspector has recognised the quality of our arguments and seen fit to demand that Haringey responds appropriately. We are convinced that the core strategy and North London Waste plan, which pave the way for building a waste treatment site in Pinkham Wood, are fatally flawed. The amount of waste produced in London is actually falling - it says so in paragraph 5.7 of the North London Waste Plan - and we are convinced that if a fraction of the money required to build and operate this waste treatment plant was spent on improving reuse and recycling rates then a new waste treatment plant would actually be surplus to requirements. The sooner these plans are abandoned once and for all, the better.'

**Ends**

## Notes for editors

Seven north London boroughs are planning to spend £100 million building the waste treatment plant, and then pay for a 30-year, multi-billion pound contract to run it. We believe it would be much cheaper and better all round if money were put into increased efforts on recycling and re-use.

The plans for a mechanical and biological waste treatment factory on the site of Pinkham Wood include a building that will be 150m long and 23m (75ft) high (plus chimney), and located just 85m from the nearest dwellings. We have many major concerns about these plans, including massive traffic congestion from 1,200 vehicle movements a day (most of which will be trucks) on one of the busiest stretches of the North Circular Road, increased pollution, and the loss of an important green space. There are at least 11,000 homes within a 1km radius of the site and many schools, the nearest of which is only 300m away.

We contend that the North London Waste Plan is deeply flawed, especially in the way the criteria used to select the Pinkham Way site were applied. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) put its planning application before Haringey Council in June but it has been put 'on hold' until the planning inspector has completed his inspection of the council's Core Strategy, probably in the spring of 2012. Consultation on the North London Waste Plan closed on July 8 but it is not due to be examined fully until a public meeting in January 2012. See our website [www.pinkhamwayalliance.org](http://www.pinkhamwayalliance.org) for more information.

Pinkham Wood has been untouched since the 1960s and has become a refuge for bats and rare plants. Haringey council has designated it as a grade 1 site for nature conservation.

The waste plant would be one of the biggest of its kind in the UK - similar plants in Europe are built far away from towns and cities where they can cause less disruption to people's lives.