

Pinkham Way Alliance

Press Release - for immediate release

North London residents to demand answers about waste plant plans

Representatives from the Pinkham Way Alliance have requested a hearing at Tuesday morning's meeting of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA).

They hope to discover how the NLWA got its plan for waste treatment in north London so wrong.

We want to know answers to the following questions:

- If the Pinkham Way site is in an industrial area, as you claim, why did you send out 10,000 leaflets (which we didn't receive) to people living within a 1km radius? (The nearest resident to the Frog Island site is 1.4km - and you are just about to build and incinerator on that site, four years after the opening of the mechanical and biological treatment plant.)
- How did you choose this site? Did you just stick a pin in a map?
- Why do you say in your information that you 'might' have to build a 'stack' (which in English, we call a chimney)? Presumably it is because of the known exhaust fumes these plants emit - nitric oxide, nitrous oxide, ammonia, carbon dioxide and methane.
- How much of these gases will you store? How much will you pump into the atmosphere? How do you plan to get rid of the explosive methane?
- How are you going to keep the noise and noxious gases inside if you have to open the door to let trucks into the building up to 45 times an hour?
- The workers will all be wearing personal protective equipment. Are you going to issue all of us with masks, boots, goggles, helmets and overalls?
- Within a half mile radius of this 'industrial' site there are more than two thousand school children in four schools - and between five and ten thousand within a one mile radius. Just how confident are you this plant will not affect their health? And what about the old and the sick?
- Are you aware of the evidence that stress and mental health problems increase in communities that are not consulted about what is 'done' to them? Your consultation process has been abysmal. We are not looking for the kind of consultation that usually goes on: we want a consultation and then an agreement on any change in the use of this precious piece of green land.
- Your figure of 560 vehicles a day - that's more than 1,100 vehicle movements, or two a minute for ten hours a day - does not include all of Barnet's fleet vehicles does it? The Colney Hatch Lane/A406 junction is already at or above its capacity for much of the day, even at weekends. Any further traffic will bring north London to a standstill. Tesco and the managers of the planned B&Q store at the Pinkham Way retail park are going to love that!
- Are you aware of what happened to the mechanical and biological treatment site that was planned in Derby? It did not get planning permission because of exactly the

same concerns that we are raising - and the situation at Pinkham Way is far less favourable to you than the Derby site was to its 'developers'.

Ends

Notes for editors

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is due to put for the North London Waste Plan before Haringey council in May. See our website www.pinkhamwayalliance.org for more information.

The former industrial site, untouched since the 1960s, has become a refuge for bats and rare plants. In 1988 Barnet and Haringey councils designated it as public open space and designated some of it for nature conservation.

The waste plant would be the biggest of its kind in the UK - similar plants in Europe are built far away from towns and cities where they do not disrupt people's lives, or cause traffic chaos in an already overcrowded road network.