

Binn Farm Newsletter, Friday 4 December 2009

Dear Fellow Campaigner

Public meetings re Binn Farm polytunnels

On November 26 Binn Skips Ltd notified Perth and Kinross Council that it was beginning a 12-week public consultation process regarding its application to build polytunnels at Binn Farm. The purpose of the polytunnels is to use heat from the proposed incinerator. This, the company believes, will meet new Government policy, which requires that waste incinerators make use of low-grade heat that would otherwise go up the chimney.

There will be public meetings

1. 14th December 2009 at Bridge of Earn Village Hall – 2 identical meetings:
 - a. Meeting 1 14:00 – 16:00
 - b. Meeting 2 19:00 – 21:00
2. 11th January 2010 at Strathmiglo Village Hall – 2 identical meetings:
 - a. Meeting 1 14:00 – 16:00
 - b. Meeting 2 19:00 – 21:00

So far Binn Skips Ltd has refused to hold a public meeting in Abernethy, even though it is the people of Abernethy who will suffer from any toxic emissions from the incinerator that will heat the polytunnels.

At the end of the 12 week period (11 Feb 2010) Binn Skips Ltd will submit a report to the Council about the public consultation, and at the same time will apply for full planning consent. There may be several grounds for objection.

For example SEPA's Guidelines on Thermal treatment of waste state:

The 2009 guidelines now require applicants to indicate how they will utilise the energy in waste efficiently.

The purpose of the polytunnels is to use the waste heat from the proposed incinerator to grow non-indigenous crops. However can we really say that this is an efficient use of energy? Surely heat would drain through the walls of the polytunnels very rapidly, especially in the winter.

Perhaps you can think of other grounds for objection. As a non-local, I am not sufficiently familiar with the topography to comment on other aspects of the proposed development, such as appearance.

With regard to the press statement from SITA that it intends to switch from incineration to gasification, we must be very cautious. Although SITA has confirmed this intention verbally, it has not informed SEPA of this intention. Until it does, SEPA will continue processing SITA's application for a PPC licence based on its original proposal for an incinerator. SITA is currently about a fifth of the way through the licensing process.

If at some point in the future SITA formally tells SEPA that it is switching to gasification, it will have to start the PPC licensing process from the beginning. However even if the change is made to gasification, it is unlikely that new planning consent will be required unless the buildings are significantly different in size or shape.

N.B. I will shortly send you an invitation to join the private discussion board at www.teag.org.uk.

With best wishes,

Michael

Michael Gallagher
33 Precinct Street
Coupar Angus
Perthshire
PH13 9DG
Tel/fax 01828 627124