

BINN FARM NEWSLETTER – Wed 6 Jan 2010

ABERNETHY POLYTUNNEL MEETING POSTPONED

Dear Binn Farm campaigner

I have just been informed by the Secretary of Abernethy Community Council that the polytunnel presentation that was due to take place at the next meeting of the Community Council on 21 January will not now take place.

Instead, agents for the development of Binn Eco Park will hold their own public meeting in the village at a future date, yet to be confirmed. In the meantime, there will be two identical meetings in Strathmiglo on 11th January 2010 at Strathmiglo Village Hall:

Meeting 1 14:00 – 16:00

Meeting 2 19:00 – 21:00

On 26 November 2009 the management of Binn Farm has submitted a 'Proposal of Application Notice' (Ref 09/00010) to build glasshouses and polytunnels to grow non-indigenous food crops. This involves a 12-week community consultation, ending on Thursday 11 Feb 2010, after which the management will submit a planning application.

However the primary purpose of the polytunnels is to meet the new legal requirement to use heat from the proposed incinerator that would otherwise go up the chimney stack. Unless the company can show that waste heat will be used efficiently, it will not be awarded an operator's licence (SEPA is currently deciding whether or not to award such a licence).

This raises a couple of important questions. First, can the growing of non-indigenous crops in polytunnels really be considered an efficient use of heat? After all, polytunnels will not be well insulated, and heat will pass through them easily. Also, what will be done with the heat in summer when it isn't needed?

There may well be other potential problems regarding the visual aspect and increased traffic which you, as locals, may know more about.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy New Year. Let us join to make a very firm New Year Resolution - NO WASTE BURNERS IN BINN FARM OR ANYWHERE ELSE!!!

Michael

p.s. If you know anyone who would like to be on the mailing list for the Binn Farm Newsletter, please contact me at mpgallagher@btconnect.com