

Binn Farm Newsletter, Sunday 4 April 2010

Tayside Strategic Development Plan - Your chance to comment

A 12 week period of consultation on the new Tayside Strategic Development Plan begins on Monday 12 April - click [here](#) for further details. The Tayside Strategic Development Plan will shape overall planning policy of four local authorities - Perth & Kinross, Angus, Dundee and Fife - for the next 20 years.

At this stage in the consultation there are three documents to consider - the Main Issues Report, Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and the draft Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment - click [here](#) to see the documents.

The draft vision of the Main Issues Report is:

“Our vision is of TAYplan as a sustainable region which is beautiful, vibrant, clean and green where the regeneration and growth of Dundee city region has made it a great place for people to live, work, invest and visit that does not create an unacceptable burden on the planet.” The question is, how does burning waste, with all of the associated pollution problems, help to achieve this vision?

The Environmental Report suggests that any new development should "reduce health problems relating to environmental pollution" and "reduce levels of pollution to air in the TAYplan area". Independent researcher Michael Ryan has found that infant mortality levels (deaths before the age of 1 year) are consistently higher downwind of incinerators - click [here](#) for more information.

The Environmental Report also proposes new or improved infrastructure capable of supporting a low/zero carbon economy and zero waste (p51). However burning waste produces more CO₂ than any other form of waste treatment (up to 2 tonnes per tonne of waste - see p5 of [report](#) by Peter Jones). Interestingly, a new Planning Advice Note - PAN1/2010 - stipulates that climatic factors must be considered within the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Therefore burning waste not only defeats TAYplan's goal of a zero carbon economy, but also contradicts PAN1/2010.

The Environmental Report states (at p30) that 29% of waste in the TAYplan area is currently treated by energy recovery, despite the Government cap of 25% on energy from waste. Let's try to persuade them to phase out energy from waste altogether, and follow more enlightened methods like Surrey County Council - click [here](#) for more information.

Best wishes,

Michael Gallagher.