



Particulart

6th October 2014

Dear Councillor

Particulart Exhibition: Marsh Barton Energy from Waste / Energy Recovery Facility

I am writing to invite you to the launch of the Particulart exhibition. Members of the community have been knitting larger than life versions of the particles that will be emitted from the new facility. We are keen to ensure the community is aware of the new Incinerator and its impacts. The exhibition is running in the Real Food Café in Paris Street, Exeter from 13th October to 8th November. The exhibition launch will be from 6.30pm on 15th October.

We also wish to ensure that Devon County makes sure it is operated properly, and both Devon and Exeter City Councils think harder about their waste management strategy.

Health and the environment: We are reassured that the Environment Agency will seek to regulate the plant, and those emissions they are required to do so by law, in a conscientious manner. However, we are concerned that ultra-fine particles with metallic, dioxin and aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) coatings and other polluting and dangerous particles currently outside the scope of the permit will not be monitored. This pollution and its lack of regulation, in addition to the permitted Incinerator emissions, compounds the current pollution problems that Exeter is suffering. We would welcome reassurance on what long-term measures are planned to assess and address the impact on public health.

Transparency to enable peace of mind on public health: The Incinerator will undergo continuous monitoring as well as periodic data sampling. We request that the operators publish this performance data in a timely and meaningful way. It is in the public interest that the community should see when 'exceedances', those emissions above the legal limits, have occurred. We also need to be informed what subsequent action has been taken by the operator as well as the Environment Agency.

Commitment to waste reduction and recycling: We support the Councils' aims to reduce, reuse and recycle. This needs to include better public information about small

electrical items and metals, of which 74 tons was recovered after it had been incinerated in June. Exeter is the only district in Devon which doesn't collect and compost food waste. Instead, this resource which makes up about 34% of the black bin waste, will now go for incineration. We'd like to hear definite plans to divert this waste from harmful incineration so it can be put to better use. Exeter residents also need to be clearly told that the contents of their black bin are sent for incineration before transfer to landfill. We believe it is time that Exeter's waste strategy and targets are updated.

Cost to the tax payer: The Energy from Waste Facility has been developed as a partnership between Devon County Council and Pennon Group Plc as an extension to their pre-existing Public Private Partnership contract. The public need reassurance that the facility offers value for money. This is currently difficult to ascertain as there is no publicly available information, nor disclosure in DCC accounts about the contract in general. In particular what is the nature of the revised contract and the cost to the taxpayer for the operation of the facility? What profit is being made by the Incinerator's operation? Nor do we know the key terms of the agreement, in particular: are there penalties which apply for the under supply of waste from the Councils and, if technology and recycling improves and less combustible material is available, would such material be imported from further afield or restrictions on the recycling of such material be required under the terms of the contract? Finally, what level of tariff subsidy does the operator enjoy from the sale of electricity generated on site? We would also request that Devon County Council become a signatory to the Government's Code of conduct for operational PFI/PPP contracts, which seeks to reduce the operating cost of such contracts.

We look forward to seeing you later this month at the Particular launch.

Yours sincerely

Diana Moore and Clare Bryden