

WINCHAM WORD

WHAT'S THIS SID ALL ABOUT?

Geoff Eden Chair of SID



SID (Stop Incinerators in Disguise) has been formed by a group of concerned residents from Wincham and Marston to protest at and object to the proposed waste treatment plant on New Cheshire Business Park. The proposal from RRS is to construct a gasification plant - incineration by another name - which will operate over a 25 year period.

SID first met at the Black Greyhound on 14 September 2009. SID's aim, along with the Parish Council, is to give co-ordination and leadership to object to the proposal.

WHY OBJECT?

1. Cheshire already has, or has plans for, capacity to incinerate over 1,600,000 tonnes of waste a year. This is in excess of the county's needs. In order to run these plants commercially waste will have to be imported from around the North West. Does Cheshire really want to be the incineration site for the region?
2. Quality of life will be severely affected. The plant will cause pollution: it will be operational 24/7 so there will be light pollution at night, every night. There will be noise pollution from the influx of HGVs. There is a health risk as the plant will generate dioxins and furans which have been demonstrated to be the source of cancer and respiratory problems.
3. The infrastructure of the area is not sufficient to support the plant. The A559 is a designated RED route. The water pressure is poor currently before the additional needs of the proposed plant.
4. Location. The site is within 400 metres of numerous homes in the middle of a vibrant, semi rural village and less than half a mile from a Primary school.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

Quite a lot! The Public Meeting was a fantastic display of real community spirit which cannot have failed to have registered with our unitary councillors and the planners who were present.

SID subsequently met with our MP George Osborne, who unfortunately was not able to attend the public meeting due to parliamentary obligations.





Some of the actions he has agreed to:

- George agreed to become President of SID, immediately raising our profile: we cannot be ignored.
- George will present our petition to Parliament. The Government will have to respond to it.
- George's own web site will feature a link to SID, publishing the issue across the area. This is not just a Wincham problem.
- George will add his own letter of objection to the proposed plan once the planning application is submitted.
- George has agreed to support a Fund raising event in the coming months.
- If we feel that a further public meeting is needed George has agreed to attend.

In addition George will obviously discuss the issue when meeting with our unitary councillors.

George is 100% behind us and has agreed to support our campaign in any way that he can.

A massive thanks to Enab and all his friendly staff at the Black Greyhound and the Bengal Dynasty for all the support they have given us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SID.

1. Write to our Unitary councillors stating your objections. You can use the issues outlined above as the basis for your objection.
2. Once the planning application is submitted we will ALL need to write to Cheshire West and Chester Council's planning department and members of the strategic planning committee with our objections. SID plans to organise letter writing events to help with this.
3. On the day of the planning committee meeting as many of us as possible need to be in the Council chamber. We cannot all speak but having a large silent presence in support of our objections could be a decisive factor as it will show the depth of local opposition.
4. Join the Facebook Group, view the blog. We will keep this updated with any activity, information as it becomes available, such as when the planning application is made, when the letter writing clinics will be held, etc.
5. SID urgently needs the help of planning specialists to examine the planning application

FUND RAISING

A BIG thank you to everybody who contributed to the "bucket collection" at the public meeting on Wednesday 14 October – with your help we raised £185.09 – fantastic!

However, every campaign of this nature does incur essential expenditure which falls outside the scope of people giving their time. In our case we have to plan for the possibility of employing a specialist to study the planning application and provide specific advice on how to fight the application, which is likely to cost in the region of £5000 plus.

It is hoped that people who were unable to attend the public meeting, and feel as strongly as we do that this development should not go ahead, may wish to make a donation. To facilitate this we have set up a SID Paypal donation button on the website.

Anybody wishing to make a donation immediately, or by an alternative method, please use the contact information below. All donations from individuals and businesses will be fully acknowledged on the website unless anonymity is requested.

I know this is a BIG ask but for our campaign to be successful we do need YOUR help.

For further information please contact: John Barnes 01565 733921 and johnbarnes101@hotmail.com

THE NEXT STEPS

Once RRS have submitted the planning application we will use the Facebook blog, website and further leaflets to keep everyone informed of what we need to do, when we need to do it and how we need to act to ensure the proposal is rejected. In the meantime we must concentrate our efforts on contacting and voicing our objections to the Unitary councillors. Their contact details are on the back page.

Email: sid.cw9@gmail.com www.help-sid.com "Wincham Post" on Facebook

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Kevin Davies

I am very grateful to Jim Rushe and his team at Northwich Victoria Football Club for the use of the facilities at the Marston's stadium for the public meeting held recently. My thanks also go to the speakers on the night: Geoff Eden [SID Chairman], Linda Moss and Arnold Woolley who all made it clear to the audience how the RRS proposal would affect Wincham. And a huge thanks to you all for turning out to support us on a miserable October night. Geoff has updated us on the actions SID has taken so far and the meeting with George Osborne, however we still have a long journey in front of us. It is imperative that together we continue the momentum, work together and support one another if we are to have any chance of retaining our village way of life.

The Parish Council have undertaken weekly inspections of the playing fields as a requirement of our insurance, please take note on the dog fouling, it's unpleasant for everyone.

We have had a further meeting with the allotments society to discuss land. The Parish Council will be looking into this over the coming weeks and will report back.

WINCHAM'S LITTLE GEM

When the old school in Church Street was demolished in 2003, the old school bell was sitting in a skip seemingly destined for an ignominious end in a scrap yard. However, cllr Frank Smith came to its rescue and negotiated with the developers for its freedom. When Diane Palin learned that the bell had been saved she determined to locate it on the current school grounds to preserve the link between old and new. The schoolchildren were invited to design a 'home' for the bell. Many excellent designs were submitted but the final one chosen was the work of James Simms and is the one we see today. Local builder Gary Watts was commissioned to bring the design to life and the bell was duly hung in its new home. The bell is rung at the start and end of every term and this has become a school ritual eagerly anticipated by the children.

The Community Pride judges were shown the bell by Mrs Palin and added it to their mark sheet as a historical artefact. They were so impressed with it that they awarded it full marks and put it forward for a 'Little Gem' award. This award recognises the efforts of individuals trying to improve their local areas. We are proud to say our historical school bell won!

Photograph courtesy of Jane Burkinshaw www.picture-it-big.co.uk



BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Wincham was entered for the Community Pride competition otherwise known as the Best Kept Village Competition this year. It was felt that this was a brave step as the village had come last in its category in 2007! However two working parties smartened up the village noticeboards and the competition poster was prominently displayed so we felt sure we would collect marks for that! We also did our best to keep on top of the litter picking. A lot of the rest was up to the residents and owners of commercial premises. We managed to persuade the inspectors to look at the War Memorial which is located in the Primary School.

The good news is Wincham achieved 10th place out of 12 in its category so the bottom slot was avoided. The judges have provided detailed comments on all the judging sections. These are some of the comments made under 'Areas for improvement':

Floral displays would make a real difference to the overall appearance. Dog fouling is a major issue that needs to be addressed. It appears notices regarding dog fouling are being ignored. The telephone kiosks are another area that need some attention. Clearly a big effort has been made to improve the appearance and upkeep of the village and if improvements were made on the points above the score could be much higher. The Parish Council used the noticeboards to spread the message regarding entry to the competition it seems to good effect.

So a big 'thank you' to all those residents who read the noticeboards and did their bit. A message however to all irresponsible dog owners: please take pride in our village and clean up after your pets.

WINCHAM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Peter O'Halloran

Following on from the public meeting with Wincham Parish Council on 22 July a committee was formed out of which the Wincham Allotment Society (WAS) was born.

As a Society we have now joined the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) this will give us access to vast amounts of technical help and guidance on acquiring land: turning land into allotments and the continual running once we are up and digging.

If you would like to join initial membership is £5, £2 of which will be for membership of NSALG, the remainder will give us a fighting fund which will take us to our goal. Contact **Jo Thompson 58 Church Street 01565 733302** or **Peter O'Halloran 14 Hewitt Grove 01565 733319** for an application form.

WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Kevin Davies
01606 330651

Parish Clerk Alison Dunabin
01565 733751
email: winchampc@btinternet.com

CESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Malcolm Byram. Marbury Hill House, Marbury, Northwich, Cheshire. CW9 6AR.

malcolm.byram@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Councillor Keith Wilson. 7 The Town Green, Higher Whitley, Warrington. WA4 4QQ.

keith.wilso@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Councillor Norman Wright. Uplands Farm, Uplands Road, Anderton, Cheshire. CW9 6AJ

norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

LINNARDS LANE PLAYING FIELD SUMMER AND BEYOND

Christine Paterson

The facilities have been well and truly used over the summer holidays. PCSO Jones is a regular visitor and is building up good relationships with our children. I would urge any residents who have any concerns over any behaviour on the field to contact PCSO Jones whose presence in the village is similar to having an old fashioned village bobby.

Looking to the future it is the intention to continue improving the playing fields, with new swings top of the list. I am currently looking for new ways of generating funding. So it was wonderful news when one of our good business neighbours, Mr David Hewitt from Thor in Lower Wincham, made contact having read an earlier issue of Wincham Word and generously made a donation of £1000 to our cause. This is fantastic and our aim is to use this money as part of an application for matched funding either as the Parish Council or as the village group Tots2Teens.

So on behalf of Wincham and all the children who use the playing field, thank you Thor for demonstrating your community spirit in such a generous way.

To any other of our business neighbours or indeed anyone in the community if you can offer any assistance financial, physical or in the form of advice please contact me. 01565 734450.

WINCHAM CRAFT FAYRE

A craft fayre will take place at Wincham Community Centre on Sunday 22 November from 12 - 4 pm. Proceeds will go to St Luke's Hospice and Wincham Primary School. Entrance price 50p. Refreshments available. There will be a variety of crafts on sale made by local people and a Tombola. Tables are still available at a cost of £10 plus the donation of tombola prize. Please contact Helen Hawthorn for more information on 01565 734025

WINCHAM WAR MEMORIAL

Early in 2000 three War Memorial plaques were installed in the School library. Two of the three are World War I and II memorials originally housed in St Andrew's Church and familiar to generations of children who attended Wincham school until 1984. These plaques honour the war dead from both Wincham and Pickmere. The third plaque commemorates Herbert Dean, a merchant seaman and son of Wincham, who volunteered and was commissioned as a submariner in the Royal Navy in 1939. In October 1940 his submarine HMS Triad was lost with all hands on active service in the Mediterranean.

On November 11 the school library will be open from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm and all village residents are welcome to visit the War Memorial between those times.

Photograph courtesy of Jane Burkinshaw www.picture-it-big.co.uk



WINCHAM WEBSITE

The Parish Plan Steering Group is actively engaged in analysing the completed questionnaires which were sent out and collected during the summer. One of the sections in the questionnaire dealt with communication and it is clear from top line results that the residents of Wincham would like to have a village website. If there are any web designers out there who would be interested in building a website for us, please contact me, Alison Dunabin on 01565 733751. Or if any of the local businesses employ a web designer who we could 'borrow' again please let me know.