



25 September 2006

Open Letter to all County, District and Borough Councillors in Surrey.

Dear Councillor,

Ask yourself - do you know what approving the JMWMS really means?

County, District and Borough Councillors across Surrey are currently being asked to approve and adopt the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)*. Some may do this without realising that **this strategy gives the go ahead for two incinerators in Surrey**. In voting for this strategy you would be supporting the building of incinerators which so many of your constituents do not want. **We urge you to reject this strategy in its current form.**

The recycling bits of the JMWMS are great but these should not be used as a smokescreen for getting Councillors across Surrey to endorse incineration:-

1. **The two incinerators could be sited on any waste site in Surrey**
The JMWMS identifies priority sites at Clockhouse Brickworks, Capel (*Mole Valley District Council*), and Trumps Farm, Longcross (*Runnymede District Council*) or Charlton Lane, Shepperton (*Spelthorne District Council*). The final sites will be confirmed via planning applications and according to the Waste Plan which goes to Examination in Public early in 2007. There are 6 candidate incinerator sites in 5 Districts across Surrey to choose from.
2. **Wherever the final sites, the incinerators will impact upon the whole of Surrey**
Hazardous emissions from the incinerator chimneys can spread widely affecting communities across the County, especially in still weather. Why incinerate in a county that already fails to meet air quality targets? Incinerator ash will be transported by lorry to landfill sites, whose location in Surrey has not been revealed and hazardous waste sites will have to be found for the toxic fly ash
3. **Why not adopt the alternative technologies being pursued elsewhere in the UK**?**
Surrey will be locked into feeding these two incinerators for 20 years+. It will also signal to waste companies that incineration of industrial waste is acceptable at any of the 6 sites including Wisley Airfield, and Martyrs Lane in Woking. Councillors need to ask why we are not opting for the proven, more flexible, and lower risk technologies such as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) with Anaerobic Digestion, which rely on composting rather than burning. This alternative meets targets, is advocated by several of Surrey's Local Authorities and encouraged in the SE Plan.
4. **Residents overwhelmingly support incinerator-free alternatives**
In consultation after consultation, Surrey residents have rejected incineration and overwhelmingly supported the incinerator-free alternatives. They have submitted over 85,000 objections. Are you clear why these are being ignored when other councils are opting for feasible alternatives?

Your residents are relying on you to reject this strategy, to stop avoidable incineration being brought into Surrey and to press for incinerator-free alternatives. If a committee has already approved the strategy, please arrange for the decision to be reconsidered by the wider Council. Once the JMWMS is approved, Surrey CC will press ahead with its renegotiated incinerator contract.

If you would like more information about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to email me at vicarage@ntlworld.com or visit GAIN's website www.no-incinerator.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Matthews (Chairman of GAIN)

* Commended for adoption in July 2006 by the Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) Waste Members' Consultative Board

** Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bournemouth, Cumbria, St Helens, Dumfries & Galloway are commissioning or actively considering MBT