

## **TWELVE QUESTIONS BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MUST ANSWER TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THE WRG INCINERATOR DECISION.**

1. What have been the overall financial costs to Bucks County Council (and thus the council tax and business ratepayers) of this waste incinerator procurement decision which was started off pre-recession 2007 and have not been adapted since despite falling household waste and financial restrictions on councils? We are all having to tighten our belts. **Overall why does Bucks County Council keep pressing on with a decision which is so potentially profligate and wasteful of ratepayers' money even post recession?**
2. **Why have BUCKS County Council ignored the severe financial risks of facing legal challenges eg that the procurement decision in favour of WRG Ltd is illegal?** (in that it should only have been decided with reference to the saved Waste and Mineral Core Strategy and not with reference to the emerging plan). Capel PC v Surrey County Council has decided this point already and Surrey County council had to pick up the tab for all the legal costs – BOTH ITS COSTS AND THE PARISH COUNCIL'S LEGAL COSTS - estimated at £500,000. Campaign group SAVI have already retained the same legal queen's counsel - Peter Village QC - as Capel PC.
3. **Why have Bucks County Council failed properly to quantify and take into consideration in its decision (1) the financial losses which will be inflicted on the Vale by reason of this procurement decision which would include but not be limited to job losses especially within the tourism industry, agriculture and rural economy and (2) the expected planning blight on housing within the Vale?**
4. **Why have Bucks County Council failed properly to take into consideration the strong and united opposition to the incinerator** proposed by WRG Ltd at Lower Greatmoor Farm as evidenced by 26,000 saying no through paper and web-based petitions; 23 local parish and Town councils passing resolutions against this incinerator in 2009 and the opposition continuing in 2010 eg with the Waddesdon and Buckingham Local Area Forums passing resolutions to condemn the decision last week. BCC may also need to factor in the strong likelihood that many local Vale people will stop paying their council taxes. BCC would be inflicting heavy financial losses on the Vale – local people are querying why should we carry on paying BCC to hurt us more financially?
5. Why have Bucks County Council failed to take into consideration the admitted likelihood that WRG Ltd will sell any heat and power generated from the incinerator to HS2 and thereby increase the likelihood of HS2 being built on preferred option 3 route, contrary to its avowed policy to resist HS2 on behalf of the ratepayers of Bucks?
6. Why have Bucks County Council failed in its obligations to its ratepayers to be transparent about financial issues relating to the proposed bid and taken decisions behind closed doors based on secret papers? **HOW MUCH HAS THIS COST ALREADY?**
7. Why have Bucks County Council failed to take into consideration and make proper allowance and/or provision for the long term financial implications and cost to local ratepayers of dealing with some 300,000 tonnes of toxic hazardous waste for its lifetime following the termination of an anticipated 30 year contract with WRG Ltd? **AND HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST US OVER THE NEXT 35 YEARS??**

8. **Why did Bucks County Council fail to disclose that AE & E the Austrian company on whose technology WRG's building bid is based, went into administration on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010**, which would thus render the capacity of WRG Ltd to complete the contract null and void? Even though the AE&E is now in talks with its rival Andritz AG for a bailout, the fact that AE&E went into bankruptcy with only 137 million Euros of assets but a whopping 558 million Euros of debt showed up BCC's due diligence as inadequate. **WHAT REALITY CHECKS/DUE DILIGENCE HAS BCC ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT?**
9. **Why do Bucks County Council persistently and publicly fail to be honest about the figures for waste produced in the county?** BCC Cabinet made this decision on the WRONG FIGURES. BCC wrongly stated that the county recycles 44% of waste on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 when in fact overall it recycles only 37% as evidenced by the latest DEFRA figures from November 2010 which are objective. AVDC recycles a mere 22% as against a national average of 40%. The Council should put more effort into recycling instead of wastefully burn, burn, burn.
10. **Why have Bucks County Council failed to take properly into consideration the appalling environmental impact on a cherished part of the Bernwood Forest including but not limited to the damage to protected species and the inappropriate use of this rural landscape?**
11. **What financial promises/provision have BCC made to cover WRG's appeal costs in the event of a planning refusal for the incinerator when it is supposed to be making this decision at arms length?** This question will also be the subject of an FOI request.
12. **GIVEN ALL THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS THIS DECISION WOULD PLACE ON THE VALE, MAKING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE A WASTE DUMPING GROUND FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, WHAT IS ACTUALLY IN IT FINANCIALLY FOR BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL? SAVI CALLS ON BCC TO STATE PUBLICLY HOW MANY SILVER PIECES BCC THINKS IT WILL GAIN FROM THE PROJECT.**

13<sup>TH</sup> December 2010