

3.1.12

Dear Ms Phillips,

**I write to express my views in relation to the petition- Re
– Waste and Incineration Petition P-04-341.**

The petition objects strongly to the policy of the Assembly relating to waste disposal. The policy termed Prosiect Gwyrdd, favours incineration. This brings with it massive health concerns that seem to be given little thought by those favouring this approach. There are now more and more medical studies being undertaken worldwide that outline the very serious adverse health consequences of living near or downwind of waste incinerators. More and more countries now express a desire to move away from incineration and to adopt other methods that deal with waste. There are many medical reports that warn in the strongest terms just what incineration brings to communities but I will quote from just one. An excellent study that is well documented and researched was that carried out by the British Society for Ecological Medicine. In their report they state, ' Large studies have shown higher rates of adult and childhood cancer and also birth defects around municipal waste incinerators.' The report goes on to say that ' Incinerator emissions are a major source of fine particulates, of toxic metals and more than 200 organic chemicals including known carcinogens, mutagens and hormone disrupters.'

The report states that, ' Many of the pollutants bio accumulate, enter the food chain and can cause chronic illness over time. Two large cohort studies in America have shown that fine PM2.5 particulate air pollution causes increases in all-cause mortality, cardiovascular

mortality and mortality from lung cancer, after adjustment for other factors. These fine particulates are primarily produced by combustion processes and are emitted in large quantities by incinerators.' The BSEM finish their report by saying , ' The accumulated evidence on the health risks of incinerators is simply too strong to ignore and their use cannot be justified now that better, cheaper and far less hazardous methods of waste disposal have become available. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT NO MORE INCINERATORS SHOULD BE APPROVED.'

The whole concept of Prosiect Gwyrdd gives me huge cause for concern. The 5 Local Authorities are moving in the direction of being tied into a waste disposal contract for 25 years. This is sheer folly when one considers that if not enough waste is produced then they are likely to be subject to financial penalties from which ever incinerator company that happens to win the contract. This is hardly a concept that is going to encourage recycling. There is also the concern that more modern waste disposal methods will overtake incineration both in their effectiveness and from a health viewpoint. A commitment to 25 years of incineration shows a lack of wisdom. Finally the material being incinerated will change from time to time and I leave you with just one example,- the new and more modern energy efficient light bulbs are mercury based. Mercury is a substance that can have catastrophic, toxic health effects on people.

Is this really the way forward in 2012?

Yours Sincerely,

Gerald Mahoney