

# **CHAIN**

## **Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network**



News Release

18 December 2009

### **More Covanta Trickery!**

#### **CHAIN statement:**

**'The bribe offered by Covanta to pay for what amounts to about 20% of the cost of a bypass is nothing more than a cynical ploy to tempt Cheshire East Council to ignore its responsibilities and the expressed wishes of the people of Middlewich and give approval for their waste incinerator. Their case for building it which they have put forward until now has been totally discredited and they are scrabbling around for a last resort. 'If all else fails, try a bribe ' seems to be the credo.**

**Covanta's claim in their press release that their 'contribution' to a bypass would lead to '3500 new jobs' is cruelly deceptive and bordering on the ludicrous. We all want more employment in Middlewich, of course, but common sense dictates that huge toxin emitting rubbish burning incinerators drive existing employers away and deter new ones moving in. It is not necessary to believe CHAIN on this one; here are two quotes taken from Covanta's own planning application: *'The key finding was that food processing and food manufacturing were considered sensitive industries and would avoid sites in proximity to an incinerator'* and *'Other studies have highlighted the service industry as a sensitive industry which is image concious and thus may also avoid locations linked to a waste facility'*. The food and service industries are therefore ruled out just for a start.**

**In their arrogance, Covanta clearly hopes that the core reasons for opposing their insane plan will be forgotten in the rush to grasp their 'thirty pieces of silver' or pursue their dodgy claims about job creation. Yet again they have underestimated the intelligence and sense of communal responsibility of the people of Middlewich and, indeed, of Cheshire. They conveniently forget that over 60% of the local adult population has signed the CHAIN petition opposing their scheme on the grounds of risks to public health, damage to the environment and the sheer stupidity of its location. To these can be added the fact the incinerator would be mainly used to burn waste imported from outside Cheshire and the new horrendous threat of another giant waste incinerator just four miles away in Northwich. They also ignore the important fact that more than 2500 formal planning objections have already been lodged.**

**The thousands of CHAIN supporters opposed to the waste incinerator are reassured that the statutory rules prevent the council planning officer taking the inducement offered by Covanta into account when it comes to making a recommendation on the planning application. This safeguard does not apply to members of the Council and so we all pray and expect that Cheshire East Council will act in the true interests of current and future generations and tell Covanta that its waste burning monster has no part to play in its vision for Cheshire East. In simple clear terms, it would be unforgivable to approve the Covanta planning application.'**