



NEWS RELEASE

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### **Northwich Public say “NO TATA” to Brunner Mond Waste Incinerator**

Nearly 200 people braved a cold and rainy night on Thursday 28 January to attend a public protest meeting at Northwich Memorial Hall organised by CHAIN. A number of councillors from Cheshire West and Chester Council and local parishes were also present.

#### **Traffic chaos, killer diesel fumes and toxic emissions.**

The main speaker was Brian Cartwright, Chairman of CHAIN, who gave a presentation summarising the case against the Brunner Mond proposal to build a waste incinerator in Lostock. He concentrated on the fact that there is no need for it because Cheshire has already got far more waste processing capacity than it requires and it is unfair to expect Northwich to be lumbered with taking in and burning rubbish created in places like Manchester and Birmingham and other cities across the UK. He stressed that the prospect of hundreds more heavy goods lorries carrying waste and ash every day would create chaos on local roads and the diesel fumes would inevitably cause serious illnesses. There would also be the serious health risks associated with an unprecedented concentration of incinerators in the Mid Cheshire area; the highest level in the world. The dreaded Cheshire Toxic Diamond.

#### **All local MPs united against the Northwich incinerator**

Brian read out messages of support from the three local MPs; George Osborne, Mike Hall and Stephen O'Brien. The prospective Conservative Candidate for Weaver Vale, Graham Evans, was in the audience and stood up to pledge his opposition to the incinerator and support for the CHAIN campaign.

#### **The Brunner Mond fantasy fairytale castles**

The recent publication by Brunner Mond of artist impressions of their proposed incinerator was heavily criticised and were described as ludicrous “fantasy fairytale castles “ which misled the public about the huge size of the plant, bigger than Wembley Stadium, and left out other important information. CHAIN displayed a more realistic and honest diagram described as the ‘The Picture They Don’t Want Northwich to See’ which brought gasps of horror from those present. Many were alarmed when they realised how close the waste incinerator would be to nearby homes, schools and shops including Tesco and B&Q. All

would be within less than a mile of the incinerator that would be constantly burning garbage at the rate of 150,000 lbs per hour.



### **Property values. Impact just beginning.**

The future negative impact of a gigantic waste incinerator in the town on the local housing market and house prices was given attention. It was explained that CHAIN had undertaken research with some local solicitors and learned that they now feel legally and ethically obliged to inform potential purchasers of properties in the area, when asked, about the possibility of a waste incinerator being constructed. This will inevitably affect prices. A member of the audience asked if Brunner Mond would pay compensation for the potential losses to home owners that could amount to tens of millions of pounds. The question will be passed on to the TATA Group head office in Mumbai.

### **What consultation?**

There were complaints from many people about the so-called ‘consultation’ exercise that Brunner Mond is supposedly undertaking. It appears that most areas within a couple of miles of the Lostock site are being totally ignored and residents in the audience asked for advice on how to make formal complaints about being excluded from the process which was provided.

### **CWAC councillors challenged**

Some of the councillors present responded to criticism that they are not properly representing the interests of their constituents particularly in light of the 25000 plus who have signed the CHAIN petition. They stated that they are constrained by council rules although several did claim to have signed the petition. They also advised people to send complaints directly to their councillors and MPs.

### **Cheers for Councillor Birtwistle!**

Councillor Terry Birtwistle of Northwich East told the audience that he was showing solidarity with his constituents in opposing the incinerator and intended to sign the CHAIN petition. This earned him a large round of applause and he later signed up.

### **Message sent to Mumbai**

The meeting ended with Brian Cartwright thanking all for their contributions and support. He said that the CHAIN campaign is gathering momentum as people were beginning to realise the awful implications of Brunner Mond's intentions. He hoped that the TATA Group, owners of Brunner Mond, would act honorably in accordance with their own stated corporate purpose which is '*to improve the quality of life of the communities we serve*' and desist from building a gigantic waste incinerator in the town which would "ruin the lives of many men, women and children in the Northwich community for decades".

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**<http://www.anti-incinerator.org.uk/>**