

CHAIN

Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network



CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS' UPDATE

DEC 2014

In July 1995, Brunner Mond announced that it intended to build a coal burning power station in Winnington that would burn 20,000 tonnes coal imported from Poland every week. That awful prospect was prevented after strong community resistance. Nearly 20 years later Northwich continues to face a similar threat from Brunner Mond's successor, TATA, which continues to have ambitions to build a large waste incinerator in Lostock. This Update is intended to inform you about what CHAIN has been doing over recent months as our campaign continues.

What has Cheshire West and Chester Council been up to?

The most recent event occurred on 11 December, when Hilary Cartwright, a member of the CHAIN committee, made a presentation to the entire CWAC Council in Winsford. The words used in her short speech are attached to this Update and you are strongly recommended to read it to get a full picture of what has been going on.

The background to Hilary's presentation arose after an officer of the Council had let it slip in a letter to a local resident that TATA had been in contact to enquire about the planning implications of building a waste incinerator in Lostock smaller than the one for which planning permission was granted by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Further correspondence between CHAIN and the Council led us to conclude that the Council would seriously consider consenting to a smaller incinerator without requiring TATA to submit a new planning application. In plainer words, allow it to go through 'on the nod'.

On the other hand, CHAIN was absolutely adamant, from the moment that we heard what TATA was up to, that if it wanted to build a smaller incinerator it would be legally obliged to submit a new planning application and go through the proper consultation and review procedures. The wording of the Secretary of State's decision on the previous application which applies to a 600,000 tonnes per annum plant in Lostock make that crystal clear and it is not open to CWAC Council to interpret this in any other way. It would not be a discretionary matter for them.

All of this is covered in greater detail in Hilary's speech.

It is also worth noting that CWAC Council evidently had no plans to tell the public about the approach from TATA and claims that no records of meetings or conversations have been retained. (Hint: written records are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.) Councillors were also unaware.

Part of our concern on this matter is because several years ago we were informed by a senior council officer that the officers had intended to recommend approval of the application for a waste incinerator in Northwich but the Council changed its view after it saw the scale of public opposition.

Ince Marshes Incinerator - Bad News for Cheshire

We heard a few weeks ago that Peel Environmental is to proceed with building a waste incinerator in Ince Marches near Frodsham. Its capacity will be 850,000 tonnes per annum and it will be one of the largest in Europe. The potential sources of fuel for the plant have not been revealed but this is not good news for TATA's ambitions because they would be fighting Peel for the same supply.

What planet are these people on?

Referring back to the first sentence in this update; if Brunner Mond had got its way in 1995, there would now be 200 truck loads of coal on the roads into Northwich every day and a coal fired power station spewing deadly pollution over the town. You may therefore be surprised to hear, or maybe not, that the luvvies in CWAC Council in charge of 'public realm' are intending to place statues of the founders of Brunner Mond, Sir John Brunner and Ludwig Mond, in Northwich town centre. There is no plan to erect a memorial to the residents and factory workers whose health was ruined and who often died early deaths as a result of living close to their chemical plants or working in them.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2015.