

Have You Been Invited to an Allerton Waste Recovery Park Public Exhibition?

Want to ask some questions?

How about these from the latest bit of PR spin from AmeyCespa?

- 1. Why do AmeyCespa keep claiming “Households across York and North Yorkshire produce around 470,000 tonnes of rubbish a year”?**

According to Government official figures, available from DEFRA, Household waste from York and North Yorkshire in 2008/9 amounted to only 403,000 tonnes.

Perhaps they’ve got their numbers wrong. The 470,000 tonne figure refers to Municipal waste – not Household waste. 70,000 tonnes is a lot of waste – it begs the question what else have they got wrong?

- 2. Yet again, there is no mention of the I-word (that’s, INCINERATION).**

Why are they so scared to use the I-word?

Do they really think that no one will spot plans for a 250 foot chimney?

- 3. The PR claims that they will remove all recyclable items from household waste and then process food and organic waste in an anaerobic digester (AD). They will then “generate electricity from the remaining, untreatable waste that cannot be recycled”.**

Isn’t this a little bit misleading? A huge amount of the stuff that doesn’t go in the AD plant can in fact be recycled, if the contractor chose to do so or if NYCC insisted they did. The fact of the matter is it is far easier (and cheaper?) to just burn it.

Ask how it is that Lancashire County Council is able to recycle much higher amounts. In fact, Lancashire manages all of its waste without having to burn a single ounce (or gram) of it.

4. Under the handy “Questions” part of the flier, AmeyCespa start by saying that because we’re making so much waste, the cost of landfill will rise to £1.8bn in 25 years.

What they are actually saying is that if we continue to recycle at our present appallingly low levels, and if we continue to increase our household waste, then we will have to pay £1.8bn in 25 years time.

Well, these are pretty big ifs for these reasons.

- First, recycling rates are RISING and will continue to do so. This will reduce the amount of waste that needs handling.
- Second, the amount of household waste generated is FALLING already and will continue to do so as our country and our county move towards a “zero waste economy”. We suggest AmeyCespa check out the DEFRA statistics.

5. AmeyCespa helpfully point out that sending waste to landfill contributes to global warming.

It certainly does, but this is not a reason to then go and burn 70% of the County’s household waste! In fact, we should be making less waste and recycling more. Then we wouldn’t have to landfill so much and certainly don’t have to burn it. Isn’t the best way to minimize greenhouse gas emissions to make less waste and recycle more?

6. So, “What is Allerton Waste Recovery Park?” they ask of us.

Well it is a very big incinerator that will burn 80% of our waste and make money for AmeyCespa. The spin says that the park is “designed to get the maximum resource from waste”. But AmeyCespa aren’t going to do this and not make a good profit. Perhaps it should read that the park is “designed to get the maximum profit from waste”.

No-one is denying that there is a waste problem – there is. But it is nowhere near as big as AmeyCespa is claiming AND there are better ways of dealing with it. Ways that will have widespread public support.

7. It is fantastic news that the new facility will create 70 jobs.

But have you any idea how many new jobs could be created through a big push on recycling? Are they seriously trying to persuade us that £900 m of our money for 70 jobs is somehow going to persuade us that this scheme makes sense?

- 8. At the end of the flier we get to see exactly how they managed to come up with the disputed 470,000 tonnes of household waste. It states “the majority of the waste coming from households and some from local businesses such as offices and businesses”.**

So maybe this is not about dealing with household waste as we had been told. It seems that if this goes ahead we, the households and council tax payer of North Yorkshire could be paying for a grossly over-sized facility that will actually be used to process all sorts of commercial waste from North Yorkshire and potentially beyond.

- 9. Lastly, AmeyCespa rightly reminds us that this is a PROPOSED facility.**

Indeed, indeed. This proposal HAS NOT been approved. BUT IT WILL be approved unless we do something.

Take action to stop this PROPOSED facility:

- Write to your County Councillor, District Councillor, and MP.**
- Speak to friends across North Yorkshire**
- Sign the petition:
<http://www.gopetition.co.uk/petitions/dont-incinerate-north-yorkshire.html>**
- Join NYWAG: email steve@nywag.org**

Spread the word that this is a massive financial white elephant that the entire County – every parish from the coast to the moors – will end up paying for over the next quarter of a century!