

## **Are you wondering what the leaflet about “Allerton Waste Recovery Park” is really all about?**

Households in this area have recently received a colourful A4 leaflet through the post, entitled ‘We all create waste’, about proposals for waste management at Allerton Park in North Yorkshire. This is the start of a big PR exercise on behalf of the company, AmeyCespa, that has won a contract from North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council to build an industrial plant (including an incinerator) to manage some of the waste collected by the councils.

There will doubtless be lots of other leaflets and events coming our way to persuade us to agree with their proposals and not oppose these developments. But when you’re reading this leaflet, and perhaps the ones to come, here are some things we suggest you should think about:

- Why is incineration not mentioned at all? The leaflet talks about an ‘Energy Recovery Plant’, but this is simply another name for an incinerator to burn waste and generate electricity as a by-product. Why doesn’t the leaflet use the right word - ‘incineration’ - to describe that part of the proposal? Who are they trying to fool?
- What incentive will be left to increase recycling in future and to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place, when an incinerator big enough to burn it all has already been paid for through our council taxes?
- Why don’t the numbers in the leaflet add up? Households in North Yorkshire and the City of York produced over 476,000 tonnes of rubbish last year (2008-9), but the leaflet only talks about recycling 20,000 tonnes a year and putting another 40,000 tonnes a year through an Anaerobic Digester. Of the rest, some will be recycled through existing ‘kerbside’ collections, but how much will the plant be processing? And how much ‘commercial waste’ as well?
- Why doesn’t the leaflet say exactly how much is to be incinerated a year? How big an incinerator will be needed for this? How many lorries will be on the roads to supply it, how far will the smoke and smell reach, how much carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas that adds to global warming) will it produce?
- How much will all this cost the tax-payers of North Yorkshire and the City of York? The leaflet doesn’t mention any costs at all.
- How much profit will AmeyCespa make out of all this? That includes both disposing of waste and generating electricity and selling it on to the National Grid. And how much of that profit (if any) will come back to the councils and local tax-payers?
- How could the leaflet be printed and distributed to thousands of households only one day after the successful bidder for the waste contract (AmeyCespa) was announced? In other words, how much in advance was this deal with the council actually made?
- Why have the details of this proposal not been released to public scrutiny so that we can all read them?

Produced by Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council. More information about the background to this proposal - and actions to take/people to write to if you don’t agree with it - can be found on our website at [http://www.marton-cum-grafton.org/opposing\\_NYCC.htm](http://www.marton-cum-grafton.org/opposing_NYCC.htm) .