

## Incinerator objection campaign on Fire!

3214 letters of objection have been published on the West Berkshire Planning website... and counting. This has been rather overwhelming for the local Council and many of us are still awaiting our acknowledgement letters.

All the local Parishes from Ashampstead to Yattendon have submitted objections as well as the Ramblers Association, the North Wessex Downs AONB and Natural England.

### Leaflets through the letterbox

Village volunteers braved the January weather, the pet dogs and satellite navigation routes down uncharted rural tracks to post 10,000 information leaflets through letterboxes across our local community. Jo Conington who organised the deliveries said, *"We have reached parts of the AONB we never knew existed and have the weary legs and the fitness points to prove it!"*

Thank you to Jo and to all the willing volunteers who just didn't know what they were letting themselves in for.

### Publicity

Every week throughout January, WBAGI placed advertisements in the Newbury Weekly News as well as taking some banner advertisements on the Newbury Today web site.

Interviews were also aired by both ITV Meridian as well as BBC South Today on their news programs on several occasions throughout the month including interviews with our local MP Richard Benyon when he was out campaigning with WBAGI on the streets of Newbury. WBAGI also had interview air time on BBC Radio Berkshire and Newbury Sound. Links can be found on our website.

### But...it's not over until the fat lady sings

A resounding success in the volume of objections and raising awareness, one might say, but we wait to see if and how it sways the judgment of our elected Councillors who are members of the Planning Committee. No date for review has as yet been set, so if you have not submitted your objection, please do so....they are still being accepted. Even if rejected by West Berkshire Planning, it is highly likely to be appealed by Grundon and be subject to Judicial Review or Public Enquiry. So look out for more WBAGI fund raising events in a place near you! The real and costly battle has yet to commence.

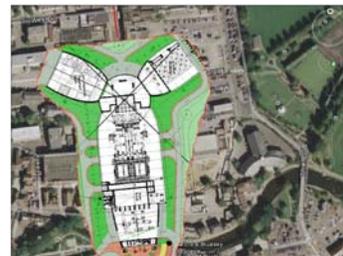


### WBAGI bear hits the streets

Bands of WBAGI volunteers hit the chilly streets of Newbury town centre on two Saturdays leading up to the closing date for objections at the end of January.

Over a 1000 letters of objections were signed and collected whilst our WBAGI bear (AKA Jack Glasspool and Iain Fairnington) kept the children entertained.

The sight of the proposed incinerator footprint overlaid onto Northbrook Street, stretching all the way from Bridge Street to the Parkway development in order to convey the extent and size of the development was a particularly compelling image for shoppers and visitors to Newbury.



## AONB under industrial planning siege

Whilst WBAGI are very focussed on opposing the Grundon waste incinerator we also have to be aware and consider the implications of any other industrial planning applications that are being sought in the local area within the AONB.

These potentially could set a very dangerous precedent, and we all know that exceptional circumstances have to be demonstrated for any development in the AONB. And close to WBAGI's heart is protecting the AONB from inappropriate development.

The latest addition is a planning application for **Copyhold Farm in Curridge**. This application is of particular concern to WBAGI due to its adjacent proximity to the proposed waste incinerator site within the AONB. It is for a **permanent** facility comprising 2 large steel clad buildings for crushing concrete and recycling waste in addition to the quarrying on the site which is due to be completed by 2016. WBAGI would like to ask everyone to **consider sending a letter of objection** to this application to West Berkshire Council's planning department by **21 March 2012** raising your concerns. As you probably all now know the simplest way to do this is to send an email to: [planapps@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:planapps@westberks.gov.uk) stating the Application Number 12/00144/COMIND and detailing your objection and including your name and address. Should you not wish the Council to display your personal details please state this at the head of the email.



### 1 Grundon Quarry Extension

Application Nbr: 11/00233/MINMAJ

*The continued extraction and processing of sand from Old Kiln Quarry incorporating a proposed extension, the retention of the existing site access, site offices, weighbridge and welfare facilities; the temporary diversion of footpath CHIE/37/2 and the temporary diversion of BOAT Chieveley 49, the retention of former advanced landscaping areas, associated works and the overall restoration of the site to agriculture with new tree and hedge planting*

AONB land involved: Additional 51 acres of land.

**Status:** **Permission refused** by West Berks Council 27 February 2012 under delegated powers but can be appealed by Grundon within 6 months of refusal.

### 2 Grundon Waste Incinerator

Application Nbr: 11/02644/COMIND

*The construction and development of an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility for the thermal treatment of commercial, industrial and municipal wastes, together with ancillary infrastructure including associated ash processing, storage and air pollution control residue treatment, office accommodation, staff parking area, water attenuation features, gatehouse and weighbridge facilities, landscaping and new habitat creation, and a new access road at Old Kiln Quarry, Chieveley*

AONB land, industrial buildings: 3 x 45m high buildings with the main building being 200m long, 2 x 75m high chimneys, an initial license for 250,000 tonnes.

**Status:** **No decision as yet.** Public consultation officially ended but any letters of objections can still be sent until the planning committee or delegated decision takes place. So if anyone, adult or child (as there is no age limit) has not sent an objection please do so now!

## AONB under industrial planning siege cont'd

### 3 Newbury Showground

Application Nbr: 11/01135/COMIND

*Erection of a building for showing livestock plus assembly and leisure (use class D2) on non-show days, extension of internal road and creation of pond*

AONB land, industrial building: 73.2m long x 45m wide x approx 11m high with a gross 3,250m<sup>2</sup> floor space for year round use.

**Status:** Despite the case officer's recommendation for refusal, **permission in principle was conditionally granted** by The District Planning Committee on 23 November 2011, subject to a new heads of terms which will agree the acceptable terms of usage (including number of days, hours of operation and types of events etc) Still awaiting new heads of terms agreement so permission not yet fully granted.

### 4 Priors Court Farm

Application Nbr: 11/01089/FUL

*Erection of Warehouse Premises together with (integral) ancillary offices and staff parking.*

AONB land, industrial building: gross 800 m<sup>2</sup> floorspace

**Status:** Despite the case officer's recommendation for refusal, **permission was granted** by West Berkshire Planning Committee on 6 March 2012, subject to conditions imposed by West Berks Council.

### 5 Copyhold Farm, Curridge

Application Nbr: 12/00144/COMIND

*Material Recycling facility (MRF) and retention of aggregate recycling facility (ARF) including extension of existing waste management site and amended restoration of remainder of former quarry to woodland and nature conservation grassland*

AONB land, **Permanent** Industrial buildings: 2 proposed buildings which are to be 11.63m high each and interconnected are 14.472m wide x 20m long and 19.398m wide x 30m long as a permanent facility despite the fact that quarrying should end in 2016 at Copyhold Farm.

**Status:** **Open for public comment** so any letters of comment need to be sent before deadline of 21 March 2012.

Contact: [enquiries@wbagi.org](mailto:enquiries@wbagi.org)

## Grundon Quarry extension application turns to dust

The long awaited result of the application by Grundon to extend their quarrying activities by another 51 acres was reached by West Berkshire Council's planning department's case officer.

The refusal was made under delegated powers by the officer assigned to the case and did not come before a planning committee. The application to extend the quarrying activities also included a retrospective application for an area Grundon have already quarried without permission, and the overdue reinstatement of the Old Kiln Farm site which was due to be returned to agriculture and woodland by April 2010.

Simon Conington, Chairman of WBAGI stated, *"This is a great result for the local community. The fact that this application was refused under delegated powers is exceptionally significant. Such a decision would only have been made if the development was manifestly in direct and irresolvable conflict with both national and local policies to protect the AONB and the environment. That decision clearly demonstrates that the officers and councillors were not persuaded by any of Grundon's arguments. It also demonstrates that the objections made by local residents were well founded, relevant to the decision and to the protection of the AONB. It shows that localism works, and that Grundon's have a very significant barrier to overcome if they choose to appeal the decision."*

It now remains for West Berkshire Council to seek legal advice on the action to be taken concerning the reinstatement of the site and the quarrying without planning permission. WBAGI would like to see the Council enforce the reinstatement of Old Kiln Farm as soon as possible as this is now long overdue.

Whilst this refusal is great news, Grundon's do of course have an option to appeal the decision within 6 months of this refusal so it might not be fully over yet.

We will keep you posted.

[www.wbagi.org](http://www.wbagi.org)



## Revised Perth incinerator plan rejected

Revised plans for a £100m waste plant incinerator on the outskirts of Perth have been rejected by councillors in early February 2012. The Grundon Waste Management proposal, which included an 80m (262ft) chimney, was first rejected three years ago. An appeal against the decision was then launched but this was dismissed by ministers in November 2010.

The new plans included a smaller 34m (111ft) chimney. But councillors have now rejected these after they attracted strong local opposition. A statement issued by Grundon Waste Management said it was "concerned and disappointed" by the approach the council had taken. It added: *"We fail to understand why Perth and Kinross Council's environmental health manager posted significant information about air quality, odour and noise on the council's planning portal in November - but did not provide this to our technical consultants."*

In their response to the planning application, the Perth and Kinross Council stated, *"Modelling work undertaken by the Environmental Health Manager indicates the potential for this plant to add more nitrogen dioxide into a receptor area already above the statutory limit, thereby potentially further compromising the health of the residents of that area. The proposal would contribute around 10% of the annual NO<sub>2</sub> for Perth. There is no other single source within the area which contributes anywhere near this amount. The Council's Environmental Health Manager considers that the applicant's assessment of the impact of the development on the local air quality is deficient in that it underestimates the adverse effect on local air quality to a significant degree."* They also objected regarding odour containment as they failed to see how frequent lorry arrivals (every 11 -12 minutes) and maintaining a closed door into the reception hall to contain odour were compatible.

## Once more into the breach....

In the Newbury Weekly News on 1 March 2012 an interesting article entitled:- **"Gravel firm asks for more time to finish extraction"** caught our eye! The company in question was Grundon, concerning a site to the east of Raghill and west of Padworth Common where original permission for extraction was given conditionally upon restoration of the site 9 years after extraction. Extraction started in 2003 and therefore the site is now past its deadline to be reinstated. A familiar story, of insufficient material available on site to deliver the restoration scheme in its entirety, and Grundon's are seeking an additional 2 years to enable this. Local people naturally are keen to have the site restored and yet again another example of Grundon breaching their original planning conditions.

## Donations, donations, donations....

PLEASE VISIT THE WBAGI WEBSITE TO MAKE A DONATION AND THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.