

What will the real impact of the incinerator be?



This image uses the Colnbrook Incinerator superimposed over a picture taken of the Grundon Blimp and is designed to provide an indication of the scale of the proposal for Old Kiln Farm.

WBAGI Roadshow events

Chieveley Village Hall : Tuesday, 3 May at 8pm

Trinity School Hall : Wednesday, 4 May at 8pm

Acland Hall, Cold Ash: Saturday, 14 May at 10.30am

www.wbagi.org



West Berkshire Against
Grundon Incinerator

Newsletter April 2011

WBAGI Awareness Roadshows

The building of a proposed 350,000 tonne waste incinerator on a designated area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) at Old Kiln Farm, Curridge / Chieveley will have an impact on all our surrounding villages. The massive three 45 metre high buildings and the two 75 metre high chimneys will be clearly visible from miles around and will dominate the landscape.

Hermitage will be directly upwind and the proposed development is within the designated Hermitage Wooded Commons area which has special mention for conservation in the AONB's Landscape Assessment plans.

Cold Ash and Ashmore Green, not directly under the protection of the AONB, will see a precedent being set and perhaps see its own countryside

at risk of future developments. Indeed any area within West Berkshire that today is a greenfield site will be at risk of industrial development should this proposal go ahead.

The general desirability of the area as a whole will be severely impacted and the additional 400 lorry movements a day to the area will also impact our daily lives.

WBAGI have launched a series of village roadshow events to help spread the word and raise awareness.

Hermitage hosted the first road show on April 2nd with invitations extended to residents of Hampstead Norreys and Oare.

These events are open to all so why not come along to an event near you and tell your neighbours! We welcome your questions and your support.

WBAGI.org: Petition—opposed to the Incinerator

WBAGI have launched a petition in anticipation of the Incinerator planning application. This petition will be submitted to West Berks Council prior to the planning decision. We would like to obtain as many names as possible to demonstrate the strength of feeling amongst the local community. The petition can be reached online using the 'WBAGI Petition' link on the left navigation panel of the website. Please go online and add your voice the growing list of residents having their say.

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WBAGI walk raises over £1500 to help protect our countryside

For many of us a walk or horse ride around Curridge village and the Old Kiln Farm quarry site is a quiet contemplative affair, enjoying the countryside and the peace and tranquillity. Sunday 27th March was quite a different matter. Around 300 local people, individuals and small family groups, met at the WI hall in Curridge and set off on the 3Km walk around the proposed incinerator site. Over £1500 was raised for the WBAGI campaign funds and many saw the “lunar landscape” that Grundon have already created for our community. Many of the walkers went on to enjoy a refreshing drink and food at the White



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Horse pub in Hermitage. The event was covered by photographs in the Newbury Weekly News and several participants were interviewed for broadcasting on Newbury Sound radio.

WBAGI.org: Online Donations

The WBAGI website www.wbagi.org now has an online donation facility. This allows contributions to the campaign fighting fund to be made electronically by credit or debit card. The campaign is unlikely to be a short one so please support the fight. The online donation facility can be accessed by clicking on the orange ‘donate’ button on the home page.



Fundraising dates for the diary...

26th June

Chieveley Village Fete. WBAGI will have a stand at the Chieveley Fete this year. More details to follow soon.

3rd July

Party in the Park. Bring your own picnic, with live music - live band and opera singer, ice cream van and bar. More details to follow soon.

27th & 28th August

X Factor Talent Competition at the White Horse in Hermitage. More Details to follow soon.

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Grundon Quarry Extension Planning Application

Hundreds of objections lodged against Grundon's planning application

Grundon's application to extend their quarrying activity to a further 51 acres of land within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was submitted in early March. By the 25th March around 500 letters of objection had been lodged with West Berkshire Planning, including objections from the AONB organisation, the WBAGI appointed legal advisor who has extensive experience in this area, the MOD, Natural England, Chieveley Parish Council, Peasemore Parish Council and West Berkshire Ramblers.

The WBAGI legal advisor has focussed on this AONB area not having any exceptional characteristics with regards to quality or quantity of sand within it.

"There is nothing special about the need for building sand extraction in the AONB or in relation to the characteristics of the application site. Indeed there is a fundamental concern that the application site is of such poor quality and yield as to hardly be described as mineral bearing in a building sand sense."

The North Wessex Downs AONB's key objection is that:-

"This proposal will result in a major development that will result in increased intrusion and loss of the special qualities that make up the character of the AONB and therefore this proposal fails to meet the objectives of the North Wessex Downs Management Plan 2009-14..... to conserve and enhance its quiet, secluded character."

We thank you all for lodging your objections to this application.

The next stage will be for this application to be reviewed at a full West Berkshire Planning Committee meeting, expected sometime after Easter.

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