



Members Questions to Full Council

Question from Councillor Stephen Davies to the Leader

Can the Leader explain the Press Release stating Stroud District Council don't like Javelin Park? It is both misleading, Stroud District Council's objection was on planning not incineration in principle (actually the Labour and Liberal Democrats at GCC selected the site) and incomplete. There is no suggestion what should happen to the non recycled rubbish (which there will always be some.) I believe this is a politically motivated Press Release and is pure Gesture Politics and discredits the name of this good Council.

Answer

The statements in the press release were consistent with the Council's position as regards the incinerator which have been made publically known since 2012.

At the Development Control committee on the 24th April 2012 the District Council raised a number of objections to the incinerator at Javelin Park including:-

'More efficient means of Advanced Thermal Treatment are available which provide for a lower environmental impact, can be part of a dispersed solution and are scalable.'

Following the refusal of the planning application by the County Council's Development Control Committee on the 21st March 2013, a planning appeal commenced in late 2013. The District Council's case in opposition to Javelin Park identified that there was harm to the rural landscape, the character of the nearby AONB and that it would impede the delivery and quality of the Hunts Grove strategic housing allocation. In making its detailed case the District Council was of the view that the harm identified was not mitigated by the need for nor the type of the proposed energy from waste facility - large scale incineration.

In November 2012 the site was identified amongst others in GCC's Waste Core Strategy for 'strategic waste management facilities'. The strategy identified that the technical solutions would need to be a matter for evaluation by the Waste Disposal Authority (the County Council) through the residual waste contract process. Uses which would have been compliant with the Waste Core Strategy would have included technologies for the pre-sorting of waste prior to residual treatment, anaerobic digestion or a more efficient means of thermal treatment.

The District Council's case at the appeal, accepted that the thermal treatment of residual waste was likely to be necessary (and SDC's expert witnesses expressed this view) but it was first necessary to pre-sort waste in order to remove recycling and biogenic content for anaerobic digestion. The unrecoverable element should then be considered as a fuel where it would be transported to a location where its combustion would displace fossil fuelled sources in a facility optimised for energy efficiency and not waste disposal. This option would have generated less CO2 than the new facility.

As the Council has consistently advocated the focus has to be on moving waste up the waste hierarchy from disposal and inefficient means of recovery towards prevention, re use and recycling.

Councillor John Marjoram to the Leader

Does the Leader of the Council share my concerns about the Gloucestershire County Council proposal to close Southfield and Wyatt House care homes and is Stroud District Council objecting to the proposal?

Answer

Yes, I do share your concerns as do other members of this Council and residents of our district.

It is disappointing to note that no new homes have been identified as replacements, and although both homes have been flagged up as needing modernisation or replacement, the Estate Strategy agreed in 2005 to replace or improve homes has been cancelled by the County Council.

Without any replacements, vulnerable elderly people who require residential care will have nowhere in the district to go, which will negatively impact on their and their families' health and well being.

Furthermore, Stroud District still does not have any provision for extra care despite GCC identifying the provision of extra care as a priority.

As the County Council Cabinet is meeting on 24 July to make a decision, I propose that I write on behalf of SDC to the cabinet member to request that the proposed closure of the homes should be held off until such time as new provision, preferably in Stroud (or at the very least replaced on one of the two sites) has taken place.