

# MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Clerk to the Council

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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

Jenny Goddard  
BEaR Project Communications Officer  
Central Bedfordshire  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

Dear Ms Goddard,

The Parish Council discussed the current situation regarding the BEaR Project at its meeting last week.

The Council welcomes the BEaR Team's decision to consult with residents regarding its plans and to provide information necessary for those residents to give an informed opinion on the proposals. However, the Parish Council will reserve the right to express its own opinions and to request changes to the Project where it sees fit.

Whilst the Council supports that local authorities must find alternatives to landfill there is strong opinion that the preferred location at Rookery Pit for an EfW is totally unsuitable from both an environmental and a lack of infrastructure perspective.

Rookery Pit is in the bottom of Marston Vale and thus emissions will not be readily taken away by prevailing winds but sit in the atmosphere over many residential areas. Historically this has been proven to be the case with emissions from Stewartby Brickworks. The majority of the Parish Council is not opposed to incineration but this is subject to it being sited in a location which would not be detrimental to local residents.

There is a clear lack of supporting infrastructure with the location at Rookery Pit. When the Parish Council agreed to the improved A421 proposals, it was on the understanding that traffic would be moved onto this road, leaving local roads for local traffic. Traffic movements which would be generated by locating the EfW at Rookery would not be encompassed on the new A421, but be pushed onto the local road network. This goes against the main projected benefit of the improved A421 to take large scale traffic movements away from the local roads. The main route to be used within Marston Moreteyne to access Rookery would have lorries travelling close to housing and a children's play area which is totally unacceptable.

Over the years Marston Vale has been a dumping ground for rubbish. With the closure of the brickworks at Stewartby and the landfill site at Brogborough it is time for the Vale and its residents to enjoy a reprieve from air pollution and traffic. Should Rookery prove to be the site for the plant then there are still doubts from members of the Parish Council as to the safety of the emissions from the plant, not to mention the pollution from lorry emissions arriving and leaving the site.

Given the recent decision by Buckinghamshire Council to award their waste contract to Covanta, and Covanta's identification of Rookery as the location for their EfW, why cannot Bedfordshire go across the border to find a more suitable location for our waste? Obviously the Government's own policies not to import or export waste across Counties holds no weight!

The Parish Council would also like to know why Luton Borough Council's waste will also be processed by this project?

With the threat of Covanta on our doorstep and Bedford Borough Council pulling out of the project recently, it continues to be important to keep the doors of communication open and the ability to comment on the scheme as it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,

H. Trustam

Mrs. H. Trustam  
Parish Clerk.