

BURNING NEWS UPDATE

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PREVENT THE BIOMASS BURNER FROM GOING AHEAD IN BISHOPS CASTLE – SPEAK OUT NOW AND LET THE COUNCIL HEAR OUR OPPOSITION

"emissions from the process have the potential to affect the health of local residents and people using the nearby cycle park, allotments and footpaths" extract from Planning Inspector Decision to approve 04/09/09

- The Development Services Scrutiny Committee of Shropshire Council is holding a meeting to review whether the Cabinet of Shropshire Council was right to accept the Biomass Developers bid for the business park during their confidential – 'behind closed doors, public excluded' recent meeting, a meeting which decided that no other bids for the park be considered.
- **Meeting is at 6pm at the Community College, Bishops Castle on Tuesday September 28th. WE NEED PUBLIC SUPPORT AT THIS MEETING.**
- The chair of the committee is Alan Mosley, the elected county councillor who represents Castlefields and Ditherington in Shrewsbury.
- Members of the public will each be given three minutes to voice their views on the land on the business park being sold for biomass development
- Alan Mosley has said "he would not be restricting the time for public comments" (Shropshire Star 16/09/10)
- Alan Mosley has also revealed to the Shropshire Star (15/09/10) that in yet more 'behind closed doors – confidential' agreements we, the Shropshire ratepayers could be liable for up to 90% of the costs of Veolia appealing the decision by the elected members of the council planning committee to throw out the plans for an incinerator at Battlefield despite officer support. [REMEMBER, we never got the chance to have elected members vote on the biomass burner at Bishops Castle!]

The article said: *Shropshire taxpayers could be landed with a bill of more than £1 million if waste firm Veolia decides to appeal a decision to refuse planning permission for its incinerator in Shrewsbury, it was claimed today. Alan Mosley, leader of the Labour group at Shropshire Council, said he had been told by council officers that the authority could be liable. He said that under a clause in the multi-million pound 27-year waste contract signed with Veolia in 2007, the council would be forced to pay 90 per cent of the appeal costs if a barrister decided that there was more than a 50 per cent chance of such an action being successful.*

Councillor Mosley now plans to raise the issue with Shirehall officials, and possibly through the scrutiny process. He said the contract was developed through the former Shropshire Waste Partnership which included the former county, district and borough authorities. But the almost 1,000-page contract, was always discussed in private session because of commercial confidentiality. Councillor Mosley, who spoke out against the proposed burner at Battlefield when it was rejected by members of the strategic planning committee, said: "I'm disgusted that this clause is in the contract." Andy Goldsmith, council assistant director, public protection, said it was inappropriate to discuss commercially sensitive matters. He added: "The council is working with Veolia to explore the way forward." No decisions over appeals have yet been made, he said.

COULD THIS INCREDIBLE REVELATION PERHAPS BE THE REASON WHY THE BISHOPS CASTLE BURNER WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO BE VOTED ON BY ELECTED MEMBERS!

- **PLEASE TURN UP AND SAY TO THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WHY YOU FEEL THE CABINET DECISION TO SELL BUSINESS PARK LAND TO THE BIOMASS DEVELOPERS IN SECRET AND AGAINST THE WISHES OF THIS COMMUNITY IS NO WAY TO TREAT THE RESIDENTS OF THIS COMMUNITY - WHO WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE BLIGHT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL BRING.**