

BISHOPS CASTLE GROUP
C/O UNION STREET GARAGE
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BISHOPS CASTLE
SHROPSHIRE
SY9 5AJ

Kim Ryley
Chief Executive
Shropshire District Council
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

28th April 2011

Dear Mr Ryley

A member of Bishops Castle Group visited the Eccleshall Plant last Easter Saturday (April 23rd). As I am sure you are aware the Eccleshall Plant has always been described to both our Group and the people of Bishops Castle as well as officers of your council as the reference plant for the proposed Bishops Castle Biomass Power Plant to be situated on our Business Park.

You will also be aware of the vast local opposition to this proposal and the work of the Bishops Castle Group in both opposing the plans and the only active party taking part in the public inquiry (SSDC having attended in a non participating mode) where 37 conditions were placed upon the plant and its developers and operators.

Our concerns about the monitoring and enforcement of these conditions have been raised on numerous occasions over the past 4 years with your predecessors, South Shropshire District Council, with our MP, our County Councillor, town council and many others. It is therefore of deep concern to the group that the reference plant in Eccleshall was observed to be operating very much against the conditions of operation, most noticeably in the manner of waste (toxic and 'inert') which we understand have been laid down by Stafford Council in parallel conditions to the Bishops Castle Biomass Plant.

We would like to raise the following points for your consideration as it has direct concern for us about who will actually monitor and control the plant in Bishops Castle and more importantly who takes responsibility if the plant breaches the conditions as the one at Eccleshall appears to do. The waste handling observed at Eccleshall are certainly very much in breach of the conditions discussed at the Inquiry.

The sight of all the toxic waste ash (which we understand should be in 'sealed containers' 'inside the building' prior to disposal to licensed waste sites (surely the builders merchant bags piled outside were not quite what people were expecting for stored toxic waste) should make local people very angry as should the slag heap of fly ash which has grown in size over the past few years and does not appear to have been disposed of at all, just added to, with run-off and dust issues arising from this heap. It would also indicate that perhaps they have not secured a waste permit for the toxic ash yet and again we wish to know how our Council will go about enforcing this and ensuring, for the sake of the local residents that this happens?

The pile of toxic waste bags is vastly bigger than on a previous visit but the flue stack has now vanished inside a vast new structure that presumably

contains the £1m of extra filtration that was required to prevent the continuing exceedence of particulates. Our Group will now campaign for the visual impact of this building alteration to be reassessed along with other parameters due to alterations which have been made to the original proposal which we understand has been required to rectify some of the problems they have identified.

The impact of the new bolt on filtration stack housing should not only warrant a visual aspect/impact reassessment but surely the whole airflow model would have to be recalibrated due to building structure change on airflow of the emissions plume and we will similarly be raising this as an issue to be addressed by your council.

The sound levels will additionally need to be recalibrated with the new equipment installed. The plant was described as being no louder than the quiet room in a library but it is apparent that this is still not the case and that the new emissions equipment at Eccleshall may have made the noise emitted louder than previously recorded. Again these noise levels were evident to the member of our group who observed the plant operating.

Of additional concern is the flammability issue vis a vis the biomass fire which happened recently at Woodseaves on April 14th when 2200 tonnes of stored biomass material was destroyed, and our Group wonders what steps the Council will take to protect the town, bearing in mind the plant will be situated by our water course and other local businesses and allotments and in addition we only have a retained fire crew in Bishop's Castle and would hope you have already asked questions with regards to the capability of Shropshire Fire and Rescue to deal with a fire like the one which occurred, along with being satisfied that adequate and robust protection of the town and local area is in place.

As a group and a community we would like answers to our questions, we are tired of being ignored by our Council and want to feel confident in our Council's ability to enforce the conditions of operation to the letter to ensure that this unwanted monstrosity is safe and will cause no harm to the people living locally.

I am enclosing pictures to illustrate the points made in this letter which were taken on Easter Saturday so they form a current view of the plant at Eccleshall.

We look forward to an early and detailed response to the points raised in this letter which we are publishing in open form to interested parties.

Yours sincerely

Karen Bavastock

Chairman
Bishops Castle Group

cc P Dunne MP, P Phillips CC, BCTC, Press