

Powerfuel Appeal

From: Boulton, Mark <mark.boulton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2023 10:45
To: Boulton, Mark
Subject: FW: Etienne Stott's submission to the incinerator public enquiry 3327692

From: Etienne Stott <
Sent: 16 December 2023 12:17
To: Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Etienne Stott's submission to the incinerator public enquiry

Dear Helen,

Please see below the notes for my submission to the enquiry on Thursday. I have typed them up, as they were handwritten and had become less legible as I had made supplementary notes which began to make the paper notes unclear and less legible.

The below are my notes, but I must say that I did not say it word for word, as I cut some of it out out of respect for time and the lateness of the proceedings.

But if I had no time pressure, this is what I would have said (and I did say about 80% in the public hall):

- My name is Etienne Stott. I have an MBE for services to canoeing, which I received on the back of winning a gold medal in the sport of canoe slalom at the London 2012 Olympics
- My connection to the island is that my girlfriend lives here and I spend as much of my time here as possible. She lives looking down into Portland Harbour. It's a great place to live and I am really happy to be more and more a member of the community here.
- **Sport**
- My whole life dedicated to sport. Since 13 years old - every decision made towards becoming a champion
- took 20 yrs to win my medal and it was hard work: Twice a day training, every day, 50 weeks of the year, for years and years (many of them spent at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham, (mostly) downwind of the Eastcroft incinerator which has been mentioned.
- Many valuable lessons, medal or not and I am very lucky.
- Sport is all about 4 things to my mind:
 - health
 - joy
 - excellence
 - possibility - we don't quite know what we are capable of and there is a sense of the future.
- Nowadays - windsurfing. Super fun, challenging and amazing being out there on the sea (I was more of a rivers person!)
- Become part of the community down at the sailing base - it's a great bunch. Vibrant, buzzing, energetic
- All ages and abilities
- Totally thronging - swear I could walk across the harbour not touching the water as there are so many little boats on there some days!
- Very worried about health impacts on this community
 - (I recognise after what you said earlier that what I say may not all be in your remit, but I am unaware of any other opportunities for the public to voice their concerns, so I will do so here, as I would like it on the record).

- Air pollution is a major concern: Trucks (already a lot coming and going - but why make it worse?); Incinerator exhaust (PM2.5, PM10, dioxins, NOx, SOx)
- Exercising out there with this stuff swirling around is all sorts of bad.
- I say exercising - that's more like what I do nowadays. I go windsurfing when I can and I can pick and choose my time.
- I really should say 'training and competing' - this is intense hard work (I always thought the wind did the work, but it is very strenuous!) and when you are on a mission to win the Olympics, you don't get to choose when you go. You go every day, what the training plan says, you do.
- Over 20 years I will have breathed a huge amount of air
- Worried now for those fleets of kids and young people.
- And our Olympians, our elite - these are our best. (I have also just heard about the proposed upgrades to the base to improve the facilities for the British Team).
- I talked about what sport is all about earlier. But what if this incinerator goes ahead?
 - How can it be healthy? Portland and this facility are quintessentially about fresh air. This air would be worryingly tainted.
 - How can it be joyful? Knowing that the interests and wellbeing of the majority have been overridden if it should proceed
 - How can it be excellent? When this island is known as a dumping ground.
 - What does it say about our regard for the possibility of these young people and for the health and wellbeing of the users of this facility?
- This proposal fundamentally contradicts the value of sport.
- **Climate Emergency**
- Several aspects of this proposal are also in contradiction with the fact we are in a climate and ecological emergency.
- In addition to the air pollution, I am concerned about the prospect of marine pollution in this beautiful natural playground.
- Ash blowing into it as it is being loaded
- rubbish from the 'fuel' as it is being moved around and unloaded.
- Need to be worried about the carbon emissions
- Burning rubbish is second only to coal
- Burning waste is an 'old tech' solution
- The future will be less wasteful
- people will be more mindful of resources and want to increase their recycling.
- This incinerator will keep our society locked into wasteful methods - we should be moving towards a circular economy
- There is a irony that, in this area, with an abundance of truly renewable energy (especially wind, but potentially solar and tidal) there is the chance of having this very un-renewable energy being generated.
- Truly renewable energy would benefit the islanders and people in the wider region - not harm them like burning waste would.
- Further irony: I am not sure if you, or the appellants are aware of the research of James Hansen, NASA climate scientist?
- He is an outlier, but has been proven time and again and is well respected.
- He is suggesting quite extreme sea level rises are likely in the next two decades, well within the lifetime of this incinerator, that sea level rises could snuff out the incinerator - it might effectively help kill itself!
- **Concerns for myself and my girlfriend and her son**
- So far, I have talked about my concerns for the community and the planet.
- But I am very worried my girlfriend, her son and myself.
- The estate we live on is 10m below the level of the top of the chimney and just over half a mile from it.
- I feel like our mouths will be just open right in front of it.
- The whole estate and Fortuneswell is just right in its path and days when then the wind blows our way, or swirls the fumes around us.
- I have a degree in engineering, but I don't need it to know this is a very bad thing!
- Purpose of a chimney?
 - to take things which are harmful, or possibly harmful, away from human beings.
 - even the Victorians knew this

- If the stuff coming out of a chimney was genuinely harmless, there would be no need for it.
- WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU PUT A CHIMNEY SOMEWHERE WHERE IT BLOWS STRAIGHT INTO PEOPLE'S FACES?
- This the simplest, most basic of common sense - it is not good idea!!!!
- (as an aside, as I have been listening to the submission, I also wonder what the cruise ship passengers would feel when they are moored up alongside the incinerator and the wind blows in the wrong direction - blowing the incinerator exhaust in *their* faces? I think that would be most unwelcome.)
- **Tone and style of the process**
- I am not saying this as if it would affect the planning outcome, but I feel it is important to put it on the public record too.
- My observation:
- this application has been characterised by an uncaring attitude towards, and a disrespect of, the local community.
- The concerns of locals have been consistently minimised and dismissed - cast aside.
- It is clear: this project benefits a very few people to the detriment of a great many.
- They are arrogantly going against what is clear to everyone.
- Illustrative of this tone and style, in my view, was the conduct of the appellants' barrister.
- I came in during proceedings on the first day to hear the barrister questioning the person in a tone that was befitting someone who was accused of an abhorrent crime, like a rapist or murderer!
- This person was someone representing the interests of the local people, not a monster.
- Yet they were being treated with menace and contempt.
- I was truly shocked.
- This style of bullying, intimidation and disdain for the views of the public needs to be highlighted and called out.
- It is no way to treat people!!!
- **Conclusion**
- I cannot see any way that this proposal is in the interests of the local community.
- Bad for people who live here.
- It is not healthy, joyous or excellent. It does not honour the possibilities of people who live here and use the excellent facilities.
- You have heard a large number of facts, numbers and words.
- The representatives of the appellants are just doing their jobs with gusto and no doubt with a desire to win that comes with their professional position.
- You have been doing your job earnestly and professionally.
- But to us, this isn't just facts and details - THIS IS OUR LIVES AND OUR FUTURE HEALTH.
- Would you want to live on our estate, with us, behind the chimney?
- I call on you, when you make your decision,
- TO BE COMPASSIONATE AND HAVE RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY.
- And reject this appeal.
- Thank you very much.

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