



## HIGHLAND INCINERATOR HOPES NOT EXTINGUISHED YET!

One of the somewhat hysterical petitioners against the proposed Highland incinerator at Invergordon recently posted a letter to a local weekly newspaper. In it, the writer suggested that all readers of the good journal should petition the after mentioned;- **Mr Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment**, voicing their opposition to the planning application for a Highland incinerator to be built on the Cromarty Firth Industrial Park.

Thankfully we live in a country where the individual's opinion can be freely expressed AND opinions from all sides **should** be canvassed, unlike the biased 'anti-petition' hawked around selected doors by those who believe the incinerator will cause health hazards, without positive proof.

By the tone of some of the responses your editor garnered from the 'anti brigade', by daring to suggest that an incinerator was not only an essential for the Highland's future waste problem, but so too the prospect of the additional jobs such a development will create, especially in off shoots, was not welcomed.

Well I took the writer's plea to heart and for the benefit of all I attach copy of my letter to the Honourable gentleman via e-mail. Plus a response from Angela Reid, Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals;- (See last page)

At a recent meeting, convened by the 'anti-brigade', reportedly had an attendance of nearly 200 people. Other reports however suggest that the true figure was nearer 100, it is of little consequence as even if both estimated totals were clubbed together it still would only amount to a fraction over 1% of the total population in the Easter Ross peninsula, that is allegedly be within

the unconfirmed contamination zone.

One *ICARE* director said "This is a vital stage in the campaign and it is now more important than ever that the community rally support from their family, friends, neighbours, children and work colleagues, to make it clear that it is only by way of a Public Local Inquiry that you, as a citizen of Invergordon, can have your say on whether this incinerator comes to Invergordon."

That may be so, but lets not lose sight of the hundreds of Invergordon and district residents WHO WILL WELCOME the development. *ICARE* director Tina McCaffery (and others), never gave residents the opportunity to chose. Therefore the petition is largely valueless and not too much should be read into the hysteria these *ICARE* people are trying to generate.

Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals

Telephone: 01324 696 463 F: 01324 696 444  
E: colin.bell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Our ref: PPA-270-2017-1

25 March 2011

Dear Sir,

**PLANNING PERMISSION APPEAL: ERECTION OF WASTE TO ENERGY COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANT; CROMARTY FIRTH INDUSTRIAL PARK, INVERGORDON**

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the re-determination of the above appeal.

The reporter has decided that it would be appropriate in terms of Regulation 9 of the Town and Country (Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 to hold a pre-examination meeting. This meeting will be held in public and will commence at 7:00pm on Thursday 28 April 2011 within the Assembly Hall of the Invergordon Academy, Academy Road, Invergordon, Ross-Shire, IV18 0LD. You may wish to note that this venue has disabled access.

Prior to the meeting the reporter will circulate a note setting out his provisional thoughts on the procedures to be adopted for re-determining the appeal and a copy of this will be sent to you.

You may attend the pre-examination meeting if you wish, but I should inform you that this meeting is purely to discuss the timescale and procedures to be followed. No discussion of the merits of the parties' cases will take place at this procedural meeting.

If you have mobility or other special requirements, please let us know immediately the nature of your needs. We will endeavour to accommodate you. Any expenses with regard to travel will however remain your responsibility.

# Letters to & from your editor

Hugh Urquhart Esq.,  
Manager,  
Morrisons Supermarkets plc.,  
Alness. 16/02/2011

Dear Mr Urquhart,

Just last week a customer of your store, along with one other person and baby, visited the Morrison Restaurant for lunch.

Apparently the meal was most unsatisfactory and in fact I am advised the said customer described it to your staff as 'diabolical'.

Admittedly the customer was refunded to the full cost of the alleged 'diabolical' meal.

Can you please advise me is such complaints are commonplace, or was these diners were 'just unlucky?'

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*Dear Sir,*

*If I may, I would like to 'put the record straight' re the proposed incinerator at Invergordon.*

*The somewhat hysterical group of individuals who have rigged up a petition against the planning proposal DO NOT represent the majority of the people of Invergordon and the surrounding district.*

*Speak to almost any person on the High Street, (other than petition signatories) and you will find that we are prepared to welcome the development, especially from the jobs creation angle.*

*Personally I feel that the 'spin off' from the waste heat, if you'll pardon the pun, could well be used to establish a Polytunnel type farming enterprise, which would provide, extra employment, plus the opportunity for school pupils/work experience and off course provide local grown produce for retailers nearly all year round.*

*Thank you for taking the time to read my epistle.*

18th March 2010

Dear Mr Ross

Thank you for your emails of 18 March 2011 to **Richard Lochhead MSP** about a planning appeal for the erection of a waste to energy combined heat and power plant at Cromarty Firth Industrial Park, Invergordon. The Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) have the responsibility for administering planning appeals and as such I have been asked to reply.

Mr Onn, the reporter initially appointed by Scottish Ministers to consider the case allowed this appeal on 11 May 2010. The decision was then challenged by Ross Estates Company through the Court of Session. The Court of Session quashed his decision and returned the case to us for re-determination.

Richard G Dent BA (Hons) Dip TP has now been recently appointed by Scottish Ministers to re-determine this appeal. Mr Dent is currently reviewing the appeal documents and deciding what further information, if any, he requires. If he feels that further information is required he will decide who is best placed to provide it, the best method for gathering the information and specifically whether a hearing and/or inquiry session will be required.

Meantime, a copy of your correspondence has been passed to the reporter. A copy will also be sent to the appellant and the council for information and comment. This is in line with appeal procedures and regulations.

Documents relating to this case are published to our website <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk> On entering the website, click on the "Simple Search" tab, and enter the case reference number **PPA-270-2017-1**. Here, you will find all the documents relating to the case and be able to keep up-to-date with progress. We will also ensure that you are advised of the final outcome, and in order that we can do so I would be grateful if you could provide me with your postal address.

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*The Independent Highlander* should be back soon in its normal format of four pages.

Ed.

Scottfab-Osprey Publishing 'Seacrest', Barbaraville West, Delny, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland. IV18 0NA.

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