

The new

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*Beneath the rule of men entirely great  
The pen is mightier than the sword*



## UNITED THEY STOOD UNITED THEY FELL!

### WHAT A LOAD OF DUMBOS

Lets start with the Invergordon Community Council...Marion Mackay, Margaret Macpherson, Jaki Gardner, Jimmy Gunn, Malcolm Harrison, Benny Mackay, Marie Corbett, Margaret Ross, Edwin Skinner, John Auchterlonie, Catherine Richmond and Emma Fraser. The *Independent Highlander* is not able to confirm that all the aforementioned ICC members were, at the time of the initial Planning Application by Combined Power and Heat (Highlands) Ltd. in office, so should any name be published in error, apologies are offered.

All community councils are assumed to represent the general public's views in their specified area, but this assumption apparently does not apply to the members of the Invergordon Community Council, who backed a biased petition, generated mostly by bigoted women from Saltburn and elsewhere, without giving the people of the town of Invergordon, the opportunity of expressing their views.

There is a lot of hot air being expressed in the local weekly and daily press over the Scottish Government's alleged anti-democratic flaw relating to the overturning of the Planning Application of an incinerator facility being established on the Cromarty Firth Industrial Park.

MSP Jamie Stone has 'hit out' and says he is alarmed and dismayed by the Scottish Government's decision. Did MSP Stone raise concerns over the reversal of 'planning' re Donald Trump's golf course north of Aberdeen? The MSP should be much more concerned over the lack of democratic procedure exhibited by the Invergordon Community Council.

For the petition to carry any credence, members of the public should have been able to indicate whether they were in favour of or against the development, or that they were undecided.

Initially Invergordon Community Council was in a prime position to claim a 'Planning Gain' for the town and district from the developers. What could have been more appropriate than a new public loo? Instead the members blew their right to negotiate when they threw the CC's weight behind the hurriedly composed biased petition.

Why on earth would members of the ICC think that their meagre input would influence the EU Directive over the future of waste management? Government's have a habit of getting their own way. For example lets look at a recent Planning Application that was made in the Invergordon Town area a few years ago, yes, I mean the Scottish Water's application to build a treatment plant at Roskeen.

Anyone with a bit of commonsense and Highland gumption could see that such an extensive development in that restricted site was purely 'eyewash.' Yet the whole procedure was gone through complete with a Public Enquiry and again some people were congratulating themselves over the premature outcome.

What of course the S.W. really wanted was the ability to instigate a CPO on arable land. This was achieved albeit that it took a little longer, but then what is a year or two here or there, when one plans for decades of use in the future? Here I may add that personally I am not against CPOs when they are necessary and for the good of the residential public but that view does not extend to Highland Council's desire to CPO the Nigg Yard!

# WHAT A LOAD OF DUMBOS cont.

Now before we consider the input of the elected Highland Councillors for Invergordon and billed as 'Cromarty Councillors', Maxine Smith and Martin Rattray, we must look carefully at what those foolish people who attacked your editor in the press and on the Internet said.

**Catherine Richmond;**

*The readers of the Press and Journal need to know that Euillean Ross likes the sound of his own voice-only nobody ever listens to or even takes heed of him. He does not stand up in public and speak-he hides behind newspapers instead. Euillean Ross did not attend the planning hearing at the Social Club in Invergordon. He was named at the planning hearing as a supporter of the incinerator but he obviously could not face the many members of the public who were opposed to the proposed incinerator-I wonder why???. He also needs to get his facts right before putting in print the "garbage" that he does.*

**David Richmond;**

*Euillean Ross did not have to spend time or money on international phone calls. All he had to do was to attend one of the meetings and he would have got the answers direct from Dr Connett himself. Dr Connett is an international expert on waste management. Fact, research and evidence were presented, however Euillean Ross wouldn't know that because he could not even be bothered to attend. Euillean Ross talks a lot of wind-he seems to have that mantle sown up for himself-he is full of "it" Oops have I spelt it wrong and missed out the "s" and "h".*

**Tina McCaffery;**

*Dear Mr Ross, your comments are totally and utterly ridiculously, you are obviously very misguided-misinformed-without any relevant facts and after yesterday feeling very sick both physically and emotional putting you away off balance, for this reason I do feel very sorry for you. The councillors yesterday were professional intelligent sensitive and proved without a shadow of doubt what they though was right for them and their town. Well done to each and every one of you except of course Mr Ross. When you are feeling better Mr Ross from what ever is afflicting you please feel free to contact us and we will hire a lorry for a few hours and I will drop round the evidence facts and research that will finally allow you to make well balanced intelligent decisions.*

**Liz Wilson** wrote;

*Regarding Mr Ross's comments about the Invergordon application not having anything to do with the Grampian Planning Authority. There is a connection. Buchan Combined Power and Heat Ltd. Have a planning application in for an incinerator in Peterhead (Ref APP/2008/1299 and has a managing director called Mr Glenn Jones. Sound familiar? Also this is the remit of the Aberdeenshire Council's Planning*

*Department. Where is the Grampian Planning Authority? What did Mr Ross say about getting facts right?*

**Karen Mackay** wrote;

*I would like to point out to all your readers that at least we spoke up for what we believe in-we didn't just write about it hidden behind the newspapers. Mr Ross was in fact named at the hearing as the only person who had proposed the site, but was he even there? If he was then I feel that it is justified that he could talk on this planning hearing. Maybe then he would realise that the company is actually called Combined Power and Heat (Highland) Ltd. He was also invited to come to local meetings to hear the other side of the argument which we did-we asked for advice from waste to energy experts and also institute engineers-Mr Ross would have learn all this if he had attended yesterday. I think our elected councillors are professional enough to make their own minds up-if there is an appeal then so be it-we will be armed with even more information.*

David Richmond is employed by Isleburn who are now going to build a huge shed on the CFPA yard. Mr Roy Macgregor's 'Global Energy' is the parent company. Makes me wonder whether Mr Richmond has changed his outlook on undesirable developments in Invergordon?

Objector Tina McCaffery stated that if the 'democratic' process was not working she would consider taking 'what ever action was necessary'. Is the lady going to flit? Perhaps these dumbos should listen to themselves for a change.

We must consider the elected and non-elected MSPs on this issue, Jamie Stone for starters. One can assume he was but electioneering when condemning this Highland development whilst apparently happy enough to see the Nigg Yard developed for decommissioning and for other purposes.

As for the non-elected SNP MSP Rab Gibson, well he does not need to electioneer. Though his anti-stance on the now approved application for an incinerator at Invergordon could not have been very welcome with his political party.

The Scottish Government Reporter, Dannie Onn, got it spot on when he said that Invergordon was an industrial town. No matter how many 'murials' are painted on walls or whether there will be a metal sculpture in the town or not, it will never be a tourist Mecca. Without clean modern toilets not even passing tourists to stop to marvel. If all these do-gooders spent some of their spare time trying to remedy this want it might show a much greater reward for all concerned.

**Lastly let me say that the 2,000+ petition was not representative of the catchment area it was circulated in as there are around 13,000 people resident therein.**

Ed.

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