Open Letter to

Alec Robertson, Leader, Cornwall Council

18 October 2011

Dear Mr Robertson

Last week the High Court judged that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, had exceeded his authority in allowing the appeal by Sita UK Ltd to construct a 240,000tpa incinerator at St Dennis.

The consequence of this decision will not be fully known until the written judgement is issued this week. The Secretary of State will then have to decide whether to launch an appeal against the judgement.

Whatever the outcome Cornwall Council is faced with further significant delays in its plans. Those who believe that there are better, cheaper and less environmentally damaging choices will continue to press their case. So further delays will occur. Even if not fatal, delays cost money and the longer the delay, the greater the damage.

In 2010 Cornwall Council itself fought the previous appeal by Sita UK Ltd. In doing so it must have considered, itself, that there were better options available.

This is a golden opportunity for us to draw on the expertise within Cornwall urgently to explore the choices open to us. We are prepared to put aside the differences between us for the sake of Cornwall’s sorely pressed council tax payers and work with your staff to find a solution to this issue.

We want to share the knowledge and information we have with you. Will you respond to us in the way we are responding to you, for Cornwall’s sake?

Yours sincerely

Ken Rickard, Chairman
Cornwall Waste Forum (St Dennis Branch)