

**Information bulletin no. 7**

*Circulated to all members and substitutes  
on the Planning Committee*

## There are better alternatives to both incineration and landfill

Dear Councillor

STIG has not looked at SITA's proposal for an incinerator in isolation. We have considered the applicant's overall plans for waste management in Cornwall.

It is our view that the emphasis on incineration means too little effort would be focussed on reducing black bag waste and increasing recycling.

### Reducing black bag waste

Recycling can be increased with improved separation of waste at the doorstep and we consider it vital for there to be a greater effort to remove recyclables and organic material from the main waste stream.

We are disappointed that SITA has no plans to process unsorted household waste (black bags) once collected. Their plans only include two Material Recycling Facilities (MRF), which is inadequate. This means that tonnes of black bag waste, full of recyclable and bio-degradable material, would be burnt.

### Alternative technologies

There are many new ways to deal with waste that could be employed as alternatives to an incinerator. These include:

**Material Recycling Facilities.** MRFs are common and quite varied in character. In some, the waste is hand sorted. In others, machinery such as trommels and autosorters extract recyclable materials from the main household waste stream.

**Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT).** This removes material from the waste stream, such as glass and metal, by hand or with machinery. The remaining shredded waste can then be treated via aerobic digestion / composting.



From top to bottom: auto-sorter from a Material Recycling Facility, an autoclave unit and an anaerobic digestion plant.

**Steam autoclaving.** This treats waste with steam in large pressure vessels. Steam cleaned glass, metals and plastics are recycled and the remaining material is turned into a bio-mass fibre. It can also achieve an 80% recovery rate for household waste. It is a proven technology and a number of councils already use autoclaves as part of their waste management programmes.

**Anaerobic digestion (AD).** This involves the controlled decomposition of organic waste in an oxygen-free environment. Bio-gas is produced and the residue can be used as compost. SITA themselves have submitted plans for an AD plant for the London Borough of Merton.

### **A better way forward**

Cornwall County Council and SITA could develop a much improved and decentralised waste management system if it embraced the range of technologies listed above. These alternatives, if used appropriately, could eliminate the need for both incineration and landfill.

This would help local communities to be more responsible for their own waste, it would be better for the environment and the increased local activity would boost the Cornish economy.

Incineration is not the answer to Cornwall's waste management needs. Please vote no on 12<sup>th</sup> March and work with us to build a greener, more sustainable, Cornwall.

Thank you for your time.



*“Cornwall County Council and SITA need to come up with a Plan B - a better and more sustainable way to deal with Cornish waste.”*

**Robert Bunt, St Dennis**

Handwritten signature of Ken Rickard in black ink.

**Ken Rickard**  
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Pat Blanchard in black ink.

**Pat Blanchard**  
Secretary

Signed on behalf of the many hundreds of supporters of STIG who oppose the building of an incinerator at St Dennis and support a more decentralised and sustainable way to deal with Cornwall's waste.

This information bulletin also has the support of **Cllr Cindy Allsopp** (Chairman of St Stephen Parish Council), **Cllr Peter Cocks** (Chairman of St Enoder Parish Council), **Cllr Dick Cole** (Chairman of Restormel Borough Council's Planning Policy Committee and Mebyon Kernow PPC for St Austell and Newquay), **Stephen Gilbert** (Liberal Democrat PPC for St Austell and Newquay), **Cllr Fred Greenslade** (Chairman of St Dennis Parish Council and Environment portfolio holder at Restormel), **Caroline Righton** (Conservative PPC for St Austell and Newquay), **Rod Toms** (Cornwall Sustainable Waste Network), **Cllr John Wood** (Chairman of the Development Control Committee at Restormel) and the Transition Cornwall Network.

For more information from STIG, visit [www.st-ig.co.uk](http://www.st-ig.co.uk) or contact 01726 822636.