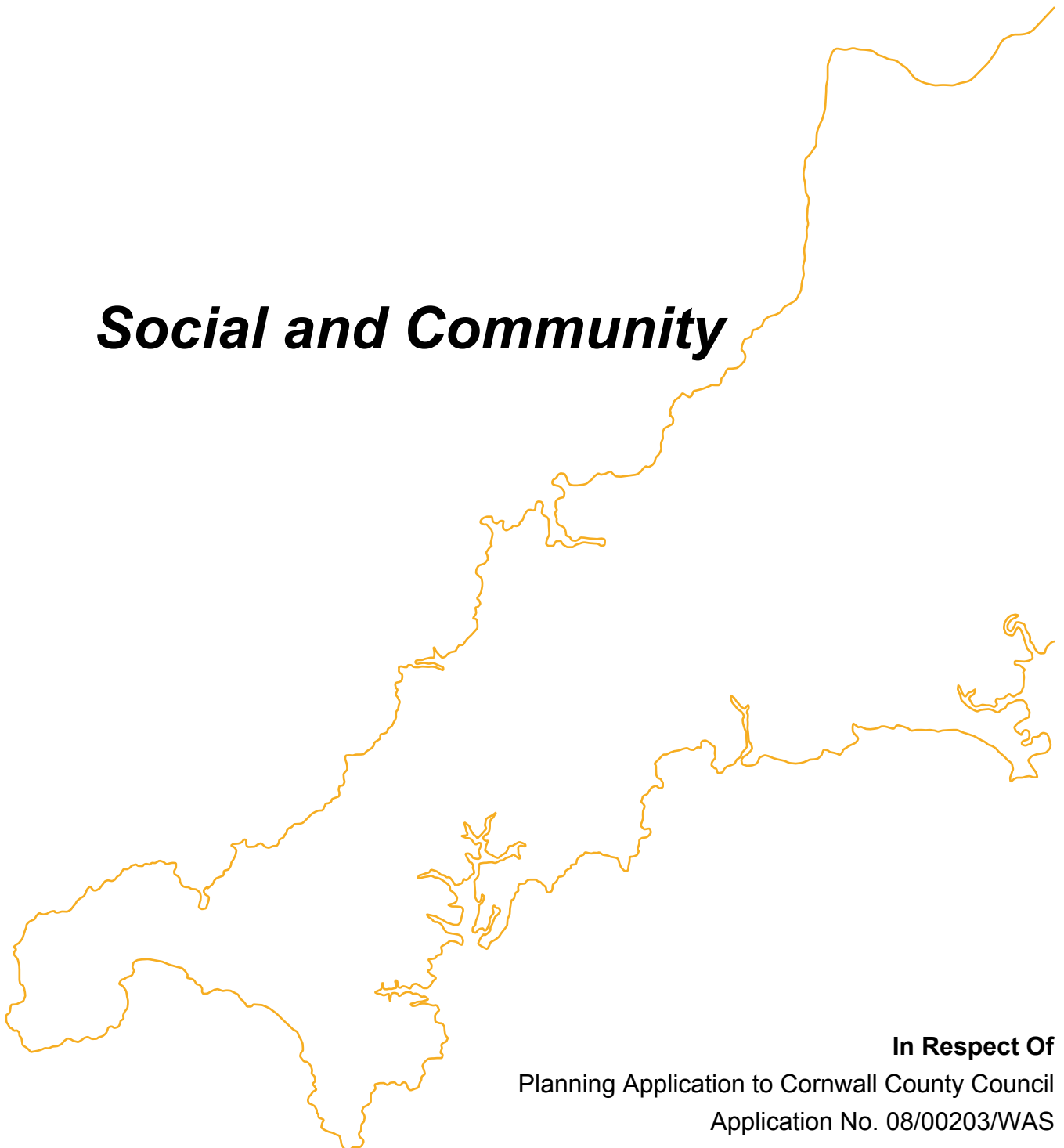




Consultee Response to SITA Additional Information

Consultee
St.Dennis Anti Incinerator Group (S.T.I.G.)

Social and Community



In Respect Of
Planning Application to Cornwall County Council
Application No. 08/00203/WAS

Social and Community

With its clarification request response, as in the original planning application, SITA maintains its record of omissions, errors and mis-information. One has to wonder if the mind-set that allows such glaring inaccuracies to slip through the net, is really the sort that the Cornish people should entrust with the future of their environment.

SITA's own response to CCC's request for further information reiterates the level of local deprivation and illnesses attributable to pre-existing pollution.

There is nothing in SITA's plans that will reverse the social, economic, health or environmental inequalities that exist in the area.

As has been pointed out in our detailed responses to SITA's planning and permitting applications, the local communities around St. Dennis have a number of concerns that SITA have yet to have the decency to address to **any** degree of satisfaction.

Despite this fact, S.T.I.G. feels it is necessary to raise some issues once again.

SITA and its consultants seem oblivious to the detrimental effects **NOISE POLLUTION** can have on residents.

Long-term exposure to even relatively low levels of noise such as traffic outside the house may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and high blood pressure. Whilst it has long been known that exposure to loud noise can cause hearing loss, it had been thought that relatively low levels of environmental noise were not a danger. But research is increasingly showing that such noise can have adverse effects.

Swedish researchers, who reported their findings in the journal 'Epidemiology' (Jan/09), have found that low-level long-term road traffic noise is associated with a 38% increased risk of a heart attack.

So, as well as having the exhaust pollution of 350 vehicle movements every day, increasing their risks of asthma and respiratory illnesses etc., the poor residents at '**La Mount**', will also have the mis-fortune to be exposed to an ever increasing risk of heart attacks.

The suggestion that 'screening' would be provided has done nothing to reduce the extreme anxiety these people are enduring.

The worry that they will, in effect be 'prisoners' inside their home', has been met with hurtful and inexcusable comment from SITA representatives. **No** direct, personal opinion has been sought from these sensitive residents, a fact which, yet again, brings into question SITA's level of social-responsibility.

No amount of mitigation will give these vulnerable residents any sense of 'peaceful enjoyment' and it must be obvious to even the most casual observer that their home

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and family will face an immeasurable blight.

It is stated that the '**Bottom Ash**' facility will not operate at night and yet the **conveyers** that feed it will. Why is this necessary, would not a 'good neighbour' wish to minimise any possible disturbances?

WATER bills in Cornwall are the highest in the country.

According to the clarification response, the Cornwall Mass Burn Incinerator will need to draw over 13 MILLION gallons of water from the mains system every year.

Is it appropriate that water, which has been treated to '**drinking quality**' standards (at extreme cost to residential bill-payers), should be used in this **industrial** process?

Whilst the present water main may have withstood the added pressure and quantity during a stand-pipe test-run, there is a great deal of concern that, the already undermined, water main will not cope in the medium to long-term.

If this proves to be the case, **WHO will be liable for the cost of improving the infrastructure - SITA or the already over-burdened residential customers of South West Water?**

The **VISUAL IMPACT** of 120 metre high stacks finally hit home this week.

"Shocked", "Horrorified", "Unbelievable" and "We'll just have to try and move away", were typical of the public response to the orange blimp used to give a representation of the impact on the visual amenity the incinerator will have.

Imagine the feelings - of residents and tourists alike, if the 'wrong' rubbish is burnt and the 'right' weather conditions prevail, they will then have the added pleasure of a 221 metre dirty 'plume' spread out across the Cornish sky.

It has been impossible to ascertain whether the 'wire-frame' model used for the photomontages was scaled for 120 metre high stacks or for the original, far shorter, one.

SITA's night-time photomontages show a sinister red-eyed monster - how comforting it will seem to holiday makers arriving in our beautiful county to be greeted by such a sight! And how will the 'locals' feel about living in the shadow of the "Beast of St.Dennis".

Visual amenity is a **material consideration**, and the planning authority must surely be in **NO** doubt now that the proposed development will have a devastating effect in Cornwall.

There exist enough concerns regarding **EMPLOYMENT** in Cornwall at present, and these look set to grow as the recession bites. If tourist numbers are affected by the perception of incineration, our economy may not survive.

Hotels, caravan parks, attractions and all manner of ancillary businesses will be

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affected and it will inevitably lead to massive job losses in the tourist industry.

Cornish food producers will also be affected and its world-wide reputation could be scarred forever.

If these two industries fail - **what will be the future for Cornwall?**

Would SITA joining the Cornish 'aggregate' market create job losses? If they undercut prices compared to existing sources will lay-offs result at these suppliers?

The risk of '**FUGITIVE ODOUR**' has never been adequately addressed. It would appear that the only safe-guard in this respect is roller-shutter doors. But it has not been explained how doors that are "only open for deliveries" (which will occur every minute or so) can hope to stop the aroma of rotting rubbish from breaking out of the tipping halls.

With odour come vermin, flies and gulls, and once again, questions on just how long waste would be kept on site (before being sent to land-fill) during a prolonged shut-down, have not been answered.

It has yet to be established as to whether **HAZARDOUS WASTE** will definitely be sent to Gloucestershire. If they do not agree to accept this waste, what contingencies are there?

Will a "discreet cell" be created at an existing land-fill site or will a new facility need to be created? Where would it be - would the proximity principle be invoked here?

Of course, the above concerns would not arise, if Cornwall opted for waste treatment technologies that didn't produce hazardous waste in the first place.

The amount the '**COMMUNITY FUND**' will realise, will be in the region of £1.5 million pounds over 30 years.

Even if Clay Country **could** be bought it would not be prepared to settle for so little. It does seem as if St. Dennis is considered to be of far less value than other areas of Cornwall - when £1,000,000 was on offer for allowing a few additional years at a land-fill site.

Even tighter CO2 emission limits are expected to be announced soon, as concerns about **CLIMATE CHANGE** grow. It is unlikely that the UK will be able to meet those obligations if it continues down the path of mass incineration.

Local authorities throughout the country however, **are** choosing the option of cleaner, greener, safer and truly sustainable waste treatment technologies that actually reduce CO2 emissions not just change the source of them.

Taking only two of SITA UK's incineration plants - Edmonton and Teeside - and the years 2003-2005, together they emitted a total of **2,089,942 tonnes of CO2**.

Confirming S.T.I.G.'s belief that incineration is neither, 'green' or sustainable.

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Across Europe 'alternative' ways of treating waste whilst producing energy, are taking precedence over polluting incinerators. Inevitably EU directives will follow, to benefit those who utilise these technologies and penalizing those countries that don't. The UK, and more importantly, **Cornwall must not be caught napping.**

When Cornwall signed the Nottingham Declaration, it set out its desire to help 'tip the balance' back on climate change.

If we continue with the plans for an incinerator, Cornwall will remain part of the problem and not part of the solution.

It is never too late to admit your mistakes and change direction for the better. The people will thank you for it.

The issues raised here, are in response to CCC's Regulation 19 request, and should not be read in isolation.

S.T.I.G. maintains its objection to SITA's planning application as set out in our full response document previously submitted as consultees.