



MIDDLEWICH SAVED FROM INCINERATOR DISASTER

CHAIN congratulates Cheshire East Council on the decision taken yesterday, by a unanimous vote, to refuse the planning application by Covanta to build a waste burning incinerator in Middlewich. It was particularly noticeable at the meeting where the decision was made that not a single borough or parish councillor, organisation representative or member of the public spoke in favour of the application. The refusal was the culmination of a long campaign organised by CHAIN that entailed the public signing thousands of petitions and submitting thousands of letters of objection to the planning authority. We thank all of them for their support which yesterday's result fully justified.

Covanta may lodge an appeal, of course, and given their previous record of arrogant indifference to the feelings of local people that must be a serious possibility. If they do so, they now must know that they will face a council and an entire community determined to repel them and defend the people of Middlewich. In short, the message has surely got through to their bosses in New Jersey that they are not wanted or needed in this part of the world.

The decision has obvious implications for the application by TATA/Brunner Mond to build a much larger waste incinerator just four miles away in Northwich. This is because a key reason for the refusal was that there is not a need for yet another incinerator in the area. We know that this opinion was formed on the basis of a lot of expert advice and analysis by Cheshire East Council and it is obvious that the same logic must apply in the case of Northwich. We therefore urge Cheshire West and Chester Council to act in the interests of the local community and declare its opposition to the TATA/Brunner Mond madcap scheme to transport huge quantities of garbage from all over the UK into the town for burning. The message to the TATA bosses in Mumbai should be the same as the one sent to New Jersey!