



# NO COVANTA INCINERATOR

**Press Release 15/09/17**

## **Environment Agency to hold Drop In Day for Covanta Incinerator Permit 20/09/17- but fails to advertise it to residents**

Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator are concerned that despite an unprecedented number of objections (nearly 2000) submitted during the 1st Consultation - the Environment Agency continue to forge ahead with a 2nd Consultation.

BACI has observed and reported a catalogue of errors during the process of the 1st Consultation including out of date guidance documents, withdrawn/archived procedures and actual consultation document errors.

From the outset of this 2nd Consultation it appears the worrying trend of inefficiency is set to continue. BACI has been advised by the EA that they will not be advertising this 2nd Consultation because "the applicant only pays for an advert to be placed in a paper on the first consultation".

This would also seem to include not advertising the Drop In Session at The Forest Centre Marston Moretaine 1pm - 7pm set for Wednesday 20th September.

An email was apparently sent to all residents that submitted comments to the 1st Consultation. However -a number of EA engineered circumstances will see the event poorly attended.

The email did not have the Environment Agency in the address of sender only "Area Manager Correspondence, East Anglia". The drop in session was not mentioned in the body of the text of the email - only in an attachment. In this day and age residents are quite rightly cautious about opening emails from senders they cannot recognise - and therefore are much less likely to open an attachment.

The attachment Leaflet itself is also trying to disguise what it is really about. The graphic shows a lovely white building without a chimney not giving a hint at its purpose. In what would appear to be another attempt to confuse the public - the large heading of the Leaflet cites the drop in day as one about an "Integrated Waste Management Facility". The EA's draft permit refers to the Incinerator as a "Waste Incineration Plant" and all of Covanta's previous documentation refers to the Incinerator as a Energy From Waste (EFW) plant.

For those that manage to find out about - and realise what it's about - the drop in session poses other obvious problems. BACI questions the date chosen as only 8 working days from the start of the consultation period which hardly gives any time to read through the documents presented for consultation. BACI questions the weekday and time slot given. A weekday is not the best approach if they indeed intend to engage with as many people as possible. 1pm is after most people's lunchtime - and 7pm closure is not long enough for many people to get home from work.

BACI believes that the EA will view a low attendance at the drop in day as a lack of continuing public interest in the Covanta Incinerator permit rather than their own desultory approach to the advertising of the event.

BACI would encourage residents to attend the event on Wednesday 20th September and voice their very valid concerns for the Marston Vale and surrounds. We must show the Environment Agency that we are not impressed how they are willing to put the corporate interests of an American Company above the health of thousands of local residents and the impact the incinerator will have on the environment, habitats and wildlife throughout the area for what could be the next 40 years. Visit [bedsagainstincinerator.com](http://bedsagainstincinerator.com) for more details.

BACI (Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator) was formed in 2016 to oppose the Covanta Incinerator at Rookery Pit South and has no political affiliations. For more details - contact [bedsagainstcovantaincinerator@gmail.com](mailto:bedsagainstcovantaincinerator@gmail.com)