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Dear Councillors,

LARGE WASTE INCINERATOR PROPOSED AFFECTING YOUR PARISH – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

I am writing to alert you to the proposals within the Submission Draft of the County Core Waste Strategy. This key policy document will decide where and how we deal with domestic, commercial and industrial waste within Suffolk. The consultation period will close on the 22 of February 2009. The Suffolk Preservation Society (The Society) is concerned that the very low response rate to the consultative Draft last year may not be an accurate reflection of the crucial importance and potential impact of this policy document; particularly to those communities in close proximity to the four sites identified for the treatment of 'residual waste' (industrial, commercial and municipal in origin). The documents are available on the Suffolk County Council website at:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/MineralsAndWastePlanning/WastePlanning/WasteDevelopmentFramework/>

The Society is writing to alert you to the strategic importance of this document, but also to the potential risk that your community could be significantly affected for many years to come by the proposed site allocations. We believe that the true potential impact of these sites is shrouded in technical language that does not clearly describe the type of waste concerned, the processes that would be carried out and the form of the processing plant. In effect, we are concerned that you and your communities are being asked to agree to an unspecified environmental impact.

The principal area of concern is Residual Waste (RW) recovery. This is basically the treatment of material left over after selective sorting (recyclable, re-usable or digestible) materials are removed. Landfill was traditionally the destination for this residue. Today, landfill and 'landraise' (above ground tipping) is out of favour and consequently four sites are proposed to deal with this material. These are:

- the former Eye Airfield site;
- Masons Quarry and the SCC Highways Depot, both at Great Blakenham; and
- the former Sugar Beet Factory site at Sproughton.

The Society believes this document does not provide the essential basic information to enable a balanced assessment of the appropriateness of the sites identified and how their use will impact on local communities; including tranquility, road traffic, light pollution, visual and landscape intrusion, noise and smell. These sites may blight the future of communities. The Society rejects the Core Waste Strategy as fundamentally flawed by this omission. We are being asked to make decisions that will affect future generations without basic information including:

- the origin and nature of the residual waste; and
- how the waste will be treated and all this entails..

How can we reasonably judge whether the use of these sites for RW recovery is acceptable in the absence of detailed information regarding the technologies that would be used? We are being asked to commit to the use of sensitive sites for unspecified processes. This is unacceptable. The strategy must be based on an informed consensus. Once the strategy is formally adopted, it will be very difficult to resist detailed planning proposals on the sites identified that conform to the policies contained within it.

The Society believes that whatever technology is used, it will involve incineration on a large scale. Large scale recovery inevitably involves large volumes of traffic associated with a large power station style building. This would be served by a very tall stack producing a plume of steam (at best) or particulates (air borne ash) at worst. The Society believes that the public are unaware of the implications of residual waste recovery.

The Society has launched an awareness campaign and a public meeting will be held in your area. This is an urgent matter that must be afforded the immediate consideration of your Council and residents. This final consultation closes on the 22 February 2010. We all need to send our responses to the Secretary of State and Suffolk County Council's Minerals and Waste section of the Planning service. Please contact me, Simon Cairns, Director SPS, to discuss how we can help your community. We warmly invite you to join us in our campaign against this aspect of the Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Simon Cairns

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Director

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The Suffolk Preservation Society successfully campaigning to protect the landscape and settlements of Suffolk from harmful development since 1929. We continuously strive to promote the special qualities of our beautiful county for the benefit of all by direct engagement with the planning process, design awards and themed guidance. Join us at www.suffolksociety.org

