

Surrey Waste Plan to 2033 – consultation open until February 7th 2018: ***Please ask your local party members to respond.***

Surrey County Council is consulting on its waste plan up until 2033. Keith Taylor MEP has complained about the consultation because it isn't transparent – the plan includes 3-6 incinerators but you won't find that is at all clear in what you read online. You will also find nearly 30 documents and a questionnaire that starts with your views on nine sites – when it doesn't say what is planned for the sites. [see <http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/2018/01/03/surreys-secret-incinerator-plans-green-mep-calls-for-transparency/>]. We recommend you email (wasteplan@surreycc.gov.uk) as the structure of the consultation doesn't permit you to say what you really might think about it.

Here are some points you might like to make. Green councillor, Jonathan Essex, on behalf of Surrey Greens, has made these points at more length in his response [www.redhillgreens.org.uk]. Where the term “energy from waste” is used this means “incinerator”. This includes technologies such as gasification. Please use your own words to let the Council know what you think.

- The plan's bias towards incineration is unacceptable. The plan lists nine sites for developing “waste management facilities” – elsewhere it talks about 3-6 energy from waste facilities in Surrey. Currently we have one incinerator coming on stream soon, in Shepperton. In the past others have failed because the plans were so unpopular.
- All these incinerators would be likely to be on Green Belt land because there's nowhere else for them to go.
- The plan doesn't make clear at which of the nine sites the incinerators would go, making it impossible to answer the questions about which sites are preferred for waste management. You might support a better recycling facility, but not an incinerator.
- Across Surrey we have seen hours reduced at our local recycling centres, which include a lot of recycling and reuse. Surrey Greens say we should invest in waste prevention/reduction, recycling, reuse, composting and anaerobic digestion instead of spending large amounts on incinerators.
- Incinerators need a constant supply of waste. Once built, feeding incinerators would take waste away from recycling and reuse.
- Incinerators are bad for the climate because of their carbon emissions and bad for our health [See <http://ukwin.org.uk/resources/climate-change/> and <http://ukwin.org.uk/resources/health/>]
- There is already over capacity in incineration in the South East
- Surrey is good at recycling – currently joint top in England. We should get better at it and set more ambitious targets. 85% by 2033 is entirely possible. This could create 7,000+ new jobs.
- We should improve waste segregation to improve recycling rates; avoid landfilling and incineration
- Local residents have done well on recycling so far, with encouragement from Councils. They can do better and would prefer this to new incinerators.
- We might have to tolerate some residual landfilling, but that's better than having any new incinerators. Incinerators have a 25 year life and need feeding throughout that time. As we reduce residual waste we can phase out landfilling.
- Support recycling, reject incineration – no new incinerators are needed in Surrey