

Mr Kim Ryley
Chief Executive
Shropshire Council
The Shirehall
Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury,
SY2 6ND

25 August 2010

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Dear Mr Ryley,

The Harlescott incinerator health cover-up - in which your Council is participating

The item pasted below “Would the EfW facility be safe?” from your website shows that your Council has taken no notice whatsoever of my letter of objection dated 27 April 2009 and that your Council is careless of the health and well-being of Shropshire residents.

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste.nsf/open/79684DCA4389E1A28025732A002B3C21>

Would the EfW facility be safe?

Yes. EfW is a tried and tested technology, subject to stringent legislation - including the same pollution limits as other European countries must meet the European Union's Waste Incineration Directive criteria. The technology is advanced and widely accepted across the UK, continental Europe, the USA and Japan.

The Health Protection Agency, Environment Agency and Defra have concluded and endorsed the fact that energy from waste operated in compliance with relevant European legislation is safe for human health and the environment....continues

You can see from the enclosures accompanying my letter to your Council of 27 April 2009 that the Health Protection Agency are unable to offer any valid advice or opinion on the health effects of incinerators because they've not examined any relevant data in electoral wards around any incinerators.

I've enclosed a copy of my letter of 20 August 2010 to Professor Rod Thomson, Director of Public Health at Shropshire County Primary Care Trust in which I've asked him to withdraw his letter to Malcolm Bell, of Shropshire Council, because the advice given to Shropshire County PCT is both false and misleading and which, if followed by your Council, will result in considerable harm to health. There will also be crippling legal costs, which will have to be met by tax-payers while your Council is in denial of health effects due to emissions – just as Corby Council and other have been in denial over similar issues (ie harmful airborne emissions).

You could easily defer the planning committee meeting of 1 September 2010 until the matters I've been raising have been examined, but in any case, I'd be grateful if you'd ensure that every Councillor receives a copy of this letter and also a copy of my letter to Professor Rod Thomson, dated 20 August 2010.

Your website opinion that the Harlescott incinerator will be safe, should have been replaced over six months ago with the following written answer to the Parliamentary Question by Paul Holmes MP (Hansard, 30 November 2009, Column 539W)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0038.htm>

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on public health of emissions from a functioning incinerator; [302956]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2209W, on infant mortality: incineration, what recent assessment his Department has made of the correlation between the presence of a functioning incinerator and the incidence of infant mortality in that area. [302957]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no recent assessments of the effect on public health of emissions from incinerators, or the effects on infant mortality.

The health protection agency (HPA) recently reviewed the latest research on the impact on health of emissions to air from modern municipal waste incinerators and published a statement in September 2009. It concluded that, while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects completely, any potential damage from modern, well-run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable. The advice is available on the agency's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1251473372175

The HPA also advised that studies of public health around modern, well managed municipal waste incinerators are not recommended, since any possible health effects are likely to be small.

I'd be grateful if you'll write to confirm that you'll send a copy this letter and also a copy of the letter of 20 August 2010 to all Shropshire Councillors.

One of your current or former officers told Dave Morris, of the Shropshire Star not to bother attending the morning session of the Shropshire Waste Plan Public Inquiry on 15 January 2004 when Dr Dick van Steenis MBBS was my expert witness for the two-hour session allocated to me. That was an extremely devious act which has delayed wider knowledge of health effects of waste disposal for more than six years.

If the Planning Committee still intends voting on the Harlescott incinerator issue, I'd be grateful if Dr Dick van Steenis could be allocated a slot to speak on my behalf – just as he did at the 2004 Public Inquiry which your council seems to have forgotten in respect of the “no incinerator” pledge.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ryan BSc, C Eng, MICE

Cc Dr Dick van Steenis MBBS, Sarah Jane Smith, Editor of Shropshire Star