

WASTE TRANSFER SITE – PORTOBELLO

HELP STOP THIS IN ITS TRACKS! October 2007

Planning Application No: 07/04148/FUL for a Waste Transfer Site Portobello, has now been lodged with the Council Planning Dept. by Viridor. **You have until 2nd Nov. 07 to object – see below. We need your help to oppose this NOW! Every letter and email of protest will count....**

The Proposal is for a Waste Transfer Site at Portobello, handling up to 350,000 tonnes a year of Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Waste. Waste would be brought from across Edinburgh, and from East and Mid Lothian, by HGV lorries, to be unloaded, compacted, and reloaded onto two trains per day to go to a landfill site in Dunbar. There is no guarantee this site will not be expanded in future.

The following are just some residents' concerns:

- **Traffic:** Portobello already has massive traffic problems. The application admits many roads into Portobello are at maximum or over capacity. This proposal would **add a further 928 lorries per day** (464 in and out of the site) around Portobello.
- **Operating times:** The site will operate from **6am** (which is officially night time) to **7pm** Mon-Fri (4pm Sat). It will also operate 24 hours a day for emergency maintenance and for special events eg street cleaning at New Year.
- **Air pollution from extra lorries coming into Portobello:** The Plan talks about reducing the amount of lorries going to Dunbar, but Portobello will have a huge number of extra lorries coming into our residential area, bringing extra air pollution.
- **Noise:** Their own Environmental Risk Assessment says there is a High risk of noise from this Site to housing very nearby, due to a large number of heavy vehicles in/out site. Noise will also come from loading/unloading trains, moving containers and the general activities of the site – doors banging, roller shutters, compactors, fans etc.
- **Smells/odour pollution:** Smells from the site, and waste lorries on the roads are a high risk to the area. We already suffer the smells from Seafield Sewage Works and have a dump at Craigentenny. Although the Company have claimed there will be no biodegradable waste here, they want to take over domestic waste currently handled at the Council's site at Powderhall, which is 60% biodegradable.
- **Additional rubbish escaping from lorries/site:** Dust, waste products, escape from lorries, and it is unclear how this will be prevented around Portobello.
- **Vermin:** Waste attracts rats, flies, birds eg seagulls, and other vermin. Full containers will be left outside the building for up to 24 hours, and waste left inside from Sat to Mon.
- **Vibrations from trains, lorries, loading activities etc**
- **Appearance of building/effect on landscape** The steel building will be 14-16 metres high! Although they state the 'dense woodland' and trees around the site will mask this, what about in the winter when there are no leaves on the trees?
- **Light pollution from the site:** This high building covering 3040 Sq metres will be floodlit!
- **Privatisation of Council's Waste Transfer Site** The vast size of this site is needed so Viridor can bid to take over from the Council handling its' own waste at Powderhall.

These are just some of local residents' concerns. If you wish to object, contact:

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Email: alan.henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk **and copy to:**

Councillors: Maureen Child, Stephen Hawkins, Mike Bridgman, Jim Lowrie (Planning Convenor), CE Council, City Chambers, High St, EH1 1YJ. Emails: Maureen.Child@edinburgh.gov.uk, stephen.hawkins@edinburgh.gov.uk, michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk, jim.lowrie@edinburgh.gov.uk

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PONGS: (for info/copy letters to us): Caroline Hosking, on 669 5262/email: hoskingcaroline@hotmail.com