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JADE ON PARADE



Golden girl to tour **P5** home town

Teenager begs for help to **P3** end health misery

Free entry offer



P49



A-LEVELS SPECIAL

We round up the results **Pages 32-35**

OUTRAGE AS INCINERATOR GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

200/5

Area branded 'the dumping ground for dirty industry'

FURIOUS community leaders say Deeside is becoming 'the dumping ground for dirty industry' after it was confirmed an incinerator will be built on their doorstep.

Councillors and campaigners have vowed to fight plans for a so-called energy-from-waste plant in the centre of Deeside Industrial Park - near UPM Shotton - since the possibility was first mooted in early 2010.

And yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) the team behind the project to burn rubbish from across Flintshire, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Gwynedd confirmed their fears.

Sealand councillor Chris Jones told the Chronicle: "My residents don't want an incinerator, and I don't want it. If we're going to have to have it, what

by **Dave Goodban**

we've got to do is make sure it's safe - and we need to see evidence.

"Nobody wants pollutants and toxins going into the air on their doorstep. My family live in Deeside, I don't want my one-year-old granddaughter breathing them in.

"We're becoming the dumping ground for dirty industry."

Queensferry councillor David Wisinger added: "We're overloaded with industry and chemical plants already, this will just add to it.

"We've already got a lot of pollution in the area and we need a break. Enough is enough."

turn to page 4

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Waste proposal

Project will see a new plant burn about 150,000 tonnes of residual waste a year - that which cannot be recycled or composted - from Flintshire, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Gwynedd.

The waste will be brought into Deeside by rail and road, with about 55 truck deliveries a day expected.

The final bidder will be chosen from two incineration firms next year and planning permission will be submitted in about 12 months. The facility is expected to be fully operational by 2017.

At its highest point the burner will be 86m - nearly as tall as Big Ben.

The project represents an investment of £600m-£800m over its expected 25-year lifespan and will take 24-36 months to build.

Projects leaders say up to 200 construction jobs will be created when the plant is built, in addition to 30-35 permanent roles when it is up and running.

Public consultation events will be held in September and October to give residents the chance to have their say on the plans.

For more details visit www.nwrwtp.org.

Community leaders react to waste plant announcement

THE BURNING ISSUE



CONCERNED: Flintshire County Council chief executive Colin Everett at a press conference yesterday. Picture: IAN COOPER IC220812waste-11

Continued from front

THE North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP) will see a new facility deal with about 150,000 tonnes of waste - which cannot be recycled or composted - from across the five counties so the amount of rubbish sent to landfill is reduced to meet Welsh Government targets.

The final two bidders in the running for the multi-million pound contract - Sita UK and Wheelabrator - both specialise in incineration and identified the Deeside site as the one they would build on if chosen.

Deputy council leader Bernie Attridge, who represents Connah's Quay, previously told the Chronicle he was 'appalled at the potential for an incinerator on Deeside or anywhere else in North Wales'.

Yesterday he added: "My worst fears have become a reality. I have significant concerns for the health and wellbeing of the residents of Deeside."

Cllr Attridge and council leader Aaron Shotton, also from Connah's Quay, say the authority cannot get out of the partnership because of an agreement signed by the previous coalition administration, which was ousted by Labour in May.

"I am told we can't reverse the decision because it would cost the council in excess of £50m," said Cllr Attridge.

"In opposition we warned that Deeside being lined up as a potential site and our concerns have come true. We cannot reverse the decision without dire financial consequences.

"I will continue to press for absolute assurance over the impact of emissions - and I will be seeking those assurances immediately."

NWRWTP bosses say as much waste as possible will be transported by rail to reduce carbon emissions and air quality monitoring will be higher level than normal industry standard.

NWRWTP chief executive Colin Everett said: "The studies we have show it will make a major impact on air quality in an already industrial area - a minuscule impact."

Allyn and Deeside MP Mark Tami said: "As people have raised concerns with me over proposals, and if it's going to go ahead we need and transparent public consultation."

"And although they are saying most of the jobs will come in by rail, a lot will still come in by road and there will be traffic issues as a result."

Project leaders say members of the public will be invited to a series of information and feedback sessions throughout September and October.

Council leader's statement

AFTER yesterday's announcement, Flintshire County Council leader Aaron Shotton issued the following statement: "As a new council leadership we have made known publicly our concerns over the possible risks and impacts of an 'energy-from-waste' plant."

"Flintshire, along with the other four partner councils, signed up to the process well before the local elections in May of this year - as part of a consortium of authorities - to procure a regional facility to treat household residual waste."

"The procurement of such a facility was at a stage of no turning back when we came into power, and we have been advised that to reverse the decision made by the previous administration could effectively bankrupt the council."

"It is now clear that Deeside is the favoured site for the facility, chosen from the two remaining private company bidders."

"My commitment to the public remains unchanged. At present I remain unconvinced over the possibility of incineration and am concerned about potential health impacts via emissions."

"We will expect as much waste as possible to be transported off-road and by rail. We will also campaign for significant community benefit and will ask for the options for local use of the energy generated by the facility."

"We will need full assurances over the technology, its track record and how emissions into the air will be contained, with absolute assurances over any impacts on local air quality. "It is critical that the potential health impact is assessed before any further agreements are made."

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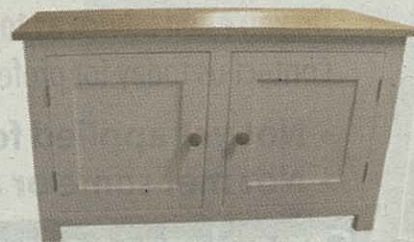
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FURY OVER INCINERATOR GO-AHEAD

Worst fear has come true



Company bosses and council leaders at yesterday's press conference, where plans were announced for a waste incinerator on Deeside Industrial Park (left)

By DAVE GOODBAN

AN incinerator to burn 150,000 tonnes of waste a year from across North Wales will be built on Deeside.

The £800m plant, creating energy from waste, will be sited at the centre of Deeside Industrial Park - near UPM Shotton - and will be operational by 2017, it was confirmed yesterday.

The final two bidders in the running for the multi-million pound contract are Sita UK and Wheelabrator, both of whom specialise in incineration.

The news was met with dismay by councillors and campaigners who have been fighting the scheme since it was first mooted in early 2010.

Deputy Flintshire council leader Bernie Attridge said: "My worst fears have become a reality. I have significant concerns for the health and wellbeing of the residents of Deeside."

The North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP), a partnership between Flintshire, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire councils, need the plant so the amount of rubbish sent to landfill is reduced to meet Welsh Government targets.

Cllr Attridge and council leader Aaron Shotton, both from Connah's Quay, say Flintshire cannot get out of the partnership because of an agreement signed by the previous coalition administration, which was ousted by Labour in May.

"I am told we can't reverse the decision because it would cost

Deputy council chief's dismay over risks to residents' health

the council in excess of £50m," added Cllr Attridge.

"In opposition we warned that Deeside was being lined up as a potential site and our fears have come true. We cannot reverse the decision without dire financial consequences.

"I will continue to press for absolute assurances over the impact of emissions - and I will be seeking those assurances immediately."

NWRWTP bosses say as much waste as possible will be transported by rail to reduce carbon emissions and air quality monitoring will be of a higher level than normal industry standards.

NWRWTP chief executive Colin Everett said: "The studies we have show it will make a marginal impact on air quality in an already industrial area - a miniscule impact."

Project leaders say members of the public will be invited to a series of information and feedback sessions throughout September and October.

Cllr Shotton said: "As a new council leadership we have made

known publicly our concerns over the possible risks of an 'energy-from-waste' plant.

"Flintshire, along with the other four partner councils, signed up to the process well before the local elections in May to procure a regional facility to treat household residual waste.

"The procurement of such a facility was at a stage of no turning back when we came into power, and we have been advised that to reverse the decision could effectively bankrupt the council.

"It is now clear that Deeside is the favoured site for the facility, chosen by the two remaining private company bidders.

"My commitment to the public remains unchanged. I remain unconvinced over the possibility of incineration and am concerned about potential health impacts via emissions.

"We will expect as much waste as possible to be transported off-road and by rail. We will also campaign for a significant community benefit and will ask for the options for local use of the energy generated by the facility. It is critical that the potential health impact is assessed before any further agreements are made."



Concerns: Cllr Bernie Attridge

Arrest after man, 27, stabbed

From Page 1

The injured man was taken by ambulance to Wrexham Maelor hospital.

Armed police response units were deployed on the estate after the incident at around 9pm on Tuesday. A short time later, a 23-year-old local man was arrested on suspicion of wounding.

A North Wales Police spokesman confirmed a 27-year-old local man was taken to hospital with stab wounds to his stomach and neck, injuries described by paramedics as not serious.

He added: "A 23-year-old local man was located in a nearby address and arrested on suspicion of wounding. He was taken to Wrexham police station where he remains in custody.

"The injured man is being treated in a local hospital who have confirmed his injuries as not serious."

Earlier, in an unconnected incident on nearby Gwynant, a man armed with knives was arrested after a two-hour siege. The 49-year-old gave himself up and was arrested for affray.

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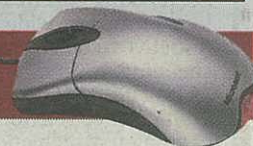
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Action calls after county is chosen as incinerator site

By Jennifer Meierhans
jennifer.meierhans@nwn.co.uk

CALLS for action have been made after a long-feared incinerator was confirmed for Flintshire.

Meetings are now being called by furious objectors who foresaw the giant burner being "dumped" in Deeside.

The calls were made after bosses behind the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP) revealed the news at a press conference yesterday.

But it came as no surprise to the thousands of people who signed petitions after an outline business case named Deeside Industrial Estate as a possible location more than a year ago.

Their fears became a reality when members of NWRWTP confirmed a plot to the right of the UPM paper mill.

Two incineration specialists, Sita UK and Wheelabrator, are bidding to build a plant to burn up to 180,000 tonnes of residual waste per year.

Both firms want to use rail and road to transport waste from Flintshire, Denbighshire, Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy.

The project will reach planning permission stage within a year and if given the go-ahead the plant would be up and running by 2017.

Lead chief executive for the project, Colin Everett, said the plant had not been destined for Deeside as bidders were free to submit their own locations and a site on Anglesey was in the running until the owner withdrew the land.

He said the Environment Agency would be the authority to grant planning permission, not Flintshire Council.

Plans to fight the decision are expected to be high on the agenda at Connah's Quay Town Council's meeting on Wednesday, September 5.

Council chairman Allan Roberts said: "We've got enough over there; we've got two power stations, the steelworks, the paper mill, to dump this on it. There'll be an objection to it but what the fight will be I don't know yet."



■ Bernie Attridge.

Cllr Gill Faulkner said: "We need to have a big meeting. I know Connah's Quay Town Council is against the incinerator. I collected hundreds of signatures outside Morrisons and every single person I spoke to was horrified at the idea of it in Deeside."

However, to back out of the project could bankrupt Flintshire Council.

Speaking outside the press conference, deputy leader Bernie Attridge said: "Today my worst fears

for years have become a reality, that an incinerator would be coming to Deeside. I was never convinced they were technology or site neutral. I have always felt it was coming to Deeside.

"Officers have advised that the effect on the council of us pulling out is likely to be in excess of £50 million.

"All I can do is make a firm commitment to the residents of Deeside that I will do all in my power to make sure this site is safe and that community benefits come out of the contract."

Mr Everett said that by-products of burning, such as heat and electricity, could be subsidised for nearby public businesses or households. He said both bids would have a "miniscule" impact on air quality and traffic.

The cost of the facility could reach £800 million over 25 years and a quarter of the running costs would be paid by Welsh Government.

The burner would create up to 35 new jobs as well as apprenticeships and up to 200 people would be employed to build it.



■ Flint RNLI volunteer crew members Rachael McCarthy, Ffion Lewis, Gareth Prothero, and Clair Evans.

'Ducky Derby' in aid of lifeboats

RUBBER ducks will take to the water in Oakenholt on Sunday in aid of Flint RNLI.

They will set off from the Yacht Inn where manager Clair Evans said: "We are hoping for better weather than the Jubilee Sunday washout. We start this Sunday at 1pm and the first race is at 2pm, ducks are already on sale at £1 each, for each of the six races including 'The Ducky Derby'."

"We really hope we do well for Flint RNLI."

Gareth Prothero, Flint RNLI helmsman, added: "We are really grateful to the Yacht Inn for all their support."

"In addition to the duck races we are hoping to have the lifeboat and coastguard vehicle on display."

"There will be a barbecue, face painting, Kath's cakes, and an RNLI sales table."

Club aims activities at 'mini kickers'

A MINI-SOCCER club has now launched activities for children aged two to four-year-olds.

Kidsoccer, which runs sessions every weekend, will start 'mini-kickers' this Saturday.

There will be fun games, early learning activities and an inflatable pitch from 11am to noon at St Richard Gwyn High School field in Flint.

Admission is £1.50 and parents will need to stay at the venue while the session is on.

For more information call Lee Acott, Flint football in the community development officer, on 07805631124.



■ Health and safety students celebrate their successes Deeside College.

Top awards for health and safety students

MORE than 100 students have been presented with industry-standard health and safety qualifications.

Deeside College health and safety students have achieved top pass rates in attaining their NEBOSH Level 3 - one of the industry's hallmark qualifications.

The learners all aspire to vital roles in the health and safety teams of organisations across the region.

John Lacey, of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), formally recognised the achievements at a celebration ceremony at the college.

Patrick Leonard, the college's director of employer engagement, said: "I would like to congratulate all of the learners who have achieved these internationally recognised qualifications."

"Health and Safety plays an important part in any organisation,

meaning that standards must be kept at the highest possible level."

Deeside College health and safety lecturer Stephen Mason said: "All of these students have achieved excellent marks despite also having busy working lives and family commitments."

"I am sure this qualification will help them develop exciting and rewarding careers within the health and safety industry."

Anonymous donor helps cottage pair - page 7

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Incinerator approved for park

AN incinerator which will burn non-recyclable waste from across North Wales will be built at an industrial park in Flintshire.

Deeside Industrial Park has been chosen as the site for the £800m energy-from-waste project, due to be operational from 2017.

The plans for the incinerator, which will burn waste from five local authority areas, have been criticised by some residents.

Aaron Shotton, the leader of Flintshire council, said: "At present I remain unconvinced over the possibility of incineration and potential health impacts via emissions.

"We will need full assurances over the technology, its track record, and how emissions into the air will be contained.

"We will require higher than industry standards on emission control with absolute assurances over any impacts on air quality."

The 25-year contract to build and operate the incinerator is worth an estimated £650m, with the Welsh Government providing a further £142m towards the scheme.

Massive fluctuations in Welsh housing market

THE massive fluctuations in the performance of house prices in different parts of Wales over the past year has been revealed by an in-depth study of the Welsh property market.

The average house price across the whole of Wales has increased by 2.1% in the 12 months, between June last year and June 2012, with an average increase of just over £3,100 to £152,195.

But the new analysis, carried out by LSL Property Services and Acadametrics, suggests significant differences in how the Welsh housing market is performing across the nation.

House prices in the Vale of Glamorgan in South Wales surged by almost £40,000 – a 20% increase – to hit £228,482 on average.

Property experts attributed the stunning rise to the affluent region's accessible commuter network.

But in the Vale's neighbouring authority area, Bridgend, the market has suffered the biggest fall anywhere in Wales over the past year, with more than £6,000 wiped off the average asking price – a 4.4% drop.

House prices in Blaenau Gwent remained the lowest in



BRENDAN HUGHES
brendan.hughes@walesonline.co.uk

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE GOES UP BY 2.1% IN LAST 12 MONTHS

Wales at an average of £86,436 according to the analysis, despite increasing 2.1% year-on-year.

Despite the overall increase in house prices across the nation, Welsh property values dropped or remained stagnant over the last quarter between April and June.

Property experts and estate agents in Wales welcomed the positive outlook of the report, but expressed concern over the buoyancy of the housing market in the coming months. They called on the UK Government to help encourage first-time buyers to enter the housing market through further incentives.

Tony Filice, director of South Wales estate agents Kelvin Francis, said the market was boosted at the beginning of the year by a stamp duty relief, and called on the Government to reintroduce it.

"Many first-time buyers were

coming into the market to take advantage of the stamp duty holiday relief which terminated in March," said Mr Filice, a spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

"That had an impact on the first three months of the year which was really positive. Had it carried on, we would have a much more buoyant market now."

He added: "I would embrace a three-month window for first-time buyers for stamp duty holiday relief. This would have an immediate impact and this would bring forward their purchasing date. That would help the housing market recover more quickly."

Mr Filice said encouraging first-time buyers to enter the market would greatly improve the industry's health.

He said: "We're very much governed by individuals who

are very much established in the market and we're missing first-time buyers, and they're the important ones who will change the housing market activity."

Douglas Haig, chairman of the Cardiff Landlords Forum and managing director of Seraph Estates in Cardiff, said the overall 2.1% housing price increase for Wales was evidence of an "overall a static market".

"However, given what we have had over the last few years, I would take this as good news in itself," he said.

He added: "Overall I would say that the figures are nothing to get excited about, just something to be comforted by. I believe it is healthy for us to have a slow sustainable price increase in line with inflation for a reasonable period of time.

"Whilst many are worried about the negative equity they may find themselves in, this is only realised if they need to sell. Until these people are lifted out of this situation we will continue to face a stagnant market because of the supply of these houses. They simply can't afford to move. On the other hand, a sudden increase in prices is not what we need and would be unsustainable.



House prices in the Vale

"The market is still not what we would consider healthy only when we are in a position where a much smaller percentage of people are in negative equity and there is an increase in first-time buyers will we be able to call it such."



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Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei gynnal yn swyddfa'r Asiantaeth, Tŷ Southgate, Wood Street, Caerdydd, CF10 1EW. Bydd modd cofrestru a chael paned am 09:15, a bydd y cyfarfod yn dechrau'n brydlon am 09:30.

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OPEN MEETING OF WELSH FOOD
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THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Welsh Food Advisory Committee of the Food Standards Agency is holding an open meeting in Cardiff on Thursday, 6th September 2012.

Agenda items to be discussed will include:

- Scheme for the Rating of Local Authorities in Wales
- Review of Delivery of Official Controls
- Update on Meat Charging

A detailed agenda will appear on the Agency's website in due course at: www.food.gov.uk/wales

The meeting will be held at the Food Standards Agency, Southgate House, Wood Street, Cardiff, CF10 1EW. Registration and coffee are available from 09:15, with a prompt start at 09:30.

Anyone with an interest in these subjects or the general work of the Food Standards Agency is invited to attend this meeting, to share their views, and to participate in an open question and answer session.

For further information please telephone 029 2067 8999 or e-mail: WalesAdminTeam@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk



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