

ANGUS COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

9 JANUARY 1997

SUBJECT: WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY AT CUNMONT QUARRY, NEWBIGGING

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract: A planning application has been received for a major infill site at Cunmont Quarry. The application raises a number of complex issues of a technical nature regarding potential environmental pollution. The assistance of specialist consultants would be beneficial to aid in the determination of the application. SEPA have at officer level indicated that there may be a willingness to joint fund such a study. It is recommended that up to £5,000 be authorised to engage consultants.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee authorise expenditure of up to £5,000 to engage consultants to assist in the examination of planning application 01/96/1407 for the infilling of Cunmont Quarry. The terms of the brief to be delegated to the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

A planning application for a waste disposal facility at Cunmont Quarry, Newbigging has been submitted to Angus Council on behalf of Greenways Waste Management. The site of some 27 hectares (67 acres) with a void space of some 5,000,000 cubic metres, of which four million cubic metres will be utilised for waste disposal. The site is located some 11 km north-east of Dundee and 0.5 km to the west of Newbigging and consists of a disused whinstone quarry previously operated by Tarmac Roadstone (Scotland) Limited. While quarrying operations have ceased some coated roadstone is still produced on the site. An Environmental Statement (ES), in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1988, was submitted by the applicant in support of the planning application together with other supporting information.

- 2.1 The proposed waste disposal site is to be operated as a "containment site" and it is proposed that the site will be infilled in four phases. The applicant estimates that some 150,000 tonnes of waste will be disposed of to the site on an annual basis. As a consequence it is estimated that it will take some 20 years to fill the quarry to the proposed levels.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The application is a resubmission of application A01/91/0634 and D16632 which were called in from Angus District Council and the City of Dundee District Council by the former Tayside Regional Council.

3.2 The proposals raised a number of technically complex matters and Tayside Regional Council engaged consultants to undertake an audit which focused on those points of the Environmental Statement dealing with these particular issues. The consultants investigated the Environmental Statement approach to:-

- hydrogeology of the site and surrounding area;
- groundwater modelling and pollution;
- proposals for containment, including:
  - method for engineering and working the site,
  - leachate containment and management,
  - landfill gas containment and management;
- monitoring, including borehole requirements;
- liner failure implications, (e.g. surface and groundwater) and contingency plans.

The consultants made an assessment of the range, quality and adequacy of the information provided, the identification of shortcomings, or gaps in the information and the specification of any additional information or studies required.

3.3 The consultants concluded that the Environmental Statement did not address completely the fundamental issues surrounding the development. The technical assessment provided by the consultants provided an important consideration in the determination of the proposal which was subsequently refused consent.

#### **4 CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 In respect of the current proposals. SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage have raised concerns to the effect that additional information is required in regard to:-

Hydrogeology  
 Contingency Planning  
 Private Water Supplies  
 Liner Design  
 Groundwater and Gas Monitoring.

SEPA are instigating the possibility of engaging consultants to promote specialist assessment of hydrogeology and liner construction.

#### **5 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 The proposed infilling of Cunmont Quarry is a major planning application which raises a number of planning matters and complex technical issues. The applicants have sought to address the concerns which were raised in respect of the previous proposals and have undertaken further work. However, concerns have been expressed over aspects of the proposals and it is considered that specialist advice should be obtained on these matters.

5.2 The investigation of those matters by consultants would assist the Council in assessing the potential impact the proposal could have on the surrounding environment including the Barry Buddon SSSI. It would also assist in determining whether the site is appropriate for the proposed use.

- 5.3 Initial discussions have taken place at officer level with SEPA who have indicated a willingness to joint fund the study. It is likely that the previous study would be of assistance to the consultants in assessing the implications of the current proposal.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is likely that in total the engagement of consultants would have a financial implication of up to £5,000 and can be contained within the Departmental budget for surveys.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 Specialist advice would be of great assistance in the determination of this application. It is suggested that up to £5,000 be authorised to engage consultants and that the terms of the brief be delegated to the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development.

## **NOTE**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/IM/IAL  
31 December 1996

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