

George Nobbs
Leader of the Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

NCC general enquiries: 0344 800 8022
Textphone: 0344 800 8011

Your Ref:

My Ref : GN/KLN

Date: 10 March 2014

Tel No : (01603) 222936

Email: george.nobbs@norfolk.gov.uk

I am writing in order to ask you, once again, to please put an end to the uncertainty that surrounds the issue of the Energy from Waste Project.

As you are fully aware the contract was signed by the previous Conservative Administration at County Hall in Norfolk in 2012.

Having achieved planning consent via the normal process the decision was called in by you and a six week public inquiry took place in early 2013 – at the request of the scheme's opponents.

This concluded on 17 May 2013 and the Inspector's report has been with you since early September. You yourself announced some months ago that you would give your decision on or before 14 January 2014.

Two months have passed since that date with no decision nor any explanation for the delay from you. In all it is ten months since the planning matters were considered in detail at the Inquiry. It seems wholly unreasonable to withhold your decision, whatever that decision may be, in the knowledge that the County Council as a direct result is prejudiced financially by the delay.

We, the undersigned, each a member of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups implore you to end the uncertainty for all concerned. Norfolk needs to know whether we will have to pay approximately £30 million in compensation to the contractors in the event of planning failure. The 840,000 people of Norfolk who depend on the services that we provide deserve an answer.

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The absence of any clear reason or explanation for the delay is leading to suggestions locally that the decision is being delayed for political reasons, a rumour that we are sure you would wish to dispel just as strongly as we do. This protracted delay is damaging both to Council taxpayers and the public faith in democracy.

Yours sincerely,

George Nobbs
Leader of the Council
Labour Member for
Crome

Beverley Spratt
Chairman of
Environment Transport
Development & Waste
Overview & Scrutiny
Panel - Conservative Member
West Depwade

James Joyce
Deputy Leader of the Council
Liberal Democrat Member for
Reepham

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Department of Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON
SW1E 5DU