

PRESS 3 FEB - release to all

'Veolia Response Insulting' Say Residents

Residents on and around Long Leys Road claim Veolia's response to last week's drop-in consultation is insulting and unacceptable. They claim the company, which wants to build a Waste Transfer Station on their overnight lorry park, doesn't care about homes or residents, and plans to ride roughshod right over them.

"They came totally unprepared to last week's meeting," claims StopVeoliaInLincoln spokesman Chris Taylor. "But they promised to take back to their offices that we wanted a dialogue with management, and we wanted answers to our legitimate concerns about the plans.

"They have now responded with an astonishing show of arrogance, simply regurgitating material from a letter that has been on the County's planning website for two months. It's frankly insulting, and shows yet again that they simply don't care about this community. They want to build a tip in the heart of our urban village community, and they're just not interested in talking to us about it."

Veolia has failed to take the pulse of the neighbourhood in any way, or assess the impact their plans would have, before or since the planning application was lodged in October last year.

The company was invited to attend a public meeting in November; they declined. At the urging of the County Council to communicate with residents, they held a drop-in session at the Carholme Grandstand last week, but sent no-one capable to engaging residents about their concerns - but they did promise the angry residents that they would provide answers. It's these answers, received by email yesterday (Thursday 2 Feb) that have now enraged residents.

"It seems Veolia lives in some alternative reality," says Taylor. "They simply haven't noticed all the new houses around here, all the young families and children who pass this site on their way to schools and the park. If they had looked around them, they would see very clearly that what they suggest is simply the wrong development in the wrong place."

It is understood Lincoln City Council has been in discussion with Veolia about alternative sites which would not impact on residents, or raise traffic safety issues. Veolia is reluctant to even discuss the possibility of this.

County planning councillors meet on Monday morning to determine this application. Planning Officers are recommending refusal.

ENDS