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# Concern

SUBMISSION TO THE SHADOW SCRUTINY PANEL INQUIRY ON WASTE MANAGEMENT.

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Policy WML (Waste minimisation and recycling) of the Island Plan states;

"The Planning and Environment Committee is intent on reducing the production of waste and, in considering proposals for new development, will seek to minimise levels of waste production and to increase the recycling, re-use and recovery of resources...."

**Vice-Chairman:**

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These fine ideals are very much in line with the beliefs of environmental groups such as Concern. However, the fine words seem to have precious little in the way of firm strategy to accompany them. Policy WML appears to relate to proposals for "new" development, so there appears to be no policy or strategy which actually details any plans to encourage recycling and waste reduction within the existing Island community.

**Secretary:**

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This, surely is a glaring omission in the "Waste Management" section of a document as thorough as the Island Plan. Paragraph 14.6 refers to problems that may occur with recycling schemes, but thereafter there is no reference as to how some of these problems may in fact be addressed. The problems of recycling vary according to the materials being sorted. Aluminium for instance, is sufficiently valuable for recycling on a commercial basis, even here in Jersey. Yet there is no mention of which materials may be worth recycling, or how this may be evaluated.

It is interesting that the document quotes the internationally accepted hierarchy of waste management (para 14.10) and then effectively ignores it! As we have pointed out, the only policy which touches on the subject (Policy WML) applies to new developments.

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In short, the Waste Management section of the Island Plan is devoid of any policy on the recycling of waste. This is all the more extraordinary given that recycling was an issue recognised in the 1998 Sustainability Strategy. This earlier document recognised that "the balance between recycling and incineration with energy recovery can favour the latter option for some materials." It also had as Issue No. 8 in this section;

To agree short and long term targets for waste reduction and recycling.

**Membership Secretary:**

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It appears that between the publication of the Sustainability Strategy of 1998 and the Jersey Island Plan that the issue of recycling has dropped off the agenda.

It is in this context the Concern is worried by the allegation that decisions about the replacement of the Bellozanne incinerator

have already been made. We would query how the specifications and capacity for an incinerator can possibly be calculated in the absence of a proper waste management strategy. The inference is that the specifications for a new incinerator are being based on present unsatisfactory and outdated policies where the public are neither required or even urged to sort their household waste. The U.K. is generally regarded as being behind Europe when it comes to the recycling of rubbish. And Jersey in turn appears to be well behind the U.K.

Recycling requires the participation and support of the public to succeed. This in turn requires public debate and information. As far as we can tell, none of this has happened in Jersey. Given the level of public consultation that was involved in the production of the Island Plan, it is quite astonishing that a proper waste management strategy was somehow 'omitted'. And given that lack of strategy, the commissioning of a new incinerator (or any other piece of infrastructure) appears to be a case of putting the cart before the horse.

The issues, options and possibilities of waste management and recycling need to be fully presented to the public. That way members of the public can be informed of how they can play their part in a sustainable waste management strategy.

As it is, we currently have fine words about recycling in the Island Plan, an apparent decision to build a new incinerator, and absolutely nothing in the public forum to tell us how or why we have apparently moved from the former to the latter.

In conclusion, we are unable to make any real comment other than that Jersey appears to have no proper waste management strategy. The brief of the Inquiry refers to "the Plan..", which infers that some sort of plan may actually exist. If it does, then its existence has not been announced and there is no way that we can make any useful comment on it. We might however ask why such a plan has not been made public.

Concern is an organisation which has long argued for recycling initiatives, and we are well aware that for many years, there was an in-built antipathy towards recycling within the old Public Services hierarchy. The present scenario is an unknown quantity.

We could have included reams of pages of information on waste management strategies of other communities, all downloaded from the internet. But that would probably be duplicating work already done by Public Services officers. If not, we would certainly be asking why such freely available information was not being used by the relevant departments to evaluate possible options for Jersey's waste management problems.

It occurs to us that we are being asked to comment at the wrong stage in the process. Once a proper waste management strategy has been produced, even if only in outline form, it then becomes

possible to make constructive comment and criticism. At present, we find ourselves trying to respond to a void. Why we and other members of the public should find ourselves in this position is an issue the Scrutiny Panel may wish to address.

André Ferrari

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