

Michael STAINES 15 March 2021 09.00

3 min statement related to this extraordinary meeting

I'd like to compare the Cycling and -Climate Change Strategies.

The Cycling paper reads well and we already have the grass roots initiative of the EC2K route = a need was seen and local people then set out to deliver it quickly , working with landowners, community supporters and getting funds from a range of sources - and that's it started!

In contrast, the Climate Change Strategy seems to be – pun intended – more about hot air and delay than action.

It fails to mention the Rivenhall Incinerator which is the equivalent of the climate elephant in the room.

Braintree could soon have the 3rd largest incinerator in the UK, but it has no strategy to address the 600,000 tonnes of CO2 per year it will emit, let alone the lower air quality from the daily increase in HGVs.

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We need to stop the incinerator becoming operational AND quickly develop a SMART strategy to really address climate change. We cannot risk waiting until 2030 to find we did not mitigate the CO2 produced here in this District.

The Green and Independent Group proposed using £250,000 of the New Homes Bonus money to fund new Community Woodlands but that was recently voted down.

At that meeting we were told “to wait for the Climate Strategy”.... Well now we have it, it seems rather an anti-climax, because the ambition is limited to 3% (£15,000) for trees and there is no mention of the incinerator at all.-

1 young tree absorbs 6kgs CO2 per year.

How many trees would be needed to offset the 600 million kgs of CO2 per year just from the Rivenhall incinerator ?

BDC's approach does not join-up as it confuses the emissions that council activities produce and the district as a whole. For example, the Horizon 120 warehouses will increase the volume of HGV movements through the district as *will* the proposed major gravel extraction sites and of course the incinerator HGV traffic.

Lets be ambitious and SMART!:-

SMART is SPECIFIC : Focus minds using the Incinerator emissions.

SMART is MEASURABLE : Rivenhall will generate 600,000 tonnes of CO2 every year on its own.

SMART describes ACTIONS needed: find land for tree planting, invite volunteers and secure funding such as New Homes Bonus AND working with Essex County Council and beyond to fund the effort.

SMART is REALISTIC and TIMEBOUND – why not aim to address 50% of potential Rivenhall incinerator emissions within 3 years and 80% within 5 years of NOW so that the trees planted can begin absorbing CO2 quicker and increase as they mature?

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We can't plant trees until October so let's use the time until then to consult the SMART plan with residents, develop and present the strong District business case to Essex County Council and then negotiate hard to secure the material funding we need to address the problem they gave us.

Let's NOT wait for Government legislation.

This extraordinary meeting was presumably called to give the public confidence that the environment (and economy) are safe in your hands. But they are not. The strategy omits to mention the incinerator elephant in the room and does not address the unacceptable amount of waste being sent to landfill and incineration already.

Will our brightest future be; a green one or a future where Braintree District is known for a massive waste incinerator and trucks and trash.