

Suspension of standing orders to discuss the Indaver planning application (04.PA0045)

A planning application for an incinerator at Ringaskiddy is currently being considered by An Bord Pleanála. This is the third planning application for an incinerator on this site by the same applicant, Indaver Ireland, in the past 17 years.

An oral hearing was held into the proposed incinerator this time last year. This has been the fourth oral hearing into incineration development on this site. For clarity, three were held in relation to planning applications and one in relation to an EPA waste licence application.

Since that last oral hearing, the An Bord Pleanála inspector has taken 11 months to issue his recommendation. On receiving that recommendation, the Board issued a request for further information from the applicant. That further information was received by the Board last Monday.

In this past week, although the details of the further information have been made public by the applicant, the Board has not made either the further information nor the form in which it was received from the applicant, available to third parties. In fact, none of the third parties did not even know that it was available on the applicant's website until one was told by a member of the media. Although the further information pertained to matters integral to issues debated in the oral hearing, the Board has not yet decided whether to give third parties reasonable time or opportunity to comment on that further information. I contacted the offices of the Board last Friday and was told that the Board had not yet made a decision on how to proceed.

I have asked for this suspension in standing orders to ask for the Members' support in requesting of the Board that third parties would be given ample opportunity to comment on this further information.

I want to justify this request. During the three years before the current planning application was lodged with the Board, the applicant met with the Board on nine separate occasions to discuss the pending planning application. Also during this time, the applicant engaged teams of experts in a range of fields to prepare the planning application. But when the planning application was lodged, the public was given only six weeks within which to assess the documentation: 2,490 pages of technical information and 263 drawings. An oral hearing was called. Third parties received 18 days notice of that oral hearing. It ran for 17 days over 4 weeks with third parties forfeiting annual holidays and abandoning their day jobs to attend. The subsequent inspector's report was waited on for almost a year. After it was received, the Board requested further information from the applicant. They had two months to collate that, which included putting right anomalies in their application identified by third parties. To have to be informed by the media that this further information has been received – unacceptable. Asks for Members' support in requesting that the Board would communicate with third parties – make further information available – give ample and respectful time to comment on it.

Supported by Cllr Jeffers, Barry, O Cadhla, Mayor.

We will make contact immediately.

218 dwgs in EIS

1512 pages in EIS and Appendices

214 pages in planning application documents

765 pages in NIS

35 planning application drawings