

## **ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Wednesday 13 June 2001  
**Time:** 2.00 to 5.00 pm  
**Venue:** Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building

## **NANTYGWYDDON: PROGRESS REPORT FROM DAVID PURCHON INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR**

### **PURPOSE**

1. To advise the committee on progress and activities since the last progress report on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE**

2. The committee is asked to note that whilst evidence is still being received I am nearing completion of the "information gathering" part of my investigation.
3. "Wrap-up" sessions have been arranged with the corporate bodies, Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC and the Environment Agency where they can address the issues of concern to them and outline their future intentions and hopes for waste policy.
4. Bro Taf Health Authority have now presented their evidence and will return in order to answer specific questions including some that have been raised by members of the public.
5. The British Geological Survey will present their findings at a public session. Arrangements are being made for a question and answer session on their findings and recommendations.
6. The report from the Institute of Environment and Health (Leicester University) remains outstanding, but is expected shortly. Similarly they will be asked to present

findings and answer questions arising.

7. Jill Evans MEP has given evidence. Mr Geraint Davies is programmed to do so next week. Other local politicians have also been invited to appear.

8. It is anticipated that once these hearings have been held, few further public

sessions will be necessary other than those referred to above. However if further relevant evidence or research is published or comes to light before my final report to the committee in the autumn, I will of course reconvene.

9. Mr Peter Wright who has assisted me with the investigation has now completed his field work but will remain involved via correspondence.

## RESOURCE CENTRE

10. This facility continues to be well used by the public. The Committee agreed at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May that the centre will remain open for the duration of my investigation. Arrangements have now been made for the centre to be manned each Tuesday and Thursday by Mr Morris Owens who also takes over the role of Miss Eirian Dyer who has moved to other duties with the Assembly. I record my appreciation to her for her support.

## BUDGET

11. Expenditure to date is as follows:

CATEGORY	EST. TOTAL SPEND	EXP.TO DATE
	£	£
Pay	72,670	50,000
Travel & subsistence	14,100	12,300

Technical and Legal	50,000	51,000
Transcripts etc.	20,000	12,000
Resource centre	5,000	3,500
Public Sessions	36,500	25,500
Press Advert	12,500	1,000*
Report	14,000	
Contingency	75,230	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>155,300</b>

\*Excludes £16,500 for original "job" advert

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Investigation is nearing completion

Work remains to be done on the future strategy arising from the investigation itself and all the other matters affecting waste management, public health and environmental sustainability. Clearly this related series of issues does not stand still and issues such as waste disposal following a zoonose epidemic such as foot and mouth disease raises new and pressing concerns.

David W Purchon

Independent Investigator



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **List of Bodies and Individuals who have appeared to date**

#### **PUBLIC BODIES**

National Assembly for Wales – Environment Group

National Assembly for Wales – Health Group

Environment Agency Wales

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Forestry Enterprise for Wales

Health and Safety Executive

Public Analyst

Bro Taf Health Authority

District Auditor

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICIANS

Ms Jill Evans MEP

## CORPORATE BODIES

Amgen Rhondda

## MEMBERS OF RANT

Mr Garrod Owen Mr Graham Wayman

Ms Brenda May Mr and Mrs John Hann

Mr Bill Thomas Ms Belinda Coutts

Mr Ron Davey Mr Colin Evans

Dr Dick van Steenis Mr Frank Baker

Ms June Bacon Mr Tony Skates

Ms. Joan Thomas Mr John Nicholas

Ms. Elizabeth Cockerell Mr and Mrs Len Long

Ms. Ann Jones

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Mr Max Wallis

Dr Alan Watson

Mr Eddie Hunt

## OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Mr Andrew Tree Ms Natalie Wendacott

Ms Yvonne Embling Ms Dawn Forest

Ms Alison Campbell Ms Kerry Huntley

Professor Stephen Palmer Mr Glyn Thorner

Professor Gary Coleman Mr Brian Privett

Mr Neil Evans Mr Paul Nicholls Jones

## APPENDIX 2

### List of those (i) to appear or (ii) approached to appear

#### *(i) Agreed to appear:*

LOCAL and NATIONAL POLITICIANS (Approached on an "if you have anything to contribute" basis)

Mr Geraint Davies AM

Mr Alan Rogers MP – will appear if requested to do so to answer any questions

Cllr. Russell Roberts - Ditto

Ex-Cllr. E Hughes - Ditto

Approached to appear

LOCAL and NATIONAL POLITICIANS (Approached on an "If you have anything to contribute " basis)

Ex Cllr W L Murphy

Ex Cllr David Lewis

Ex Cllr David Morgan

Ex Cllr E Jones

Ex LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICIALS

Mr B A Davies – former RBC Technical Officer

Mr M L Clarke – former Borough Engineer

Mr Mansel Mason – former RBC Technical Services Manager

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Mr Hugh Hoather – Ex Director 3 c Waste and Rhondda Waste Disposal Co Ltd

The Administrator Rhondda Waste Disposal Co in Liquidation



**List of those who have declined to appear**

**INDIVIDUALS**

Mr V J Collier – former Director Rhondda Waste Disposal Ltd

Mr M D Evans - Ditto

Mr G Evans – former Chief Executive, Rhondda BC

**CORPORATE BODIES**

Plurolite International Ltd (see ref. in main text – para. 13)