

**From:** NCC OFFICIAL@norfolk.gov.uk] **On Behalf Of** Jackson, Mike  
**Sent:** 01 December 2011 13:35  
**To:** Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
**Subject:** RE: Confidential  
**Importance:** High

Neil

Thank you for this feedback. I'm glad the information we supplied was helpful. Please do get in touch if you need anything more.

Clearly I am disappointed you can't be more specific about the timetable because as you know, holding together a major project like this is a massive undertaking, and so continued delay in this final stage of the process is not helpful.

The Government, through its national infrastructure plan, published on Tuesday and widely welcomed, has specifically recognised the critical importance of maintaining industry confidence in the robustness of its data and its delivery.

We fully appreciate that the decision of whether or not the Norfolk PFI project, which appears on that schedule, goes ahead, is that of the Secretary of State for DEFRA, but it would seem in all our interests to resolve this as a matter of urgency.

Regards.

Mike

**Mike Jackson**  
**Director of Environment, Transport and Development**  
Environment, Transport & Development  
REDACTED – PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS  
**Norfolk County Council**  
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**From:** Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
**Sent:** 01 December 2011 11:37  
**To:** Jackson, Mike  
**Cc:** Burns, John F (ERG-WST)  
**Subject:** RE: Confidential

Mike

Many thanks for your note of 29 November. It was helpful to have.

For the moment, we believe we have all the information we need from you for our ongoing engagement with Ministers. If we find we need anything more we shall of course be in touch. We appreciate your wish for the earliest possible resolution, though I think you realise that that cannot be as soon as your currently-planned financial close date of 5 December. I cannot at present give you a confident date, though we and Ministers appreciate it would be helpful to you if this could be before the Christmas break.

As I have explained, we are not in a position to discuss the content of our advice or the progress of discussions with Ministers, here or if relevant with HM Treasury. Once a decision is reached, whatever it may be, we shall of course be in touch with you about public handling as well as substance.

In view of the commercial and political sensitivity of this project, knowledge of the course of advice and engagement with Ministers is being kept to a very limited number of officials. It would therefore be helpful if any future enquires about progress could be channelled through John Burns or myself.

Regards,

Neil

NEIL THORNTON  
Director Climate, Waste and Atmosphere  
REDACTED – PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

END OF EMAIL CHAIN

**From:** Jackson, Mike  
**Sent:** 23 December 2011 15:07  
**To:** Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
**Cc:** Allen, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Press release

Neil

Thanks very much for all your help during this process in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion and thanks for keeping an eye on things today. We are grateful for the support we have received so far and we strongly believe we have answered all the questions asked of us.

There is a growing nervousness among members here who believe the latest delay in releasing the Promissory Note signals bad news ahead. Clearly this will be very disappointing, not only for our own members, but for the other stakeholders, who, as you know, have come out in support of the scheme. We still hope for a positive decision and if there is anything further I can do to assist, please do get in touch.

Mike

**Mike Jackson**  
**Director Environment, Transport and Development**  
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END OF EMAIL CHAIN

**From:** Jackson, Mike  
**Sent:** 08 December 2011 15:59

**To:** Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
**Subject:** JR outcome  
**Importance:** High

Neil

I've left you voice messages regarding the very clear and positive outcome from today's court judgement, rejecting any JR of our procurement.

It would be useful to know where you are in timetable terms - there is a great opportunity to move things on rapidly now, which would seem to be in everyone's interest (see attached comment in yesterday's EDP).

Regards

Mike

**Mike Jackson**  
**Director Environment, Transport and Development**  
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20 OPINION [www.EDP24.co.uk/news](http://www.EDP24.co.uk/news) Eastern Daily Press, Wednesday, December 7, 2011

We love because God loved  
us first.  
1 John 5:11

## It's a burning issue that fuels heated debates

**SHIP SHAPE:** Tosia Warrior, at Great Yarmouth. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit our website [www.edp24.co.uk](http://www.edp24.co.uk) and click on the Contact Us tab for details.

**READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY**  
ROBERT GIRLING

No 43,740

# OPINION&COMM ENT

Hands up anyone who can remember a Norfolk issue in recent memory that's been more quarrelsome or divisive than that of the proposed Willows incinerator. No alacrity to project limbs northwards then? Certainly in my 27 years working in the

media, and bearing in mind the first news story I worked on all the way back in the days of Live Aid was an ambitious plan for an outer harbour at Great Yarmouth, I can't recall anything that comes remotely close. And I've also never come across an issue where so many people claim to have those stubborn things, "the facts".

I was reminding myself yesterday about the work of the great Manchester Guardian editor and owner Charles Prestwich Scott, who famously thundered that "comment is free, but facts are sacred". He was writing about the role of the newspaper in society, and argued that the "primary office" of publishing is accurate news reporting: "It is well to be frank; it is even better to be fair".

The Eastern Daily Press attempts to be fair, balanced and objective at all times, though I know some might take issue with that (Ipswich fans, for instance). Without its reputation this newspaper has nothing. That said, in our campaigning and leader columns we are also militantly pro-Norfolk, and we make no apology for that. We are also in the unprecedented position of having a Norfolk United, with coalition MPs, private and public sector all going in the same direction. Except on this one major issue.

When the incinerator plan first raised its head, we decided the best approach would be to publish a week-long series of reports and opinion pieces offering both sides of the argument, and allow our readers to make up their own minds. We have continued that standpoint.

As I have said in these parts before, we, unlike our national counterparts, live in our communities and every day have to face the people we write about.

I have no wish to alienate any part of our constituency by being anything other than the three virtues mentioned above. The Sun and its response to the Hillsborough football tragedy is the yardstick by which I measure these things.

Compare what's happening in Norfolk with our southern counterparts. In Suffolk a plan for an incinerator at Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, to turn the county's residual household waste into electricity has sailed through. Can you recall seeing any protests? I can't. And yet it's fundamentally the same plan as in Norfolk. Suffolk County Council leader Mark Bee said: "I am delighted we can start work on this project which will provide the county with a cheaper, greener solution for disposing of household waste which cannot reasonably be recycled."

Suffolk County Council expects that, over the life of the contract, the plan will be £350m cheaper than continuing to landfill, be better for the environment and will contribute to increasing recycling. Who'd argue with that? I think we had all hoped that on Monday we might have got a High Court decision on a judicial review of the incinerator. Alas, we must continue waiting, which means that the fug of claim and counter-claim, of one group's "facts" against another's will continue.

As I said, it is divisive and no good for the county. Frankly, the sooner it is all over, one way or the other, the better, and we can then pick up the pieces and move on – as a Norfolk United.

As Lord Justice Leveson continues his inquiry into phone-hacking, a practice probably brought about by the continuous demand to pursue newspaper sales and so commercial targets, it might have been instructive if News International executives had contemplated another C.P. Scott maxim:



"Although the business side of a newspaper must be competent, if it becomes dominant the paper will face distressing consequences." How young James Murdoch might have wished he'd picked up his history books.  
Continue the incinerator debate at  
#burningissue on twitter.com

**PETER  
WATERS**

## **Time for the banks to show restraint**

Concern in the government that another round of huge banking bonus payments is about to be unveiled was underlined yesterday when chancellor George Osborne warned the banks that with the Eurozone's problems still unresolved, they should be reinforcing their balance sheets instead.

Emphasising that "we need stronger banks not larger bonuses this winter", he urged them to prepare "for whatever is thrown at them in the coming months". In so doing, he echoed a warning last week from Bank of England governor Sir Mervyn King that banks are facing a "systemic crisis" as a consequence of the eurohurricane and should be hoarding cash rather than paying out staff bonuses and dividends.

Fears that we could plunge into a credit-crunch comparable with or even worse than the one that began in 2007-08 is not the only reason why the government is keen for the banks to show restraint in the new bonus round.

It is no exaggeration to say that the banks are collectively held in great loathing and contempt by the general public. They are widely held largely culpable for the last financial crisis and the consequent recession. And that view is reinforced by their failure to exhibit an appropriate degree of remorse. A lengthy wearing of sackcloth and ashes was called for. If, instead, piles of gold are again given to City high-flyers, it will be fairly concluded that the 'masters of the universe' aren't at all sorry and have learned nothing.

Excessive remuneration for a select few most certainly isn't just confined to banking. But that's where it's seen at its worst. A continuation could be very destructive for the 'we're all in this together' message.

Page Five

## **A brighter picture**

Sickening images of teenagers rioting and looting filled our television screens back in the summer.

Greedy, immoral, thoughtless, uncaring – in brief an appalling vision of a lost generation.

However, a far more reassuring picture of young people is presented by the thousands across our region selflessly taking part in voluntary work, from helping pensioners to befriending the lonely.

Now a new report from Ofsted has extolled the characterbuilding benefits of 'putting something back', from boosting confidence to even improving job prospects. The positive messages are certainly no surprise to the organisations and schools involved in organising volunteering opportunities.

And older people might regard volunteering as simply returning to sadly-neglected values – but sometimes the obvious can be forgotten.

Let's hope the lessons from this report will encourage many more young people to contact Voluntary Norfolk and go on to improve not only their life, but the lives of others.

Pages 8 and 9

## **Really friendly faces**

Bullying can make school so traumatic for some schoolchildren so that's why it's fantastic to see how an anti-bullying scheme at one Norfolk school is really making a difference.

The 'Friendly Faces' scheme at Aylsham High School,

which has been going for about 10 years, trains older children to keep a kind and responsible eye on the welfare of their fellow pupils. It means that despite a school roll of 1,000-plus pupils, incidents of bullying are quickly dealt with.

The scheme is so highly regarded that it has just been awarded a new Diana Anti-Bullying Champion Award. What a great way for schoolchildren to work together to do something really positive. Hope they keep up the good work for another 10 years and beyond.

Page 18

## END OF EMAIL CHAIN

**From:** Jackson, Mike  
**Sent:** 29 November 2011 11:56  
**To:** Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
**Subject:** Confidential  
**Importance:** High

Neil

Following our recent discussion, I attach a note setting out potential additional benefits to the local community arising from the Willows proposal. We are keen to discuss these ideas with the Borough and other stakeholders, subject to confirmation of the credits, and statutory planning and permitting decisions.

We have attempted to get a dialogue going around additional benefits of this kind several times over the last few months, but so far we've had no feedback or indications as to their merits. We understand why it might have been difficult for others to respond to this offer, but nevertheless, the offer has been there, and remains (I do think the notion of 'modifications' to the proposal itself - not possible as you know - has confused things).

We fully understand the need to try and preserve good working relations, despite the pressures. For instance, we extended the planning consultation period on the Willows in response to a request from the Borough, and recently confirmed our willingness to pay enhanced recycling credits to the Borough for their new kitchen waste collection, and we have said we are willing to provide advice where we can on the Borough's own waste procurement (despite the fact that both are clearly intended to damage our procurement, although they won't). Our waste reduction team has been almost wholly focused on west Norfolk for the last year or so, to promote positive waste management messages and answer questions from local people.

We are genuinely concerned about the level of very local opposition in the West Norfolk area. However, as the Government have said all along, the right way to deal with these concerns is through the planning process - where fully informed consideration can be given, and concerns allayed. The problem is, while the PFI question remains open, the opposition's focus is there, rather than engagement in the planning process where a more meaningful dialogue is possible.

We have always sought to work closely with the Government on this. Should the Secretary of State decide to confirm the credits, we understand the need to avoid any suggestion of 'triumphalism'. Our priority must be to begin the process of building bridges. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste is very happy to clear all associated communications with Defra to assure we get the tone of these right.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know. I'm in London Thursday/Friday if a meeting would be helpful.

Regards

Mike

Mike Jackson  
Director of Environment, Transport and Development  
Norfolk County Council

REDACTED – PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

### **Gains for West Norfolk as Host of the County Wide Facility**

- More of the Borough's own waste treated through alternative technology.
- NCC to organise a third to be treated by MBT from early next year – this will mean no extra cost to the Borough, see more of its left over waste recycled and leave scope for the further improvements like food waste collection planned with financial support for that from the County Council.
- Rights to a 10% royalty from any additional income from electricity and or heat arising from the Willows facility. This is worth an estimated £1.5m in extra income to KLWN taxpayers.
- Local representatives from the Borough on any future contract board that will oversee the development.
- Live 24/7 emission data monitoring within the Borough's Environmental Health team offices.
- A promise from Norfolk County Council to work with the Borough Council to see how surplus heat from the Willows Plant can be used in local housing, or on the Borough Council's industrial estate at Saddlebow.
- An extension of air quality monitoring to the Wash area as well as on farm sampling.
- A community liaison panel to be set up immediately after the planning process is complete to plan and oversee local liaison committee and agree basis for use of and access to a local community fund worth up to £100,000 a year.
- An undertaking from the County Council that this scheme, if it receives planning permission, will comply with the principles required for Community Infrastructure Levy, even if they are not strictly relevant, which could then bring in around a quarter of a million pounds to West Norfolk.
- A commitment from the County Council that will mean more Borough waste vehicles can drop off waste at a local transfer station – this means cleaner vehicles on local streets, reduced costs and emissions and better working conditions for the Borough's contractors.
- A firm commitment from the consortium on jobs and training that will support local opportunities through NVQs and apprenticeships.
- Chairmanship of a working group to explore the inward investment and job opportunities associated with the construction and long term operation of the facility.

END OF EMAIL CHAIN

-----Original Message-----

From: Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
Sent: 12 January 2012 11:19  
To: 'Jackson, Mike'  
Subject: RE: Update

Mike

Can you give me a ring [personal telno deleted] or mobile as before - I've been speaking with Caroline Spelman's Principal Private Secretary.

Neil

NEIL THORNTON  
Director Climate, Waste and Atmosphere  
REDACTED - PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackson, Mike  
Sent: 12 January 2012 11:15  
To: Thornton, Neil R (WRDT)  
Subject: Update

Neil

Having taken soundings, I'm confident if you can help deliver offer offer of a meeting by close today, I can provide the 'timeline' you asked for tomorrow.

Hopefully that would then mean the meeting isn't needed.

Mike

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld