

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

“Grassroots anger over.....”

Over Christmas, two matters caught my eye – the one has nothing to do with the headline, the other certainly does.

Firstly about cold winters, while the planet is getting warmer. An interesting explanation, postulated by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, is that, because of global warming and the reduction in sea ice in the Arctic, a high pressure system develops up there, and this could lead to a counter-clockwise moving air stream, which would bring cold, polar air to Britain and Northern Europe. Hence colder winters for some years to come. Ultimately winters will get warmer, but for now possibly colder. So, be prepared!

The other matter does indeed refer to the headline. In this case the subject of the anger is incinerators. You may recall that one is planned for Hartlebury.

I am sure I have mentioned before that the British Isles are running out of landfill sites. Incinerating our waste, particularly waste that can be used to create energy, is seen as one possible solution. But those most likely to be affected do not like the idea, fearing nasty smells and toxic pollution. There are currently 21 incinerators in existence, with another eight approved, and at least 24 more are needed to meet the EU targets for reductions of waste into landfill.

What seems to be overlooked much of the time with “grassroots anger” is that solutions have to be found. The problem of waste will not go away. We cannot insist that none of it happens near us. Nor can the cost element be made to go away. It is no use just objecting because we do not like an idea or we do not want it implemented near us. We have to be able to suggest workable alternatives and be willing to accept some compromises.

Next, it would be good if some agreement could be reached on the facts. In this case, Friends of the Earth say “...they emit one third more CO₂ than gas-fired power stations. ...add in emissions from biogenic materials and they can be more than twice as bad as coal-fired stations”. The policy adviser to the Environmental Services Agency says”.....energy from waste is a clean, proven and reliable technology and must be a component of sustainable waste management and energy strategies”.

Surely there must (ought to) be common facts here, and that is what should be sought. It helps nobody simply to say that the other lot are wrong – and it certainly does not help us mere mortals who want to understand and reach informed opinions on the matter

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For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council