

Stop The Cleanfill Action Group!

Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is now some months since the detail of the proposed cleanfill in Whitehills/Kahikatea Flat Roads became widely known in the community. And what a reaction there has been against it!

A number of keenly interested residents banded together to form the **Stop The Cleanfill Action Group (STCAG)**, which is now under the umbrella of the Wainui Environmental Protection Society Inc (WEPS). WEPS has forcefully led action against several inappropriate proposals for the district, the most recent being the Redvale Lime Quarry in Old Pine Valley Rd.

This newsletter outlines some of the issues we have been addressing and the importance of persisting with our opposition to this proposed cleanfill. It is really important that as a community we continue to band together to exercise our democratic right to be heard. We must ensure that the Resource Management application process is as rigorous as possible and that the development is considered from all aspects – not just the Applicant's.

From the outset our position has been to unequivocally oppose this cleanfill – that has not changed and our resolve is as strong as ever. We do, however need the wider community to back us with information, their own presentations at the upcoming hearing, and with financial support so we can engage a team of professionals to advocate and provide expert evidence to support our stand. I encourage you to do all you can to oppose this project.

Graeme Woodside, Chairman, Stop The Cleanfill Action Group, Ph 09 420 4689

COMMUNITY INTEREST IS HIGH (PUBLIC MEETING)



Our Public Meeting held at the Waitoki Hall in April was attended by over 100 people and gave a thorough overview of the Application and the likely significant effects on local residents and properties. Pro forma Submission Forms were distributed, a good number of people joined the Action Group and several made much appreciated donations to our fighting fund.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

After some indecision on the part of Rodney District Council regarding the notification of this application we lobbied strongly on behalf of the community that this application should be notified. Our concerns were heard and the application was subsequently notified in May.

SUBMISSIONS

Following Rodney District Council's notification of this application a total of 250 submissions have been lodged with the large majority (177) submissions against this application. We appreciate many taking the time to lodge their submission with a number of people providing extensive detail of the effects and reasons for their opposition. STCAG have lodged a detailed submission prepared with expert advice from Planning and Legal professionals.

ARC CONSENTS

Our enquiries to Auckland Regional Council (ARC) alerted them to this proposed project and all were surprised to discover that no consent applications had been lodged with that Council for earthworks and related water treatment issues. This would have been expected for this type of project. Finally they were lodged in May, but were inadequately prepared and so returned to the Applicant for further work. To date, these have not been resubmitted so a decision by ARC on notification of their consents has yet to be made. If it is notified, we will have a further opportunity to make submissions on these specific issues.

CONSENT HEARING

We have now managed to successfully lobby Rodney Council to defer the Consent Hearing (originally tentatively scheduled for 27 June) until ARC have made a decision on notification of their applications. If they do decide to notify, then RDC have committed to hold a joint Consent Hearing with ARC.

Over 60 submitters against the application have indicated their intention to speak at the hearing. It is important we all exercise this right. Numbers count – so let's go in force to present our case at the Consent Hearing.

PUBLICISE THE ISSUES

Public awareness of the Cleanfill application is important. Write a letter to the Rodney Times, speak with other local residents, call talkback..... do whatever is necessary to bring a good level of awareness of this proposal to our wider community. Many people across this district will be affected by trucks, noise, dust and a visual blot on our landscape - they need to know about it before it happens and voice their concerns.

Stop The Cleanfill Action Group!

www.stopthecleanfill.co.nz



THE CONSENT HEARING – WHAT TO DO

Most of us will not have presented a submission at a Resource Management Consent Hearing. Don't be daunted by this, it is a straightforward process and we want to assist any who might find this prospect a little overwhelming. You can also choose someone else to present this on your behalf.

Here's a few pointers (taken from An Everyday Guide To The RMA produced by the Ministry for the Environment – the link to this full set of online booklets is on our website www.stopthecleanfill.co.nz)

- If you have indicated you wish to speak to your submission you will be notified of the time and place for the Hearing and details of things you should bring along (such as copies of your submission)
- A copy of the Council Officer's report and recommendations will also be sent to you prior so you can be informed on Council's position and relevant issues they have identified
- You should prepare a written statement that expands on the points you included in your original submission. Ensure you include everything you want to be heard on.
- Your submission should be based on facts and should include any additional evidence and/or documents relevant to your points
- You can include photos, drawings, charts, etc to back up your submission and you can use electronic media such as PowerPoint.
- You may be asked questions by the Hearing Panel about your evidence and you will have to respond to those.

Can we stress again, **it is important you appear at the Hearing if you have indicated you wish to speak**. If you did not opt to speak, but now would like to, contact RDC on 0800 426 5169 and arrange for that to be noted.

HEARING PREPARATION WORKSHOP

We want to ensure people are well prepared for the Hearing and so will be arranging a short Workshop to assist people who would like some help in preparing their presentations. We will advertise the date for this by email and on the website once the Hearing date has been announced.

STCAG SUBMISSION

The Action Group is preparing a very extensive submission which will be presented by several of the members who have become very well versed in the major issues of concern. We have engaged Legal and Planning professionals to advise us on our submission and represent us at the Hearing and we are also engaging several experts in specialist fields to provide expert evidence to counter that contained in the Applicant's consultants' reports.

We are aware that several other submitters have also engaged professional advice and representation at the hearing and we will be consulting with them to ensure a uniform message is presented.

FUNDING AND MEMBERSHIP

One of the real challenges facing us is funding this fight against the cleanfill. To fight this effectively, we need professionals to provide their expert evidence and opinions on the likely significant effects of this cleanfill on this community, were it to proceed. And unfortunately they don't do their work for free, nor are there public funds like Legal Aid to back us – we have to fund it ourselves.

The Action Group has estimated that between \$40-50,000 is the minimum needed to cover the costs associated with this Hearing (we had a quote from one professional consultancy of \$80,000+!!). We have spent approximately \$10,000 to date funded from membership fees and donations, but clearly we need significantly more.

You can help us with this by **becoming a paid member** and also **making a donation** to the fighting fund. Please support this fighting fund – if many contribute modest amounts we will both meet the costs and achieve the result we are seeking for the entire community.

Donations are tax deductible or alternatively GST Invoices can be provided for business sponsorships of STCAG.



WAINUI ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SOCIETY INC **JOIN NOW**

Yes! I would like to join WEPS 'Stop the Cleanfill Action Group' to fight the cleanfill at 297 Whitehills Rd.

\$50 membership enclosed

\$_____ donation to the fighting fund enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Send to PO Box 300348, Albany, North Shore City, 0752 Join our local community group and support our efforts to protect our homes and lifestyle. **Contact info@stopthecleanfill.co.nz or Graeme Woodside 09 420 4689 for more information**