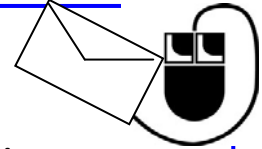


PLANNING UPDATE

**DATE FOR DECISION
COULD BE AS LATE AS
AUTUMN 2010**

Midlothian Council are still awaiting Scottish Coal's response to some of the widespread concerns raised by statutory consultees and local people in the initial consultation period last year. Once this is received it will be made available for further public comment which will be followed by a public "hearing" and ultimately a decision by Midlothian Council. Whilst a decision is expected later this year, it is unlikely before August, and may be longer.

What can YOU do to STOP the mine?



Just 6 minutes spent submitting an objection or getting friends/family to submit one could prevent six+ years of dust, destruction and devastation!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS COUNT – THERE'S STILL AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT
Scottish Coal appear to have rallied their employees and over 600 letters *supporting the mine* have now been submitted. (*although most don't live locally!*) We **MUST** counteract this by getting more letters or emails objecting. Thanks to the 600 people who have already objected, but it is vital that we get another 600 to object. See overleaf for contact details and instructions on how to make your views count.



What have CAAOC being doing? The CAAOC action group, with help from Ormiston Community Council and Tynewater CC are still busy...

- raising a petition to the Scottish Parliament to increase the prospect of the application being "called in" by Scottish Ministers in case Midlothian grant consent.
- investigating the detrimental impacts on local businesses from the opencast,
- correspondence with the planning officials on economic and health impact issues,
- holding fundraising events and collecting donations to help fight the plans,
- lobbying all the local candidates for the May election to seek their views on the proposal. See overleaf



The principle objections against this proposal remain unanswered:

1. It is contrary to both the Midlothian Local Plan and Lothians Structure Plan which exclude Airfield Farm from the "Areas of Search".
2. Significant negative impact on local businesses and no local jobs created
3. Direct impact on health for all local people from dust and fumes hanging in the air and particularly downwind in Ormiston
4. Risk to property should blasting destabilise surrounding land above old limeworks, particularly in Cousland
5. Decimation of the protected landscape, trees and field system and impact on wildlife habitats
6. Visual impact of the opencast pit and the huge earth mounds to be built around it
7. Noise disturbance and disruption from the coal extraction works and lorry movements

This could soon be 500m from Cousland Village

Scottish Coal has applied for planning permission to extract 2million tonnes from a 385 acre site at Airfield Farm, within the community of Cousland. This will most likely be the second largest OC site in Scotland. An action group has been set up - **Communities Against Airfield Open Cast (CAAOC)**, to try to **STOP** this destruction of our local landscape.

HOW CAN YOU STOP THIS HAPPENING?

Help CAAOC fight this proposal by Scottish Coal

Write to:

Duncan Robertson, Planning Department,
Midlothian Council, Fairfield House, 8
Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZN

Email your objection to:

All you need to do is email:

duncan.robertson@midlothian.gov.uk

AND cc to :

airfield.couslandcoal@virgin.net

Title - **Airfield Open Cast Planning Application 09/00349FUL**

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ADD your name and address and give your reasons for objecting.

Your reasons for objecting could be: *'I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the above proposal. I am particularly concerned about its impact on health, the landscape, ecology and wildlife, the local economy, tourism, transport and safety.'*



WHO GETS OUR VOTE?

CAAOC has written to all local MSP's and prospective MPs asking where they stand on this crucial local issue. Here are their responses and comments:



AGAINST THE MINE:

"I do not believe the plans to be in the economic interests of Cousland and Midlothian. "

Rhona Brankin, Labour MSP

"...I feel that the local community and wildlife in both Midlothian and East Lothian will be adversely affected... and therefore I have significant concerns about this application as it currently stands.

Ross Laird; Lib Dem candidate

"This particular application is so close to Cousland and raises so many environmental, health and safety issues I would be very concerned if it was approved."

James Callander, Scottish Conservatives

"Opencast is a dead end, a way for the industry to offload its costs onto local communities, and we do not believe it should be used."

Ian Baxter, Robin Harper & James Mackenzie : Scottish Green Party candidates for Midlothian, East Lothian and Edinburgh East respectively.



SUPPORTING THE MINE:

"... Ormiston is quite some distance from the proposed site, and therefore health impacts are questionable ... Though the routes of road traffic to the site is still unknown – **so there does remain the possibility of increased movement of heavy vehicles through Ormiston itself** – thus increasing road traffic noise."

Gordon Norrie; UKIP Parliamentary Candidate for Midlothian

On the Fence?

To date the following have not responded:

David Hamilton, Labour

Note – **Colin Beattie, SNP** is a member of the Planning Committee which will determine the application and therefore has to remain publicly impartial and is therefore unable to give us a statement.