

Kim Bennett
Editor
Shrewsbury Chronicle
13-14 Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury,
SY2 6AE

16 January 2012

Dear Ms Bennett,

“Burner decision sparks outrage”

by David Seadon, Shrewsbury Chronicle, 12 January 2012, page 1

If Linda Crane (quoted in above article) had been present at the Public Inquiry when Dr Dick van Steenis and I gave evidence, or when we cross-examined Professor Jim Bridges (who was expert witness for Veolia on health), she'd have known that the eventual decision by the Inspector is a travesty - compared with what such it should have been, i.e. **an open examination of the truth via all relevant evidence.**

I was a Rule 6 Party objector at the Shrewsbury incinerator public inquiry and Dr Dick van Steenis MBBS was my expert witness. He is currently preparing a rebuttal/criticism of the Shrewsbury incinerator decision document prepared by John Woolcock and he'll be glad to give you some initial comments. He lives in Monmouth (01600 711668). Your paper has reported comment by the other Rule 6 parties and as I was the only objector on health rounds who was able to provide evidence to back-up claims of harm to health and who also provided a medically-qualified doctor as an expert witness, I feel that it's reasonable to provide comment from Dr van Steenis and myself in your newspaper.

Readers of the Shrewsbury Chronicle need to be aware that the Planning Inspector knew that the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has failed to examine any relevant health or mortality data around any incinerator, thereby making any opinion of the HPA worthless.

The Planning Inspectorate refused to force the attendance of representatives from the Health Protection Agency, Environment Agency and Shropshire County Primary Care Trust at the Shrewsbury incinerator public inquiry where they could have been cross-examined on their (false) opinion that incinerator emissions don't harm health.

Among the evidence I submitted were electoral ward maps showing infant mortality rates upwind & downwind of incinerators at Wolverhampton, Tyseley (Birmingham), Sheffield, Kirklees, Coventry, and Edmonton. Tyseley & Sheffield incinerators are owned by Veolia.

Page 3 of the enclosed pages 1, 2 & 3 of the Stroud News & Journal (4 Jan 2012) shows the Wolverhampton & Kirklees maps I'd presented as part of my evidence at the Shrewsbury incinerator public inquiry on 11 October 2011 and I'd be grateful if your newspaper would also reproduce some maps showing the increased rates of infant mortality downwind of incinerators. Back in January 2008, the Surrey Mirror and the Dorking Advertiser both printed ward maps showing elevated infant death rates downwind of incinerators at Coventry, Edmonton and Kirklees and both the newspaper articles and the maps were included as part of my evidence.

Shawbury ward is downwind of the Harlescott incinerator and that ward has had zero infant deaths recorded by ONS in each of the 18 years 1993-2010, ie my entire record of birth/mortality data at electoral ward level. The PCT will hold the same set of data, which is called VS4 (Vital Statistics).

Those who think that socio-economic status is a causal factor for infant mortality should think about the downward shift in rates in some London Boroughs after the Battersea Power Station closed down – bearing in mind that Kingston upon Thames was upwind of Battersea PS and therefore not affected by the closure. Rates in Newham & Lewisham Boroughs rose sharply after SELCHP incinerator (part-owned by Veolia) started in Dec 1993

	With Battersea Power Station 1981-1983 IMRs	After Battersea PS shut-down 1990-1992 IMRs
Lambeth	12.9	8.5
Westminster	12.3	8.5
Islington	11.6	9
Tower Hamlets	13.1	7
Newham	11.3	7.5
Kensington & Chelsea	10.3	5.9
Lewisham	10.8	7.8
Kingston upon Thames	5.9	5

I've also enclosed the editorial comment from Stroud News & Journal and a copy of my opening statement as well as page 76 of the planning document acknowledging the maps. I've also enclosed copies of pages 26 & 27 so that you can read how the Planning Inspector has chosen to assume that "socioeconomic status" is the main factor without bothering to consider any data which shows that such an assumption is false – unless those of lower socioeconomic status are also exposed to toxic industrial PM2.5 emissions – such as from incinerators as seen from the data below which shows all wards in Birmingham, Solihull and North Warks which had infant death rates of at least 10.0 per 1,000 live births.

Borough	Ward	IMRs 2004-2009
North Warwickshire	Fillongley	12.2
North Warwickshire	Water Orton	11
Solihull	Olton	10.7
Birmingham	Washwood Heath	12.6
Birmingham	Shard End	10.6
Birmingham	Bordeseley Green	10.2
Birmingham	Tyburn	10.1
Birmingham	Sparkbrook	10

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ryan