

OPINION

Telegraph *letters*



The local government at Matlock has imposed a noise abatement order at Rix-on's works, founded in 1941 by Firth's when the Government became worried that all Britain's special steel industry was concentrated in the Don Valley. So I beg of FR - move back to Sheffield or Rotherham if you leave Darley Dale and the site there can be sold for more houses, distributing Chinese goods, employing a few dozen immigrants. I'm sure this is what Matlock would prefer.

Time for action on city's air quality

From: Neil Parry
East End Quality of Life Initiative

THE House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee recently presented a report on Air Quality saying the UK should be ashamed of its poor air quality and the harm it causes, suggesting that premature deaths from poor Air Quality could be as high as 50,000 for the UK.

So the City Council's estimate of between 240-325 death is now likely to be around 500 for Sheffield. They also say that the health costs of poor air quality are likely to be an underestimate, suggesting that the City Council figure of £95 million is an underestimate.

Local Authorities are urged to use the planning system to improve air quality.

Sheffield City Council have an opportunity to do this with the planning application to extend the ASDA superstore at Handsworth.

Handsworth Forum has been monitoring air quality as part of the City's Community Air Quality Monitoring Project for many years. The air pollution around ASDA breaches the air quality laws now in force and will be made worse by this development. The MPs says poor air quality probably causes more deaths and chronic illness than passive smoking, road traffic accidents or obesity.

The City Council should reject ASDA's plans unless they can prove they can put in mitigation measures that start to reduce air pollution in the area.

Air pollution is a major public health concern for this city and it is time to act. A demonstration against the extension will be held outside ASDA on Saturday at 10am

Threatening rights of internet users

From: Richard King
Kelham Island, S3

fit of having the Supertram system provide improved integration between it and the other transport modes. It includes tackling traffic congestion and highway management for the benefit of public transport as a whole.

I just hope that SYPTE take the "bull by the horns" and undertake such a work-based quality contract scheme, sooner, rather than later, so that Sheffield and South Yorkshire can develop a class transport system.

More questions on recycling policy

From: Mark Gamsu
Hills Lane, Sheffield S10

I'm really pleased that Sheffield Council is extending recycling across the city. However, I am concerned about the following:

Why is Veolia transporting all this material to Wolverhampton to be sorted? I would like to know if Sheffield City Council has required Veolia to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment on the site and would like to see a copy. Aside from the additional road transport there will also be an impact on current sorting

workforce as well as the continued availability of their other recycling services which are provided in car parks etc. If Reclaim were to close their employees and trainees would find it very difficult to find other meaningful activity and some would probably have to return to local authority day care.

So my second question is - has the local authority/Veolia done an assessment of the impact that these changes will make to Reclaim and can we see it please?

Finally - has the relevant local authority scrutiny committee assessed the implications of this change?

Are collections the right way round?

From: Coun Janet Bragg
Labour, Hillsborough

ONE can only applaud the council's efforts to improve kerbside collections for recycling but we have to question whether or not they have got it the right way round.

We are now being asked to put glass bottles, jars, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans in the blue bins and paper

a mistake and that my blue box collection will indeed start in June.

Do they really know what they are doing?

After collection, the recycling has to be transported to Wolverhampton. So what will all this cost the Council taxpayer and how much will this new move reduce Sheffield's carbon footprint?

Forgemasters chief deserves a medal

From: Don Alexander
Sheffield S7

DR HONEYMAN at Forgemasters, deserves a medal as big as a dustbin lid, for saving the firm after disastrous foreign ownership and now securing a loan from Westinghouse and the Government for the 15,000-tonne press.

I've been extremely critical of Gordon Brown over the years so, if this loan signals a shift of emphasis from the frenzied greed of the City, to wealth-creating British industry, I must say, well done Prime Minister and Lord Mandelson ("elbowed" by our stalwart ex-steelman, Richard Caborn).

Being a Sheffielder I've got to whittle