

Communities Against Airfield Opencast Coal CAAOC Update October 09

To date there have been more than 650 objections downloaded on Midlothian's Online planning site and we wanted to thank everyone for their efforts in helping to object to the Opencast site. CAAOC's official objection was handed in to Midlothian Council on 30th September and this can be viewed on Cousland website alongside objections from Tynewater, Ormiston & Pencaitland Community Councils.

**Still time
to say
NO**

HOWEVER it is not too late... as the planning department is still waiting on some statutory reports you can still write or email with your comments to

**Mr Duncan Robertsc
Planning Officer
Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3ZN**

Duncan.robertson@midlothian.gov.uk
And copy your email to local councillors Midlothian –
Lisa.beattie@midlothian.gov.uk
Katie.moffat@midlothian.gov.uk
Peter.boyes@midlothian.gov.uk or
East Lothian -
Kenny McLeod – **kmcleod1@eastlothian.gov.uk**
Jim Gillies – **kgillies@eastlothian.gov.uk**
Donald Grant – **dgrant@eastlothian.gov.uk**
Ruth Currie – **rcurrie@eastlothian.gov.uk**

Or call 0131 663 2730 for a pro-forma letter to sign. Encourage your family and friends to object via letter or **'5 Clicks Email'** and let's get 1000 or more objections before the end of October when Duncan will be preparing reports for the planning committee early in November. At that stage the Planning committee will decide how to proceed including the possibility of a pre-determination meeting of the full planning committee at Cousland village hall. All info is available on www.cousland.net

We will be holding the next CAAOC 'helpers' meeting on Monday 26th October at 7.30pm at Cousland Village Hall where we will give an update and discuss the next steps – this fight is not over !

Fundraising for the Campaign

We appreciate the donations collected at the Cousland



Information available on www.Cousland.net

public meeting and those which have been handed in since. Every little helps towards the campaign. We have also had donations in kind of photocopier ink, paper and other sundries. The joint communities 'Campaign Against Airfield Open Cast' bank account has been opened and the accounts will be audited & available for inspection.

In Cousland, Jennifer is still open to donations to be put on EBay auction site, a family fundraising event is scheduled for the 28th of November and we are planning to get car window stickers printed.

All the CAAOC committee & helpers are volunteers and have been meeting regularly to draw up the objection report and to rally support. A few locals journeyed through to Douglas last month to hear an expert in Opencast, Dr Van Steemis talk on the Impact of 'Particulate Matter on Health.' However we lack the expertise to understand the planning regulations and have sought the help of a Planning Consultant, Jim Sorrell, who, at greatly reduced costs, has been working on our behalf to guide us through the planning maze and has directed us on our reports to the planners. He has made himself available at all CAAOC meetings and has held meetings with Midlothian Council planners. We greatly appreciate all Jim's work and have to raise funds towards paying his fees.

It has been pointed out that should this proposal go ahead house values within a certain radius are likely to depreciate, so a little donation may go a long way in the long run.



We are hoping that all areas who may be impacted by the opencast will initiate fundraising in their own locations to help the campaign. Any other ideas for fundraising can go via the fundraising team on jennifer.mcdougall@tesco.net 0131 654 2370.

Any donations can be given to Dougie McKenzie, Sheena Irving, Jennifer McDougall or Lorraine Chapman or to any Community Council representatives. Cheques should be made out to CAAOC

Watch out for the donations buckets at local events.

Information available on www.Cousland.net