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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL									
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT									
- 6 AUG 2009									
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Dear Sir

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 09/0456/PP  
DEVELOPMENT OF LANDFILL WITHIN THE FORMER ROYAL  
ORDNACE FACTORY SITE, BISHOPTON.**

I write on behalf of Houston Community Council, the residents of Houston and in support of all other objectors including the Bishopton Action Group in relation to the proposals to redevelop the site of the former Royal Ordnance Factory, Bishopton.

You are in possession of previously submitted documents registering Houston Community Councils' objections to the proposed redevelopment of the site since this was introduced by BAE/Redrow in their outline planning application 06/0602/PP.

The issue of a landfill within the site has been of concern to Houston Community Council since the outset of the redevelopment proposals as such landfill would be located at the westerly edge of the site and close to the environs of Houston village and adjacent farming communities.

The developers have intimated that a landfill in the development area would only contain materials moved from within the site does not persuade Houston Community Council to support the proposals for such a project since materials in the site have been declared in reports submitted by BAE to contain toxins which are the by-products of munitions manufacture over the extended active lifetime of the Royal Ordnance Factory. Arguments against disturbance and movement of such materials have been made in previously submitted documents prepared by Houston Community Council.

At an open meeting in Bishopton on 15 November 2008 BAE intimated that applications for remediation of the site (06/1119/PP) and the landfill (061154/PP) had been withdrawn and this was considered by many at he meeting to be a ruse to ensure the safe passage of planning permission for other items proposed and in particular a specific road link from/ to the M8 motorway as a precursor to any development. The

submission of the current application for a landfill supports the view that the previous withdrawal was a tactic on the part of BAE to ensure permission to commence their planned redevelopment.

Issues which have recently come to the attention of the Bishopton Action Group and the public in general via the media only add to the concerns of Houston Community Council over the redevelopment of the Royal Ordnance Factory site and in particular those associated with remediation of the site and the contents of the proposed landfill. These relate to two separate matters from different sources which reflect closely with the concerns previously expressed by Houston Community Council, viz:

- (a) The Bishopton Action Group has been advised by Renfrewshire Council that certain objections which they raised have been rejected because of fears for national security. The question here must be what effect on national security will a proposal to redevelop a disused munitions facility have unless it reveals the presence of unusual or exceptionally high traces of materials such as those of a radioactive or other extremely toxic nature?
- (b) The very recent High Court decision in England in relation to genetic defects affecting children which are considered to have been caused by the removal of toxic materials during the redevelopment of the site of a former steelworks in Corby.

Although these two examples are somewhat different in nature they are considered to be of primary concern as being of risk to human, animal and plant life within and outwith the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. It has been declared by BAE in their many documents that the various known toxic materials within the site are not sufficient in quantity to cause concern if moved from source to another location such as a landfill. That is debatable but the "*fears for national security*" is a curious aspect and likely to create unnecessary and unacceptable concern over the whole project since there is no explanation for these "*fears*".

In their duty to the public Renfrewshire Council must reject this application if their intention is to ensure that the health and safety of the present and future generations in Houston and the surrounding villages are to be protected from any environmental risks associated with any projects within the ambit of the proposed redevelopment of the former Royal Ordnance Factory site at Bishopton.

Yours sincerely



John M Wilson  
Pp Houston Community Council