

**Lorton Parish Council**

Question	Response
<b>Letter</b>	<p>Re: MRWS Consultation: The response of Lorton Parish Council</p> <p>At the recent meeting of Lorton Parish Council the following question was put to councillors:</p> <p>'Does this Parish Council believe that the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Project should move forward to Stage 4 of the project, this being desk based studies to ascertain the suitability of the geology of Allerdale for housing an underground repository.'</p> <p>Members of the public were also present at the meeting and engaged with the debate that councillors undertook. A variety of issues and concerns were raised and these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The geological studies to be undertaken during stage 4 would almost certainly prove that the geology of the area was not suitable for a repository, as proven by work undertaken during the Nirex investigations.</li><li>• The project as a whole would have some economic benefit to the area though the likelihood of large numbers of new, sustainable jobs being created for local people was remote.</li><li>• There is unhappiness about the process as a whole and feel that it should be driven by geology not geography. The areas with the most stable geology in the country should have been identified first and then volunteer communities should have been sought. The deep clays of Norfolk, Oxfordshire and London provide the most suitable geology for a waste repository.</li><li>• Although there are further opportunities in the process for withdrawal, it is uncertain whether parish councils or the public will have another opportunity to have their say. It maybe that once into stage 4 the whole process becomes unstoppable.</li><li>• The waste created by the massive excavation works would cause massive problems locally.</li><li>• Both the tourism and farming industries could be adversely affected by the project.</li></ul> <p>At the end of the debate the vote was as follows:</p> <p>Those in favour of the move to Stage 4: 1 councillor Those opposed to the move to Stage 4: 5 councillors</p> <p>The decision of Lorton Parish Council not to support the MRWS Project moving to Stage 4 in Allerdale will be relayed to the following organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Allerdale Borough Council</li><li>2. Cumbria County Council</li><li>3. Cumbria Association of Local Councils</li><li>4. Lake District National Park</li></ol> <p>Should you wish any further information regarding this decision then please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>