

# Birdston Coup

A blight on our community

## Slide 1

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### Birdston Coup

Morag Campbell, 12/04/2022



## Slide 2

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This land is your land

Morag Campbell, 12/04/2022













## Known History:

The site has been in operation since 1967. From 1967-1992 the owner James Pitcairn Jnr. Was asked on a number of occasions by the local authority to take 'putrescible waste on the site due to the breakdown and holidays at Local Council Refuse Tip, also asked to take council refuse from 1967-1975 when the council tip at Redhills was closed.



## Known History:

From 26th August 1994 the tip was used by Luddon to deposit final capping, the licence granted was for this sole purpose.

re to your application for planning permission under the above-mentioned and in terms of the above development, the Strathkelvin District Council, in exercise of its powers under the above-mentioned Act and Orders hereby grant planning permission for the said development in accordance with the plan(s) docquetted as referred to in the particulars given in the application subject however to the following conditions:

That the operations and works hereby authorised shall be discontinued, any buildings and machinery removed, and all works for the reinstatement of the site shall be carried out within two months from 31 March 1991.

That the operator shall at all times deal with the areas forming the subject of this consent in accordance with the provisions of the application, statement of intentions, and plans submitted, except as otherwise provided by this consent, and shall omit no part of the operations provided for therein except with the prior consent of the planning authority.

The dump was registered to take nuclear waste and toxic fluids. I know there is asbestos in there from Lennox Castle Hospital and local building waste. As a registered dump for toxic fluids, I know there is arsenic in there from local industry.

Historic records are either poor or non-existent - nobody can be sure what we are dealing with....







Until we know otherwise, as the site is on a historic nuclear waste site list, we should assume there is likely to be nuclear waste present.

I remember my mother arguing with the farmer about his 'reckless' activities and the inherent dangers to people's health.

Neither we, the operator or the authorities,  
really know the extent of any inherent dangers.

I believe we have a right to know, I believe the  
authorities should sample, test and inform us of  
the results as to what is contained there and  
any potential chemical reactions that could be  
taking place.

I am also sure that the nuclear industry should have records of where they sent waste and that the authorities should be 'tracking and tracing' this health risk.

However, not for low level radioactive waste?  
(eg medical or industrial)

The coup should have been properly 'capped' to contain any risks to our environment as much as possible.

I believed, until recently, that this had been done. However it was not, no-one oversaw the proper capping and remediation.

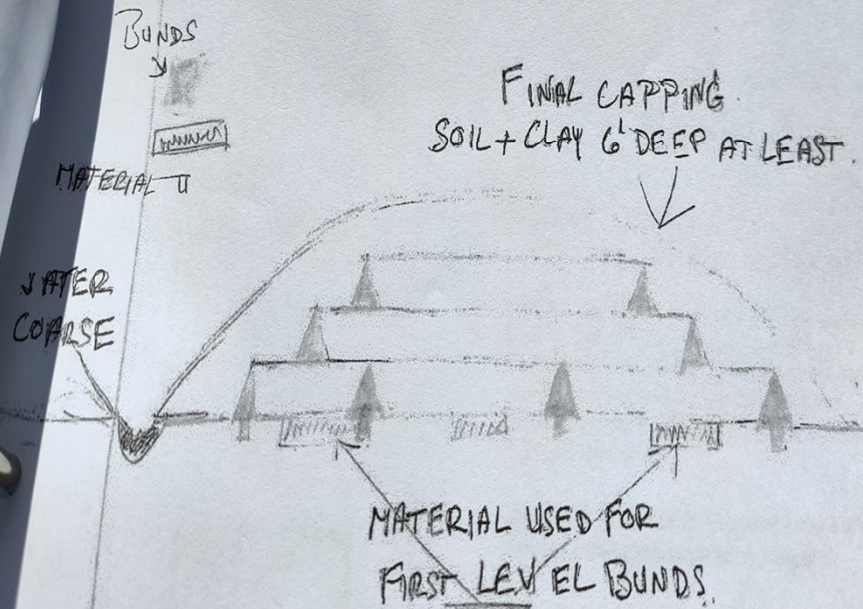


The current operator clearly has plans to handle “waste” at the coup. I can't truly say but believe these are as good as written on the back of a fag packet.

I believe we are entitled to have our environment made safe.



PUBLIC REGISTER COPY  
SHAPE OF SITE TO ALLOW RUN OFF  
TO PREVENT POLLUTION.



WATER  
COARSE

MATERIAL USED FOR  
FIRST LEVEL BUNDS.

PLAN OF BUNDS.

~~TIPPING BELLS~~

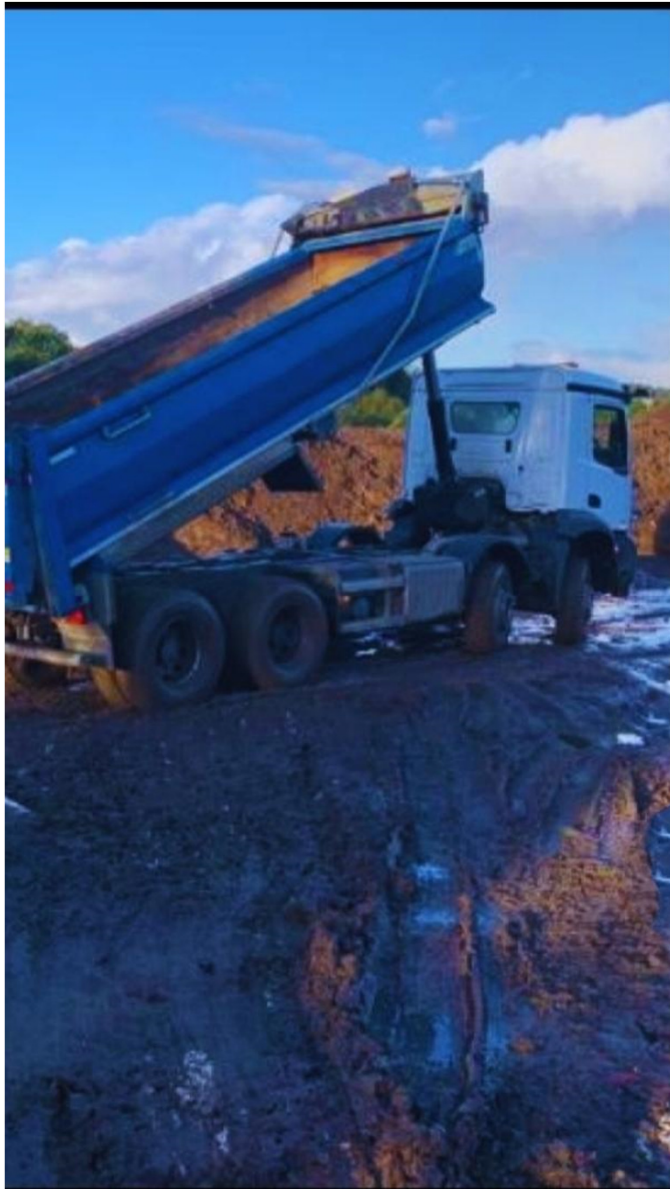
BAND  
SURROUNDS  
ON LOWER  
LEVEL

In July of 2021 Practical Waste Solutions, a Northern Irish Company bought the coup that had been sold by Miller Homes who went into receivership. They claimed they were going to complete the proper remediation of the coup.



However that was not what they were doing.

They advertised a waste management business at Birdston and 20-40 lorries a day dumped their load in the coup. There was obvious excavation of the site which was concerning because of the substances we know and believe are in there.



BIRDSTON MANAGEMENT

## **DAILY SOIL TREATMENT ON SITE**

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GET IN CONTACT FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

We believe it is dangerous.

PWS were operating under permissions from SEPA which were eventually withdrawn as PWS were obviously not doing what they said nor what they were supposed to be doing.

The core path was destroyed.

With the withdrawal of necessary paperwork the company were forced to close the site recently.

However they have left toxic substances there which they had brought from Northern Ireland.

It is in paper sacks and was polythene wrapped however being there for months the polythene was ripped by high winds and the paper sacks degraded with the contents spilling and exposed to the wild weather we have experienced over the last 6 months.

There is also evidence of building rubble being used - as land fill and not site remediation.





Our primary purpose is to ensure that proper capping of the coup happens.

However if we can't buy this land, what has happened in the last year may happen again in 5, 10 or 20 years time. This is a legacy we cannot leave to our children.

Our secondary purpose is to get the site remediated, regenerated and, ideally, to make it a sustainable community resource.



But - not something like the community woodland which is not being managed as community accessible space - despite a lot of EU grant money and Charles Kennedy's best efforts.

The lesson to be learned is that if the community want control/influence, we need to take ownership of the land (or at least try).

Of course PWS may resist our plans, we know this, but this inappropriate land use needs fixed once and for all.



We need to be able to secure grants (an enormous amount of money) and the process will take a long time.

Acquiring grant funding cannot be guaranteed but if we don't try to regenerate a healthy sustainable environment then who knows what health risks the future holds, certainly I couldn't start to even guess.

We may need to prove who has responsibility for what has happened to secure funding.

It is possible that many grant providing bodies will not pay to remediate situations where local or national authorities have responsibility or where the site owner is not positively engaged.

This falls into the domain of lawyers and very specialised, potentially expensive lawyers.

However there is no choice in my opinion. We need to make sure this is sorted and for all time. That the coup can never become active again with all the attached risks.

We have not found the support we would have liked from the authorities.

Brian, Jenny and I not only have not had support from our representatives but we feel (and believe) we have been undermined in trying to do what we believe the authorities should have done.







At this point it is important to acknowledge the tremendous support of our Westminster MP Stuart McDonald.

When contacted by us, he willingly engaged with us and all the stakeholders involved and has greatly helped us with our efforts.

This has had two effects:

- It has given legitimacy to what we are doing and
- It has also helped keep us motivated and given us hope.

We are lucky to have good people supporting our village when needed, both now and in the past.

I also need to thank all the members of our wee unofficial committee particularly Brian and Jenny.

Maybe you are asking “who is the group of individuals”?

Well we are villagers like you here, trying to solve a big problem because we all care about our community and local environment. That's all.

Active community members:

Andrew Vaughan, Andrew McKenzie, Lynn McHugh,  
Brian McFall, Jenny Reeve, Gillian Vaughan, John  
Hinton, Elizabeth Rowan, Neil Simpson, James  
Lindsay, Morag Campbell

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Andrew Vaughan, Andrew McKenzie, Lynn McHugh, Brian McFall, Jenny Reeve, Gillian Vaughan, John Hinton, Elizabeth Rowan, Neil Simpson, James Lindsay, Campbell,

Morag Campbell, 14/04/2022

