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Rowan Williams on ending city's homeless problem



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Campaigners hopeful that incinerator plan shelved

AmeyCespa withdraws application for licence to operate waste burner on site

By **Alex Spencer**
alex.spencer@iliffmedia.co.uk

Campaigners against a huge incinerator in Waterbeach are cautiously optimistic that developers may abandon the project.

The news that AmeyCespa has withdrawn an application for Environment Agency permission to run an incinerator on the site has given campaigners hope.

In September, Cambridgeshire County Council denied planning permission for the incinerator – which would have been taller than Ely Cathedral – on heritage grounds, as the proposed site for it was close to Denny Abbey.

Councillors also refused planning and on the grounds that the large structure would impact on the “visual amenity” for local residents. There is still time for the company to lodge an appeal against the planning decision.

However, Cambridge Without Incineration (CBWIN) spokesperson Jude Sutton said: “We are very pleased that the Environment Agency has confirmed that AmeyCespa has withdrawn their application for a permit on the site. We are

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But council leaders call for a review
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cautiously optimistic now that the project won't come back.

“Let's hope any other plans for waste management in Cambridge are truly innovative and safe.”

AmeyCespa wanted to create an energy-from-waste facility at Levitt's Field, on Waterbeach Waste Management Park, off Ely Road.

It would have treated up to 250,000 tonnes of waste per year and provided electricity for 63,000 homes.

But protesters – thousands of whom signed a petition against the proposals – were fearful of toxic waste products from the 80-metre chimney.

An AmeyCespa spokesperson told the *Cambridge Independent*: “We have withdrawn our application for the time being while we consider our options.”

Trash Can Stan, 4, is on a litter clean-up mission



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Picture: Keith Heppell

In brief

Fellowship for crime writer

Cambridge crime writer Sophie Hannah has been appointed an honorary fellow at Lucy Cavendish College.

She has been a fellow commoner at Lucy Cavendish for many years, often choosing to write her novels in the college.

Since its foundation in 2010, Sophie has also been a regular



presence on the judging panel of the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize. She will be speaking at the college's first Fiction Prize Festival in January.

Sophie said: "I cannot put into words how much this honorary fellowship means to me. I adore Lucy Cavendish. It's the most amazingly stimulating and spiritually nourishing community to belong to."

Figures reveal excess deaths

New figures from the Office for National Statistics show around 26 per cent more people die in winter than in summer in Cambridge. During the winter of 2016-17, the latest period for which figures are available, there were approximately 70 excess winter deaths in Cambridge, mainly due to colder temperatures, respiratory diseases and flu. Across England and Wales, the rate varies from 4 to 51 per cent.

Calls to reverse unpaid leave

A councillor has called on the county council to reverse the three days' unpaid leave demanded of staff this Christmas to offset a projected £14.6 million budget overspend. Cllr Sandra Crawford says the



The full council will debate the motion at Shire Hall on December 11

same staff have "already endured a real terms pay cut of 18 per cent since the start of austerity in 2010".

Council leader Steve Count insisted the measures were "fair" and had been supported by councillors.

Superhero Trash Can Stan is helping to save environment

Gemma Gardner
gemma.gardner@iliffmedia.co.uk

A young superhero has made it his mission to clean up the streets of a Cambridgeshire village.

Wearing a green mask and draped in a black cape, Trash Can Stan uses his journey to school to carry out his good deeds.

"Rubbish is bad for the environment and for the animals," Trash Can Stan, also known as four-year-old George, said. "For foxes and rabbits it's bad because they might swallow it."

Patrolling the streets of Duxford wearing an outfit emblazoned with his name, George has been getting praise from the community with his quest to "save the environment".

Mum Giudi Di Bon, 41, said the youngster was inspired by a project at his school, Duxford C of E Community Primary School.

"The theme was being a superhero in some way, shape or form as a home project. So we had a chat with George and we all agreed it would be nice to start litter picking around the village," she said.

Giudi told *Cambridge Independent*: "We decided to come up with a plan, so we're doing a scrapbook with pictures of George picking up the litter around the village en route to school, and on the way back. He does it as often as he can, weather permitted."

Every year, an estimated 6.4 million tonnes of litter enters the world's oceans. Plastic poses the biggest threat as it doesn't just disappear. And it's not just marine life at risk – mammals, like hedgehogs, and birds like swans frequently suffer injuries as a result of getting caught up in litter.

George, who turns five later this month, has a litter picker with his superhero initials on it, a cape and a mask with STC on it – all made by his mum. He also has a hand-drawn map, so the family can mark where the



Trash Can Stan – George, 4, when not in his superhero mode – clears up rubbish in his home village Picture: Keith Heppell

rubbish is found and help raise awareness.

"It's always sweetie wrappers, cigarette ends, empty packets and a lot of drinks cans," said Giudi. "It's a 10-minute walk to school with the stops and we manage to fill a whole bag every time. There's quite a lot of stuff around. You just need to look and you'll find it."

Trash Can Stan, a name chosen by his father Julian, 45, as George's middle name is Stan, has become quite the celebrity in his village with passers-by stopping to congratulate him. He was even called upon to switch on the Christmas lights at St John's

Church in Duxford when they requested the village superhero.

Duxford eatery Graystones was so impressed with George's efforts that they've offered him a free pizza. But the family are keen to encourage others to join George, and will be hosting a litter pick on Saturday from 10am, starting at Graystones.

"It would be nice to have some extra superheroes to join in that would be amazing. Either the same age group or older," said Giudi.

And as for George's friends? "They want to join in... mummy and daddy are my sidekicks," he said.

Giudi added: "We're really proud. He

enjoys it, but of course, mum or dad have to carry the bag of rubbish."

Sophie Busch, communications manager at the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire, said: "Litter causes such a big threat to our local wildlife. We hear a lot about the negative impact of plastic waste on marine life, but inland animals like hedgehogs, foxes and birds also frequently suffer injuries as a result of getting caught up in litter.

"We welcome all efforts to combat this and love that Trash Can Stan is showing others that everyone has a role to play. A true superhero!"

Mike Lynch faces charges in US over \$11bn Autonomy sale

Dr Mike Lynch has resigned from the advisory board of the Royal Society and from his membership of the government's Council for Science and Technology after the US Department of Justice filed criminal charges against him.

The charges relate to the \$11 billion sale of Cambridge-based Autonomy, which he co-founded, to Hewlett Packard (HP) in 2011.

"Dr Mike Lynch has resigned from Royal Society committees, he has not resigned his fellowship," said a Royal Society spokesperson.

It is understood Dr Lynch also resigned as a board director of Darktrace on Friday afternoon. Darktrace was asked for comment.

The honeymoon period post-sale lasted just a year. In 2012 the deal turned sour and HP wrote off \$8.8bn in relation to the acquisition, accusing Dr Lynch and colleagues of financial mismanagement.

The US justice department's charges relate to Dr Lynch – also Autonomy's chief executive – and former Autonomy finance executive Stephen Chamberlain, accusing them of having artificially inflated the company's performance between 2009 and 2011 immediately prior to the sale to HP.

The charges include 14 counts of conspiracy and fraud and carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail. The Department of

Justice is seeking to confiscate \$815 million from Dr Lynch, which it says was obtained through the alleged fraud.

His defence was robust. "These stale allegations are meritless and we reject them emphatically," said Chris Morvillo, of Clifford Chance, and Reid Weingarten of Steptoe & Johnson, in a statement.

"There was no conspiracy at Autonomy and no fraud against HP for the Department of Justice to take up. HP has a long history of failed acquisitions. Autonomy was merely the latest successful company it destroyed.

"HP has sought to blame Autonomy for its own crippling errors, and has falsely accused

Mike Lynch to cover its own tracks.

"Mike Lynch will not be a scapegoat for their failures. He has done nothing wrong and will vigorously defend the charges against him."

A Serious Fraud Office investigation in the UK closed in 2015 without charge, followed by suit and countersuit.

Last year, HP sold the whole software division that included Autonomy to Micro Focus. HP's loss was estimated at \$8.8 billion.

Micro Focus, until recently Britain's largest listed technology company, lost more than half its market value in March after warning sales could shrink more than expected.