

Scrap The Contract
by Peter Adams

Gloucestershire's mostly hilly
Norfolk is thoroughly flat;
But King's Lynn and good ole Gloucester
Have more in contrast than that.

Our council's keeping the contract
The one they secretly signed,
While King's Lynn scrapped the one they had
For a 30 million pound fine.

30 million is far too much
For council taxpayers to pay
Unless it costs 200 million more
To keep the contract in place.

Spend 200 million to save 30?
That doesn't really appeal
Spend 30 million to save 300,
That's a much better deal.

But here in poor old Gloucestershire
We're stuck with our albatross,
With our dinosaur monstrosity
And its astronomical costs.

And people always ask us why
GCC wants incineration
And we are always forced to reply
"There's no logical explanation."

Those wanting to burn our waste
Say we can't do landfill these days –
But modern recycling methods
Are better than both of these ways.

Why oh why is GCC
Still supporting this terrible scheme?
It starts to make you to wonder
What goes on behind the scenes?

Isn't the council too cosey
With this private corporation?
Balfour Beatty has a history
Of Conservative party donations.

The council paid part of the cost
Of UBB's planning appeal.
Is there something that's gone off
About this really rubbish deal?

GCC has jumped the gun –
Paying too much for Javelin Park,
And signed the contract too soon,
And kept taxpayers in the dark.

Then its own planning committee
Unanimously said “NO”
But the council ignores these things –
On into the darkness it goes.

Why should the people of Gloucestershire
Pay UBB such high fees
To deal with our waste in incendiary ways?
There are far better methods than these.

It will look like five cardboard boxes
Dropped carelessly out of the sky
As if to hide the cathedral inside -
It's so wide and so long and so high.

UBB is building elsewhere
Plant that are cleaner and cheaper;
The council is stuck in a rubbish heap
Digging in deeper and deeper.

To describe all the suspicions
And the ways this deal has gone wrong
This poem would go on for ages –
You won't want to stand here that long!

The one thing uniting the county
Since the last time we went to war
Is opposing incineration
From Winchcombe across to Wickwar.

We refuse to deal with refuse
In ways that are wasteful of waste:
Don't talk rot about rubbish,
This hash of our trash is a disgrace.

A series of bad decisions
Needs a good one to change the trend;
Come on council, scrap the contract
And bring this stink to an end.