

Your ref: EN010110
Date: 8 February 2023
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The Planning Inspectorate

*Via the 'make a submission tab' on the
Planning Inspectorate project web page
and via email to:
Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk*

Steve Cox,
Executive Director
**Place and Sustainability
Planning, Growth & Environment**

New Shire Hall
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Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

Dear Sir/Madam

**EN010110 – Medworth Energy from Waste Combined heat and power Facility –
Procedural Deadline A**

Cambridgeshire County Council Unique Reference: 20033456 & 20032472.

This is the response of Cambridgeshire County Council ('the Council') to the Examining Authority's letter of 24 January 2023 and includes the information required by Procedural Deadline A (9 February 2023).

Written Submissions on the Examination Procedure and Timetable

The Council has no objection to the use of virtual Examination hearings and for there to be blended events where there is the ability to attend in person or virtually.

The Council has no further principal issues to add to the Examining Authority's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues that were set out in Annex C to the Rule 6 letter.

Notwithstanding the principal issues identified in Annex C to be addressed at the issue specific hearings, the Council considers a hearing on matters relating to the following would be of value:

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- wider Transport and Access matters, in addition to those covered in the Issue Specific Hearings 1 and 2.

Preliminary Meeting on 21 February 2023

Request to be participate in person the Preliminary Meeting

Representing the Council, Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC would like to speak at the Preliminary Meeting. The request is to participate in person and formal registration has been made.

The following officers will also be attending the meeting in person (but do not intend to speak and therefore have not registered to participate):

Emma Fitch, Assistant Director, Planning, Growth & Environment.

Deborah Jeakins, Business Manager County Planning Minerals and Waste and Alice Tithecott, Specialist Projects Manager, who are the Council's project managers who collate the Council's formal responses to the Medworth CHP DCO.

Medworth Issue Specific Hearing 1 on the scope of the Proposed Development (ISH1) 22 February 2023

Requests to participate in the Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)

Representing the Council, Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC would like to speak at the Issue Specific Hearing.

The following Council Officers would also like to participate in the hearing in person:

Sarah Wilkinson, Carbon and Energy Manager, Climate Change and Energy Services

Matthew Breeze, Principal Planning Policy Officer

Nigel Eggar, Highway Development Manager

Jez Tuttle, Transport Assessment Manager

Daniel Ashman, Asset Information Searches Manager

Camilla Rhodes, Asset Information Manager

Jack Eagle, Principal Transport and Infrastructure Officer

Harry Pickford, Principal Sustainable Drainage Officer

The Council will wish to contribute to the following agenda items:

Agenda Item 2: draft Development Consent Order;

Agenda Item 3: Components of the Medworth EfW CHP Facility – proposed access improvements and water connections;

Agenda Item 4 : Need for the proposed Development – energy infrastructure, Net Zero, waste hierarchy; and,

Agenda Item 5: Alternatives

Medworth Open Floor Hearings (OFH1 and OFH2) on 22 and 23 February 2023

Requests to participate at the Open Floor Hearings 1 and 2:

Councillor Lorna Dupre, Chair of the Environment and Green Investment Committee of the Council would like to participate in OFH2.

Suggested locations for Site Inspections

The Council has the following suggested locations for unaccompanied and accompanied site inspections, and has detailed the reason for nomination, the issues to be observed, and whether the location(s) can be observed and accessed through public land:

Suggestions for Unaccompanied site inspections (visible from public land)

- Weasenham Lane, Wisbech

Reason: to view the route that construction traffic will take and the impact that the proposed development will have on the area.

- Elm Hall roundabout
Reason: to show where two major routes, the A1101 and A47, intersect and the impact of the vehicle movements during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Freedom Bridge
Reason: to view the main route into Wisbech from the north, through which convoys of waste lorries will travel and the impact of the proposed development on this area.
- Redmoor Lane roundabout/Cromwell Road and into New Bridge Lane
Reason: to view the main access/exit route to the proposed facility.
- New Bridge Lane
Reason: to view the route for the proposed railway and its proximity to the proposed EfW site.
- The field next to Lineage
Reason: to view the area where it is proposed that 400-700 construction workers will park.
- The Lineage building
Reason: to compare the height with the incinerator main building which will be twice as high, with the chimneys being four times as high so that the impact of the proposal on the surrounding area is appreciated.
- The River Nene from the junction of South Brink and New Bridge Lane
Reason: to note that the incinerator site sits on the lower lying flood plain and the proximity to the river. To understand the need for the flood gates installed after the 1978 floods and consequently the potential impact of such flooding on the application site.
- The A47 between Guyhirn Roundabout and Redmoor Lane Roundabout.
Reason: to understand the nature of this heavily used single carriageway which leads to the coast and the impact that the proposal would have on it. In addition, to note the current skyline on the approach to Wisbech and the potential visual impact of the facility from the approach roads to the town.
- Heron Road Open Space and surrounding community.
Reason: to fully appreciate the impact that the proposed development would have and how it would appear on the skyline.
- Local communities to the south east of the Site: Begdale, Elm and Emneth;
Begdale – Redmoor Lane / Begdale Road; and,
Elm – Limes Avenue / All Saints Close / Halfpenny Lane. Emneth – Low Road / Outwell Road.

Reason: to fully appreciate visibility of the proposed development on local communities and to appreciate extent of significant effects to landscape character.

- Local communities to the west of the Site: Church End, Wisbech St Mary and Leverington. Church End – Main Road (VP22 - proposed development located set directly behind church at Wisbech St Mary); and Wisbech St Mary – Bevis Lane.
Reason: to fully appreciate visibility of the proposed development on local communities and to appreciate extent of significant effects to landscape character.
- Cromwell Road commercial zone / Wisbech Retail Park, including Lidl, Costa Coffee, Farmfoods etc.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development across the immediately adjacent urban area.
- A47 eastbound (to Wisbech)
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development on the primary approach to Wisbech from the south.
- Welney Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development across the wider extent of the study area.
- Nene Washes NNR Car Park at Eldernell.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development across the wider extent of the study area.

Settlements / Communities within the wider study area:

- Friday Bridge, Emneth, Chequers Corner/Marshland St. James, The Smeeth/St. John Fen End, Terrington St. John/Tilney St. Lawrence, Walpole Highway, Walton Highway, West Walton, Walpole St Peter/Walpole St Andrew, Gorefield, Wisbech St. Mary/Leverington Common, Guyhirn, Upwell/Outwell, Tydd St. Mary/St. Giles, Parson Drove/Murrow, and March.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development across the wider extent of the study area.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- 'The Still', south of Leverington / locations on the southern edge of Leverington.
Reason: to fully appreciate visibility of the proposed development on local communities and PRoW.
- The Nene Way (a regionally promoted walking trail) – south of Wisbech.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development from local PRoW.
- PRoW west of Begdale: Crooked Bank/Narrow Drove/Broad Drove to the south of the Site.

Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development from local PRow.

- NCR 63 Begdale Road between Elm & Begdale.
Reason: to fully appreciate the visibility of the proposed development from local PRow.

Suggested locations for Accompanied site inspections

- Thomas Clarkson School sports pitches, the Helping Hands Disability Group, Cambrian Specialist Education School and Riverside Meadows SEMH Specialist Academy.
Reason: to fully appreciate the impact that the proposed development would have on each of the facilities and how it would dominate the skyline.
- Residential properties No. 9 and 10 New Bridge Lane.
Reason: to fully appreciate the proximity and arrangement of these two residential properties to the proposed development. Particularly No. 10 New Bridge Lane where there are concerns of the development breaching the RVAA threshold.
- Residential property No. 25 Cromwell Road.
Reason: to fully appreciate the proximity and arrangement of these two residential properties to the proposed development.

Please be advised the County Council's Landscape and Visual Consultant (LVC) will be available to attend the Accompanied visits and highlight viewpoints and vantage points which will be impacted by the proposed development and explain the type and level of impact. The LVC also recommends that most, if not all, of the Viewpoint locations prepared by the Applicant and a more general review of the Wisbech Urban area.

Yours sincerely

Alice Tithecott

Deborah Jeakins

Project Managers for the Council in its role as a Host Authority

