

Michael de Whalley – Representation Notes for OH1

I have been trying to get a GP to speak to me since Monday, 8.30am and it is now Wednesday evening... You may reasonably ask what this has got to do with a waste incinerator in Wisbech. Well, ten years ago a number of West Norfolk GPs and doctors expressed their concerns about incineration in the local media (see appendix 1). At least one said that they would leave the area if it was ever built. The practice is already short of GPs and is struggling to recruit. Attracting skilled and professional workers to this area is somewhat challenging. Wisbech and the surrounding Fenland district contain areas of significant multiple deprivation, not least with child poverty and, in particular, low educational attainment (ref. Cambridgeshire Insight/ONS Census). Greenpeace reported in 2020 that waste incinerators are three times more likely to be built in the UK's most deprived neighbourhoods than in the least. To illustrate this point, the Medworth incinerator may have a neighbour in the 1,000,000 tonne per annum incinerator, if approved, just up the coast of the Wash in Boston, a town with a similar profile to that of Wisbech.

Incinerators blight the areas where they are built. Their socio-economic impact is masked in areas of significant deprivation. It is notable how many local companies have expressed their concern at the Medworth proposal. The level of regional opposition is intense, Waterbeach, Norwich and King's Lynn (where a borough-wide poll attracted an overwhelming 92% NO vote; that is 65,516 people said NO – see appendix 2) have all seen the back of incinerator proposals. How will Wisbech attract skilled workers and businesses in the face of such strong opposition? Will the local schools be able to recruit the teachers they need? The applicant, to their credit, is clearly doing its best to support the community but I fear that this is a drop in the ocean compared to the disamenity from this proposal. I believe, as do many others, that this proposal will greatly disadvantage Wisbech, Fenland and West Norfolk; and as such I do not believe that this proposal is consistent with the government's levelling up agenda.

Local doctors sign-up against the incinerator

THESE are the doctors who have signed-up to oppose the building of a waste incinerator at Lynn.

They agreed to have their names displayed in the graphic on the right, produced by campaigners themselves and sent to the Lynn News this week.

The doctors say in their statement: "We are concerned about the health effects of the waste incinerator that Norfolk County Council plans to build in King's Lynn.

"Medical evidence for the harmful effects of very fine particles, gases and toxic materials from incineration is growing. There are only a few of this type of incinerator in the UK and they have not been running long enough for all their effects to be understood.

"We do not think that the local population should be exposed to the substances that would be produced by this incinerator over the course of the 25-year contract."

The intervention by the hospital doctors and GPs is a devastating body blow against the incinerator plan.

It is hard to see how the county council can continue to press

EXCLUSIVE
by **JON BUSS**

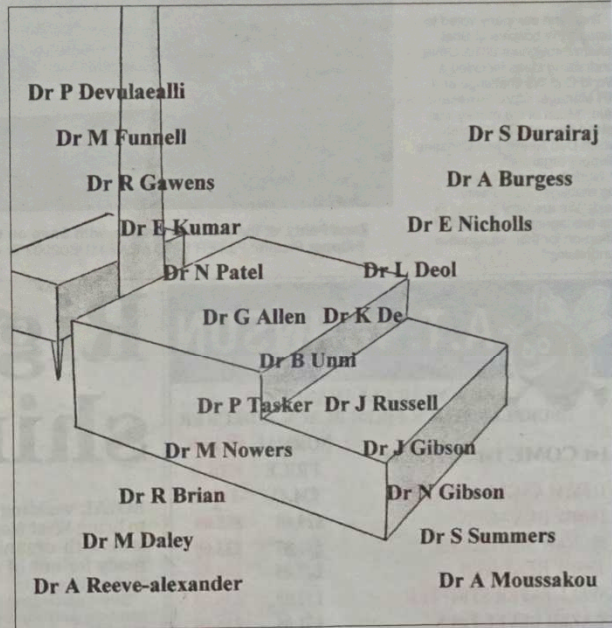
ahead after respected health professionals have voiced such serious concerns for their patients both now and in the future.

Doctors who signed the petition were: Dr P Devulaealli, Dr M Funnell, Dr R Gawens, Dr E Kumar, Dr N Patel, Dr G Allen, Dr B Unni, Dr J Russell, Dr J Gibson, Dr N Gibson, Dr S Summers, Dr A Moussakou, Dr S Durairaj, Dr A Burgess, Dr E Nicholls, Dr L Deol, Dr K De, Dr P Tasker, Dr M Nowers, Dr R Brian, Dr M Daley, Dr A Reeve-Alexander.

Their signatures were gathered in just a few days and more local doctors are being invited to add their names to the list.

The action from the doctors follows a letter signed by eight scientists and engineers, including David Press, from St Germans, a retired Dow industrial chemist, taking the county council to task on a range of scientific fronts.

The letter takes issue with many aspects of the county's case. You can read the letter on our website www.lynnnews.co.uk



PLANNER Sarah Dye was on hand to answer questions about the proposed waste incinerator at Lynn from more than 150 visitors to Cory Wheelabrator's public exhibition at Swaffham's Assembly Rooms, on Saturday. Picture: PAUL TIBBS MLNF11PT02083 www.photostoday.co.uk To order, please call 01553 817335

Source: Lynn News & Advertiser

Reproduced with kind permission

NEWS RELEASE



PR 1726

01 March 2011

For Immediate Release

Local poll result

The Borough-wide local poll, seeking the views of west Norfolk residents on whether or not they support the proposal to build an incinerator in King's Lynn, closed yesterday and the votes have now been counted.

The question of the poll was:

"Do you support the construction of a Mass Burn Municipal Waste Incinerator on the Willows Business Park, Saddlebow, King's Lynn?"

YES/NO

The total number of votes cast was 70,763. The total number of eligible voters on the Register of Electors was 115,382 giving a turnout for the poll of 61.33%.

The votes were allocated as follows:

Yes	- 5,173 (7.32% of the valid vote)
No	- 65,516 (92.68% of the valid vote)
Spoilt papers	- 74

Borough Council Chief Executive Ray Harding, commented: "There has been a high level of interest in this issue and the poll has given people the opportunity to make their views known. The turnout shows how strongly the people of West Norfolk feel about the proposals. This result will be made available to Norfolk County Council, the authority that will ultimately make the decision on whether to permit the construction of the incinerator in King's Lynn.

Issued by: Sharon Burbidge, Communications Manager, on 01553 616711