

**1 Open Floor 5 minute presentaion – Site selection of Incinerator and lack of Alternative – 23/02/2022. INTERESTED PARTY NUMBER 20032543. Tom Howlett.**

My name is Tom Howlett and am speaking as a member of WisWin. I would like to talk through MVV's basic logic of selecting Wisbech as a suitable location for their proposed mega incinerator.

In the applicant's initial Preliminary Environmental Information Report Chapter 2 , June 2021 they set out 4 essential siting criteria, which were deemed so "essential" that they felt no such need to submit alternative locations, even though the Planning Inspectorate request such.

**Here are the 4 essential criteria:-**

**1. SIZE OF SITE.**

"MVV (the applicant) set a minimum site area requirement of 3.5 hectares to accommodate an EfW CHP facility of the type and size proposed. At approximately 4 hectares the initial site identification process confirmed that the EfW CHP Facility site was of sufficient size. Not controversial and nothing that should necessarily tie the proposal to Wisbech. Although not essential it was later mentioned that the site was already involved in some waste processing; recycling and packaging for onward journeys. Also the site was owned by Mick George, a business involved in hauling waste across Eastern England.

Subsequently, in their June 2022 Environmental Statement MVV then decide to include in their essential criteria the fact that CCC could have available 314,000 tonnes of mixed waste to divert from landfill to their incinerator, based on 2019/2020 figures. Perhaps this may have been an after thought to pad out this location. It would be hoped that this figure would reduce significantly with impending legislation on food waste and other recycling, It should be borne in mind that if approved the incinerator would be present to blight Wisbech until at least 2066!

**2. ACCESS TO STRATEGIC HIGHWAY**

"Good access to the strategic highway network!!" This is where the siting criteria begins to reflect a complete lack of knowledge of the road system approaching Wisbech. The only dual carriageway in North Cambs is 2 miles through the centre of Wisbech, a route thankfully denied to the HGV vehicles planned to service the Incinerator. The A47 from Thorney to Wisbech along which a good part of the 350 plus additional HGV movements must travel is 14 miles of single carriageway, which during the summer months is an extremely busy road carrying commuters, caravans and agricultural vehicles. There are regular accidents and road blockages. One other access route proposed is the A1101 from Downham Market, a very dangerous single track route. When these HGV vehicles carrying waste, raw materials, bottom ash and fly ash potentially arrive or depart Wisbech they are scheduled to funnel down a short stretch of Cromwell Road, a feeder road to Supermarkets and Retail Parks. Very strategic. In local vernacular it is trying to make a silk purse from a sow's ear!

So far the essential siting criteria doesn't carry much weight. In fact there must be many more isolated sites that could be serviced far better with less issues.

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3. **PROXIMITY TO HEAT AND ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS.**

The third essential criteria concerns the “Proximity to potential heat and electricity “customers”. There are a number of existing commercial operations which are understood to have requirements for steam and electricity”. In 2022 Environmental Statement. Chapter 3, MVV expand on this” opportunity” and detail potential end users for heat and power along the line of the disused March to Wisbech Railway and advise “discussions” have been held with these users. Two major users are now detailed, **Lamb Weston** and **Nestle Purina** and it is confirmed that the CHP Connection Corridor has been designed specifically for these 2 potential end users.

WisWin has had contact with both of these Companies since 2021; Lamb Weston a major food processor, who see many possibilities in potatoes have confirmed to WisWin in writing that they see no possibilities in dealing with MVV, and to publicise their position have had 4 WisWin anti incinerator banners on their perimeter fencing for 18 months. Nestle Purina have twice confirmed to us in writing that “although energy from waste plants can play a valuable role in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill they have no plans to partner with MVV on their proposed project for Wisbech. In this instance they believe there are more appropriate alternatives which can deliver the renewable energy we need, IN SUITABLE LOCATIONS, as part of our journey to net zero.” (Technical Director and CEO UKI)

Did MVV discussions go more positively? If not perhaps the project should be renamed EfW and not CHP.

The information from these two Companies shows the data submitted by MVV to be fragile and based on chances, maybes etc. **(It should be noted that Mr. Carey, MVV, refused to address this essential point in his final response on 23/02/2022.)**

4. **ABILITY TO EXPORT POWER TO NATIONAL GRID.**

The fourth essential criteria is the ability to export electricity to the national transmission or distribution electricity networks. Realistically this criteria could be fulfilled better in many other locations. (In 2022 they include a number of potential commercial and industrial customers of electricity which could be supplied by a private wire.) It should be noted that one local food processing business who maintains that their position is under threat from being close to a potential vermin stronghold were offered 20% reduction by MVV for their power costs. Some compensation.

Fundamentally these 4 essential criteria do not stand up to scrutiny especially when they state that this site selection is so good they do not need to seek an alternative. It could be suggested that the siting best fits their billion pound business plan, the proceeds being filtered to Mannheim City Council. Furthermore they may have calculated that Wisbech gives the appearance of a depressed community thus less likely to fight their proposal.

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Bluster and arrogance comes to mind, especially considering the fact that the local populace have no benefits on offer yet so much to lose particularly with the largest school in the area a stone's throw from this site.

Where are these benefits trumpeted by MVV? Why do MVV state that they are building a pipeline to carry steam to Lamb Weston and Nestle Purina, at great expense, when both Companies have rejected their approach for supply of Heat? This smacks of intimidation – a fait accompli, now you have to take it!!!

I request you to take this information on board and reject the application from MVV, thus allowing the good citizens of Wisbech to carry on with their lives as they see fit.

Tom Howlett – 23/02/2022

2 Attachments:-

Copy email from Lamb Weston detailing rejection of proposal from MVV.

Copy email from Nestle Purina detailing rejection of proposal from MVV.

18.02.2022  
From S.Smith

Hi Tom,

Please see below ...

For 25 years, Lamb Weston / Meijer has led the industry in innovation, by introducing inventive products and solutions that add convenience to the operations of its customers.

From the fields where their potatoes are grown, to proactive customer partnerships, Lamb Weston / Meijer has a clear sustainability ambition and always raises the bar.

We never ever settle when it comes to new opportunities related to our key challenges: Balanced Diet, Zero Waste and Climate Action (Sustainable Agriculture, Operations and Supply Chain).

At Lamb Weston / Meijer we believe in long lasting partnerships and that implicates that we pay full attention to every new initiative or investment. This also means that they will be reviewed by our Sustainability by Design Manager in the context of our sustainable business principles.

- Does the investment directly has positive impact on achieving our sustainability objectives towards 2030
- What are the alternative routings or best practices in our existing locations/area's
- What is the effect of this initiative in a broader context: on our Supply Chain and company reputation
- Is it on the long term possible to upscale this initiative by implementing it into one or more other LW/M facilities/regions and
- Does it create shared value to our local society as stated in our purpose: Well-being through potatoes

Lamb Weston / Meijer has taken the time to look into and internal discuss the proposal for the Medworth CHP. After considering the proposal, the project team came to the conclusion that Lamb Weston / Meijer will make other choices to sustainably reduce the Carbon Footprint of the plant. This leads to the consequence that will not be partnering with Medworth on the CHP proposal.

With kind regards,  
Lamb Weston / Meijer

15:51



10 Messages

< Back Nestle position on p... ^ v

on the Wisbech incinerator ?thank you for you time

**From:** Billington, Simon, YORK, Technical

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 19:40

**To:** simon ridgewell

**Cc:** Agostini, Stefano, Nestle UKI, CEO

; Stephen Barclay  
MP

**Subject:** Nestle position on proposed Wisbech incinerator

Dear Simon

Thanks for taking the time to contact us and for your kind words about the positive impact that the Purina factory has made over the years in Wisbech. Stefano has asked that, as Nestle's Technical Director for the UK, I reply to you on the point you have raised about the potential incinerator investment in the locality.

Although energy from waste plants can play a valuable role in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, we have no plans to partner with MVV Environment on their proposed project for Wisbech. In this instance we believe there are more appropriate alternatives which can deliver the renewable energy we need, in suitable locations, as part of our journey to net zero.

Thanks again for contacting us.

Best regards

Simon

Simon Billington

Technical Director, Nestle UK & Ireland

**From:** simon ridgewell

**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:40:52 AM

