

**From:** [Vmbucknor](#)  
**To:** [Medworth](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Written Transcript of Verbal Interested Party Submission from Virginia Bucknor - Interested Party reference number: 20032900  
**Date:** 06 March 2023 14:56:29

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I am the Campaign Co-ordinator of WisWIN - Wisbech Without Incineration - the local campaign group against the proposed incinerator.

In my verbal statement to the Inspector, I advised that both Nestle Purina and Lamb Weston had refused MVV's formal proposal, included in the company's literature - and would NOT be engaging with MVV. These statements by these two companies had been stated previously and restated in February 2023 emails. The Inspector requested I include evidence of these. Their emails are detailed below. \*

My remarks to the Planning Inspector:

"Part of my background, before moving to Wisbech, I had worked for the Under Secretary of State for Agriculture in Whitehall.

Fenland is known as the Breadbasket of England. You heard last night about the importance of our locally grown soft fruits and how fragile they are to pollution. Fenland celery, only grown for 3 months of the year, is part of an exclusive club of quality British foods that have earned **Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.**

Again, this will be impacted if this incinerator is granted.

Source Ref: <https://www.gov.uk/protected-food-drink-names/fenland-celery>

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## **FLOODING**

Yesterday as a Wisbech Flood Warden I received advance Flood Warning from the Environment Agency meaning immediate action required, flooding expected. Fortunately Wisbech wasn't affected this time but around the Wash, the Walpoles and Kings Lynn.

In 1978 Wisbech had severe flooding and many hundreds of homes were damaged. Margaret Thatcher visited as it had been so catastrophic.

However in December 2013 the entire east coast was battered by a tidal surge.

Although Wisbech is 10 miles from the coast and 20 miles from the North Sea it is still a flood risk area as it sits on the banks of the tidal River Nene. After parts of the town were flooded in 1978 the height of the river banks was raised by about 1.5 metres, railings were replaced by flood walls and a series of flood gates were built which you can see if you look to the right from these Boathouse windows. In the last few years the height of these defences has been raised again by another half metre with concrete and brick walls along Nene Quay.

That December, the flood gates were closed but the water surged over the gates and companies along the waterfront on both sides of the river had their businesses damaged, the roads were flooded and the car park and Asda were also damaged by the flooding.

Source: <https://www.wisbechstandard.co.uk/news/weather/22690749.fens-area-town-breathes-collective-sigh-relief-flood-risk-subsides---close-run-thing/>

We all recognise global warming and that sea levels and our rivers will continue to rise.

Yet the applicant wants to build on a flood plain. When they originally put their plans forward, apparently they didn't realise their plans hadn't included this vital information, and subsequently redesigned their plans increasing the concrete base by several metres and adding a second chimney. Does the Inspector consider that would mitigate the potential flood

risk?

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### **LOCALLY BASED NATIONAL BUSINESSES DO NOT SUPPORT**

In the applicant's original leafleting, they stated they proposed to sell their steam to such businesses as Lamb Weston, Nestle and Fountain Foods.

WisWIN have formally received advice that even with the enormous increase in utility charges, these food companies would not be interested. (Copy emails below from Nestle and Lamb Weston. Fountain Foods have separately objected).\*

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### **HISTORICAL GEORGIAN TOWN**

We are a rural Georgian town with 266 Listed Buildings, and if you have the opportunity, I would recommend you visit our Museum where you will not only find out about the history of Wisbech but see the original Charles Dickens manuscript of Great Expectations. This incinerator will seriously damage the visual impact in our Fenland landscape.

Source: 

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Sir, you heard last night the damage to our soft fruit farming, damage to our food factories, a severe loss of jobs in an area of severe deprivation, how the Applicant did not seek to consider alternative sites: the sequential test, how our rural roads could not take the additional heavy lorries.

At no time have you heard a representative voice from the over 30% of our East European Wisbech community who have decided to set up home here because of the lack of consultation which the Applicant undertook during a worldwide pandemic.

With the fragile economy in Wisbech, we urge you please not recommend this mega incinerator to the Secretary of State which will be detrimental to the health and economy of Wisbech and the surrounding community in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

Thank you."

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\* Copy of Email from:LAMB WESTON:

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**From:** [Smith, Steve \(LWM\)](#)

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 3:10 PM

**Subject:** RE: Proposed MVV Incinerator

Hi

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

Steve Smith  
BU Leader Frozen Operations UK

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\*Copy of Email from: NESTLE PURINA:

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**From:** simon.ridgewell <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 7 February 2023 at 12:07:48 GMT  
**To:** Tommy Howlett <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fw: Nestle position on proposed Wisbech incinerator

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Hello Simon  
Yes I can confirm that Nestle's position remains unchanged on this issue.  
Best regards  
Simon

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**From:** Billington, Simon, YORK, Technical <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 16 August 2021 19:40  
**To:** simon.ridgewell <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Agostini, Stefano, Nestle UKI, CEO <[REDACTED]>; Stephen Barclay MP <[REDACTED]>  
**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

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## ADDENDUM

The Fens is home to 400,000 hectares of farmland, producing much of our grain, one fifth of our potatoes and a third of our vegetables.

The Fens is below sea level with drains feeding into our dykes. Our peaty soil is the highest quality soil in the country. "We need more food security, not less and the Fens are an amazing place to grow food and they are a threat to flooding." With nearly 80,000 jobs and most of the country reliant on the food produced in the Fens, the race is on to protect the landscape. We asked the Government how much money it had allocated for future flood defences in the Fens. It pointed to over £650 million of projects currently underway and will be providing more updates in the coming months.

**Source:** BBC Countryfile, 5th March 2023.