

I strongly oppose MVV's application to build a waste burning incinerator in Wisbech due to the following issues and concerns which should be considered:

1. The harmful particulates, which are not being measured or considered in the planning application. From attending a public meeting before the Covid-19 outbreak, where my MP, Stephen Barclay, was present and spoke, I understand that MVV has been very selective in which particles they have declared are emitted by their incinerators. The quantity of fine particulate matter, PM 2.5, has not been disclosed. This sized particle is able to reach deep into the respiratory system, into the lungs and even into the blood stream. While a small exposure to these particles may be harmful but temporary, us residents of Wisbech and surrounds will be constantly breathing them in. According to information from the British Lung Foundation, the particles can cause asthma, COPD, coronary heart disease, strokes and lung cancer. There is also evidence that breathing in PM 2.5 particles is linked to diabetes, low birth weight, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.
2. The health both short term and long term to the residents, workers and school children all very close to the proposed site.
3. It is a huge food-growing and farming area and the waste emissions will harm the land and air.
4. The Fens has 400,000 hectares of farmland, producing much of the country's grain, one fifth of the country's potatoes and one third of the country's vegetables. Our soil is some of the finest.
5. We are below sea level and our drains feed into dykes, which feed into the waterways including the mighty River Nene, pronounced "neen" here in Wisbech. The natural wildlife and land would be affected by toxins emitted from the proposed incinerator.
6. The River Nene is less than half a mile away from the proposed incinerator site. It flows into The Wash and out to the North Sea. The River Nene, its banks and washes form a huge wild, wetland for thousands of species of plants, birds and animals.
7. We would not only have to breathe in the unknown emissions but they will land on the surrounding sensitive environment, harming nature, fish and fowl. The natural wildlife and land will be affected.
8. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed incinerator site, are food processing and food production companies. The emissions need to be pure and harmless to ensure damage is not caused to a much wider environment than just Wisbech and its surrounds.
9. It is not good enough for MVV to try and fob off Wisbech folk with its hopeful, rather than accurate and comprehensive, submissions. The tiniest of particulates are terribly harmful but have not been included in MVV's submissions. These emissions and the ensuing emissions from 300+ lorry loads transporting waste daily need to be more thoroughly considered. Nobody wants to breathe in oxides of nitrogen and MVV need to prove 100% that its emissions do not harm folk, fish, fowl or our healthy and bountiful fenland.