

File Name: OFH3_29 June 2023_Part 1

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:15 - 00:00:06:22

Good evening, everyone.

00:00:10:03 - 00:00:42:19

Can I just confirm that everyone can hear me clearly? Yes. I can also confirm with Mr. Stewart that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced. Thank you. For those people watching the live stream can also advise that should we at any point adjourn proceedings this evening, we will have to stop the live stream in order to give us the clear recording files. As a result, at the point at which we recommence the meeting and restart the live stream, you will need to refresh your browser page to view the restarted stream.

00:00:43:11 - 00:01:21:17

I will remind you of this again should we need to adjourn? It's now 6 p.m. and it's time for this hearing to begin. I'd like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing three in relation to an application made by met with Limited. Who will we? We will refer to as the applicant for an order granting development consent for the energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power facility. The development proposed comprises the construction operation and maintenance of the energy from waste combined heat and power facility with associated grid connection, CHP connection, water connections, access improvements and temporary construction.

00:01:21:19 - 00:01:42:10

Compound. Thank you all for attending this hearing. My name is Clare Morgenson. I'm a chartered town planner employed by the Planning Inspectorate, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State for levelling up housing and communities to be a member of the panel to examine this application. I'm now going to ask my fellow panel member to introduce himself.

00:01:43:08 - 00:01:57:11

Good evening, everyone. My name is Andrea Pinto. I am a chartered town planner employed by the Planning Inspectorate and have been appointed by the Secretary of State for levelling up housing and communities to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:58:04 - 00:02:32:07

Together, we constitute the examining authority and we will be reporting to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-zero with a recommendation as to whether the development consent order should be made. The case manager for this project is Tracy Williams. Tracy is being supported today by Mr. Bozos. If you have any queries about the examination process or the technology we're using for virtual events, there should be your first point of contact. Their contact details can be found at the top of any letter you have received from us or on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

00:02:33:03 - 00:02:37:08

I'll hand back over again to Mr. Pinter, who will talk us through housekeeping matters.

00:02:38:17 - 00:03:09:08

Thank you, Mrs. Morgenson. I will now deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Can please everyone set all devices and phones to silent. And the closest toilets are outside of this room through the same door You used to enter the room earlier, straight and onto your left. Um.

There are no plans for evacuation tests today. Should the fire alarm sound, please make your way to the nearest fire exit door and make your way downstairs to the right hand side of the building.

00:03:09:19 - 00:03:45:10

Fire evacuation. Simply. Point is by the lamppost with red sign and green sign. Today's a blended event and will comprise of an in-person meeting, as well as a virtual event being held on the Microsoft teams platform. For those people observing or participating through teams, can you please make sure that you stay muted unless you are speaking? If you are participating virtually and you wish to speak at relevant point in proceedings, please use the hand up function. Please be patient as we may not get to you immediately, but we'll invite you to speak at the appropriate time.

00:03:46:07 - 00:04:21:12

In addition to the live stream, a recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Met with Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility section of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the meeting has finished. With this in mind, please please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone stating your name and who you are representing each time before you speak. For those at table, you can do that by pressing the large button at base of the microphone. If you if you are not at table, then there is a roving microphone.

00:04:21:14 - 00:04:55:13

So please wait for one of those to be brought to you before you speak. If you are attending virtually and you don't want your image to be recorded, you can switch off your camera. For those in room that who do not wish to be recorded, there is an area at the very back of the room out of camera shot, so please use that area. Because the digital recordings that we make are retained and published. They form a public records that can contain your personal information and to which the general data Protection Regulation supply all in the rarest of circumstances.

00:04:55:15 - 00:05:29:07

Might we ask you to provide personal information of the type that most of us would prefer to keep private or confidential? Therefore, to avoid the need to edit digital recordings, please try your best not to add information to the public records that you would wish to keep private or that it is confidential. If you feel that personal information is necessary, please provide this in a written document that we can redact before publication. The planning inspector's practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision.

00:05:30:24 - 00:06:01:05

A link to the planning inspector's private notice was provided in Rule six letter. I assume that everybody here today has familiarize themselves with this document, with this which establishes how personal data in our in our customer data is handled in accordance with the principles set out on data protection laws. Please speak to the case team if you have any questions about this. I will now hand over hand over to Mrs. Mason, who will explain the purpose and conduct of this meeting.

00:06:01:07 - 00:06:01:22

Thank you.

00:06:03:21 - 00:06:36:21

Thank you, Mr. Pinto. Open floor hearings are your opportunity to raise anything directly with the examining authority that is important and relevant and that you think we should know about and consider. They are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations about the proposals is therefore up to yourselves. We have a challenging schedule today as we must conclude this hearing and vacate the building by at the latest as the venue will close at this time. So I'll now set out how the hearing will run today.

00:06:37:21 - 00:07:10:08

I will start by calling those IPS joining us virtually that have informed us in advance that they wish to speak. I will allow a maximum of five minutes per interested party and Mr. Pinto will give you a warning at three minutes. When you have two minutes remaining to put your points across and urge you to respect this time limit. Once this group of IPS has spoken, I will then propose I call upon those IPS that have joined us in person and that have informed us in advance that they wish to speak as per the previous group.

00:07:10:10 - 00:07:41:07

I will give each a maximum of five minutes to put their points across following from those two groups and if we have still have time, will then open the discussion more widely to non IPS that have also registered their wish to speak. Following these representations will then give the right of reply to the applicant then, and only if there's time remaining. I will open the discussion to interested parties and non interested parties who did not register in advance to speak before closing the hearing.

00:07:42:07 - 00:08:15:13

As per previous hearings, all participants will be asked for a post hearing written submission of their oral cases as heard on this open floor hearing. The applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised. Once all speakers have heard either orally or in writing by Deadline six, which is the 12th July 2023, if you wish to make only a written submission because of time constraints, please do so by the same deadline, i.e. the 12th of July. Does anyone have any comments to make on the proposed way forward tonight?

00:08:18:03 - 00:08:18:20

Okay.

00:08:19:13 - 00:08:52:12

Have a list of people who have registered an interest to speak this evening. When I call your name, please turn on your camera or microphone if you're joining us virtually and introduce yourself. And if you're representing someone whom it is you represent. If in person, when I call you, please introduce yourself. And when you come up to speak and if you're representing someone whom it is you represent, you can choose yourselves whether to come to the table at the front to speak or if you prefer, you can stay in your seat and use the roving microphone.

00:08:52:14 - 00:09:10:19

But please wait until the microphone has been handed to you before you start to speak. We have several people registered to speak today. Can I please ask if there are multiple individuals registered to speak from the same organization that you nominate a single person to represent you rather than all speaking individually?

00:09:12:10 - 00:09:37:01

Okay. So if can first invite interested parties who've registered to speak virtually when give your name. If you can please introduce yourself and if relevant to your representing, then start as soon as you're ready. As a reminder, you do have five minutes. And as said before, we'll give you a reminder after three minutes of gone. So if can start first virtually with Ms.. McRae.

00:09:41:12 - 00:09:42:12

Good evening, ma'am.

00:09:42:21 - 00:09:43:16

Good evening.

00:09:45:06 - 00:09:49:08

My name is Valerie Macrae, and I'm an interested party.

00:09:50:24 - 00:10:40:00

I'm not an expert and don't understand all the implications that this proposed facility will impose upon the town, but it is quite plain to see that it. Right. It is quite plain to see that it would change the infrastructure and the visual effects of Wisbech and the surrounding farmlands for years to come. This is such a beautiful example of a Georgian town with some exceptional buildings of historical value. The low lying land has fertile loam soil and the warm climate are ideal to grow cereal crops such as wheat, barley and oats and the root vegetables of potatoes, carrots and sugar beet, which gives this area of East Anglia the title of the breadbasket of the UK.

00:10:40:21 - 00:11:24:00

Also grown here are the brassicas, such as sprouts, cabbages and cauliflowers, and there are many fruit orchards and strawberries and raspberries grown. All these crops will be affected over future years by the fallout of toxins, etcetera, which will inevitably be emitted by the plumes from the two chimneys of the incinerator. No one is able to guarantee that clean air will be discharged from these chimneys. There will be no emissions monitoring and as household rubbish could contain all manner of plastics, furnishings, heavy metals, rubber and other materials, who knows what toxins and poisons will be put into the atmosphere.

00:11:24:14 - 00:12:02:14

The toxic fallout will eventually soak into the soil and be absorbed through the leaves of the trees. We cannot let this happen, especially as we are being told we have to be more self-sufficient in the future to keep food prices down. Another characteristic of the fence is the flat nature of the land, which enables one to see for miles around. However, the size and scale of the proposed facility will mean that it will stand out in comparison to other surrounding buildings and will be an eyesore in our backyard, which will be seen for miles around.

00:12:03:04 - 00:12:35:00

The applicant stated that the views from various few points in the outlying areas were insignificant. What an interesting word to use. Insignificant. According to the Oxford Dictionary, means too small or unimportant to be worth consideration. I think the people living in those areas and the surrounding villages would disagree. The proposed facility is not suitable for this area and will change our landscape irreparably. In fact, it would become a blot on the landscape.

00:12:35:02 - 00:12:54:23

It would dominate the skyline. Then there is the road infrastructure, which already suffers at peak times daily with huge traffic queues between roundabouts. And this will be exacerbated by extra heavy goods vehicles bringing waste from over two hours drive away and at the same time. This is.

00:12:55:00 - 00:12:56:06

Your three minute warning.

00:12:56:08 - 00:13:26:23

Pumping greenhouse gases into the air. HGVs account for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions and 3,013% of nitrogen oxide emissions. The government have stated that these incinerator facilities should be based near the source of the waste. So how does over two hour drive away constitute local? Where this facility is to be located is very close to housing estates, schools, supermarkets and retail shops.

00:13:27:00 - 00:14:02:07

And therefore residents will feel reluctant to use these facilities with all the concerns regarding safety, health and wellbeing and the dangers of children walking to and from school with all the extra HGVs

in the town. It has been declared today that the UK is at the bottom of the long list of countries signed up to climate change at Cop26, and the government has failed to act decisively in response to the energy crisis. So to allow this planning application to go ahead is not going to help us move up that list.

00:14:03:05 - 00:14:22:12

So in conclusion, ma'am, I hope you will take into consideration all our views and concerns when making your report. We may be small in number, but we care very much for our town and all the East Anglia. Thank you.

00:14:25:17 - 00:14:28:17

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mrs. McCray.

00:14:30:12 - 00:14:35:13

If I can, thank you for that, Mrs. McRae. If I can move on to Mr. Fogarty, please.

00:14:45:04 - 00:15:25:03

Hello. My name is Fogarty. I'm an interested party who lives in one of the Wisbech villages. My concern about this proposal is that there are already a high number of energy infrastructures in the Wisbech area and that the addition of another is incompatible with the planning principle of necessary but unattractive developments being sited as equally as possible among those who benefit from them. This was raised as a relevant representation R250 and written representation rep 2045.

00:15:25:20 - 00:15:57:10

The applicant has commented on these and those comments have raised four points. The first point is regarding the planning principle of equitable distribution of necessary but unattractive sites among those benefiting from the development. The applicants comment on RR 250 was comment noted? Could the applicant clarify whether comment noted implies an acceptance of that principle? Or is it neutral that.

00:15:58:13 - 00:16:31:22

That is neither accepting or dismissing the principle. I'm selecting the site at Wisbech the applicant commented. One reason is it was allocated for waste treatment facilities in the previous Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local plan. Mention of this plan highlights a relevant feature of the site, which is that Wisbech is a border town. It's situated in Cambridgeshire, but parts of the town are in Norfolk and other parts within four miles of Lincolnshire.

00:16:32:06 - 00:16:44:20

The justifications from the Minerals and Waste Plan covers those living in Cambridgeshire. Should the applicant not also provide a similar mandate for Norfolk and Lincolnshire?

00:16:47:07 - 00:17:24:09

Regarding the concentration of energy infrastructure in the Wisbech area. The applicant responded. Inspection of the National Infrastructure Planning Project list suggest one energy project within ten miles of the proposed development, which is the paper mill. King's Lynn attended the applicant's presentation in Walton Highway within a ten mile radius of that village hall. The following energy projects the electricity substation at Walpole Power Station at Sutton Bridge, the power station at King's Lynn, the palm paper mill.

00:17:24:21 - 00:17:49:19

Additionally, planning permission has been granted for a second power station. Power Station B adjacent to the existing King's Lynn Power Station. The only one of the above appears on the project

list is due to a number of factors. For example, some were built before the legislation. Does the applicant think that this is not a higher.

00:17:51:09 - 00:17:54:11

Concentration of energy projects within the area.

00:17:56:19 - 00:18:02:09

Also regarding the concentration of energy infrastructure within the area. The accident was funded.

00:18:03:12 - 00:18:05:09

This is your three minute warning. Thank you.

00:18:05:11 - 00:18:41:15

I've got six sentences left that they do not believe that the applicant responded, that they do not believe that the number of energy infrastructure projects excluding offshore wind farms, is unrepresentative of other regions within England. Given offshore wind farms are a necessary but unattractive development that provide energy. What is the basis for the applicant, excluding them from their concentration of energy projects in the region? That is the four points.

00:18:41:17 - 00:18:42:09

Thank you.

00:18:44:04 - 00:18:48:15

Thank you very much, Mr. Fogarty. Can we move on to Ms.. Perriman, please?

00:18:59:04 - 00:19:02:01

Hello, my name is Jenny Perryman. I'm an interested party.

00:19:05:00 - 00:19:06:24

Please. Whenever you're ready, Mr. Perriman.

00:19:07:11 - 00:19:46:10

Thank you. Local people first heard of this proposal. They were rightly horrified by its sheer size, scale and intended location. What on earth would possess anyone to think a small, historic Georgian market town on the upper edge of nowhere with long neglected roads, infrastructure surrounded by flat, highly food, productive fenland landscape would be a good location for something so heavily reliant on hundreds of HGVs converging at this one point each and every day for 40 plus years. Moreover, Wisbech is on a single carriage a47 pinch point for all Midlands access to Norfolk made even worse in the long summer months, with tourist flocking to the beaches along its vast coastline.

00:19:46:22 - 00:20:24:13

The applicant states business retains the overall group ethos of belonging to the communities it serves while benefiting from over 50 years experience gains by German German sister companies. The community doesn't want it. Neither the five authorities nor the local MP, a company which goes against their group ethos does not smack of integrity. But then little does this with this planning application, rather than it being a clear solution to a problem. The applicant, through manipulation, appears to have artificially created a problem for their profitable solution to bypass refuse at local refusal at local level.

00:20:24:15 - 00:20:55:00

The applicant appears to have made it as profitably large as the confines of the site would allow in order to qualify as an IP requiring a generating capacity of over 50MW. However, given the applicant's strong confidence of heat using customers, their intended expectation is exporting a

maximum of 47.9MW. Moreover, to be able to export over 50MW of energy, the facility would have to operate without heat export and totally reliant on burning feedstock within a very small calorific window over which they have no control.

00:20:55:12 - 00:21:16:23

It's difficult to have any level of confidence or trust in either the planning application or the applicant. Words are far too often vague, hollow, meaningless and non-committal actions will be considered where suitable, wherever practical are planning will look to, and the repeatedly contradicted themselves and each other throughout the issues. Specific hearings. The applicants.

00:21:21:23 - 00:22:05:18

Being able to robustly demonstrate how compliance with those key elements will be met, particularly accordance with the waste hierarchy and proximity principle. The proposed development is not in accordance with the Cambridge Development Plan, which states proposals for disposal must demonstrate that waste has been pre-treated and cannot practically be recycled without any means of on site sorting. The applicant cannot demonstrate. This facility is anything more than the mass burn incinerator. Using Defi's own composition figures, it could burn over 330,000 tonnes a year of readily recyclable waste and can only guarantee to burn waste that it can't cannot be recycled if local authorities or some other party presort all waste before it arrives at the facility for burning.

00:22:06:06 - 00:22:16:02

Given the applicant's clear intentions to take local authority waste through competitive price tendering, much of which could simply be removing feedstock from other waste energy from waste incinerators.

00:22:17:19 - 00:22:54:14

Then to look for other sources potentially even further afield. This neither moves waste up the hierarchy nor generates new energy. It merely replaces energy others were generating. These facilities place a huge burden on drinking water resources and at a time of increasing water scarcity, the applicant has selected a site in one of the driest areas in the country. Anglian Water may have rolled over to put profit before people, but can water really be regarded in Bountiful supply here? No. The uncertainty around future weather and the significant burden it will place on this increasingly precious resource is far too high risk in this area.

00:22:55:08 - 00:23:25:17

Given its enormous capacity, this planning application has not made robust arguments to demonstrate a proven need in this location or any robust evidence to support any benefits to the area. Moreover, the applicant confirmed quite clearly to the X-ray that no other locations were considered an admission which would also negatively impact the in other areas, such as its location in flood zone three and any cpos. The effects of visual intrusion have been played down in Cathedral's iconic part of the landscape known as the shape of the fence.

00:23:25:19 - 00:23:59:03

It majestically dominates the skyline, but at 66m high it would be dwarfed by the two 90 metre chimneys. Whilst any large scale building project is attractive to boost the economy in the short term, that benefit is not confined to this location and could potentially occur anywhere in the country. However, in this deprived location, the detrimental effects of such a large scale project would be significant and the negative impact would far outweigh any perceived benefits. The cumulative negative effects and non-compliance with national policies are significant enough to prevent this planning application benefiting from grant consent.

00:23:59:16 - 00:24:00:06

Thank you.

00:24:06:06 - 00:24:07:23

Thank you very much, Mrs. Harriman.

00:24:08:15 - 00:24:22:14

Thank you very much, Mrs. Perryman. We did lose your sound just for a few seconds in the middle there. But if you do, make sure you submit everything that you said today in writing, we'll make sure everything's captured so we don't lose anything that you may have said and we may have missed.

00:24:22:23 - 00:24:23:13

We'll do.

00:24:24:10 - 00:24:54:21

Okay. That's everyone who I've got registered virtually to to speak today. So if we can now move on to interested parties in the room who would wish to speak. So I'll work through you through my list by name. As said, you can choose whether you want to come up to the table or whether you would like the microphone. If you would like the microphone, if you just put your hand up in the air and we'll make sure we can get one to you as soon as we can. So if I can start with Mr. Howard, please.

00:24:59:12 - 00:25:07:22

Mr. Howard. Michael Howard. Yeah. Would you like the microphone bringing to your table? Just in front. Just straight in front there? Yeah.

00:25:11:08 - 00:25:13:10

You've got to be there.

00:25:23:04 - 00:25:24:16

Take. It

00:25:26:12 - 00:25:27:02

comes.

00:25:33:20 - 00:25:34:10

Yeah.

00:25:34:21 - 00:25:42:07

Obviously, Mr. Howard, we would like to get through as many people as possible today, so obviously get them out.

00:25:42:15 - 00:25:43:05

Thank you.

00:25:43:08 - 00:25:46:02

Run them through the office.

00:25:48:18 - 00:25:50:13

Just start whenever you're ready, please.

00:25:51:07 - 00:25:56:15

Okay. Well, that's great, Howard. I've been campaigning for a northern relief road for the.

00:25:59:02 - 00:26:01:23

I'm sure. And if you sit down.

00:26:02:03 - 00:26:02:18

Oh.

00:26:02:20 - 00:26:04:09

Oh, sorry. Thank you.

00:26:06:00 - 00:26:11:06

My name's Mick Howard. I've been campaigning for the Wisbech Northern Relief Road.

00:26:15:13 - 00:26:16:03

Thank you.

00:26:18:01 - 00:26:51:10

1994 to 1996. I'll start off bringing a lorry down from Sutton Bridge. The port coming on the double. 101. Road towards Wisbech. That's where the Wisbech North and relief road for the A47 dual carriageway begins. The middle way of it like going right on the Wisbech North and relief road coming down off the 101 it goes through.

00:26:53:03 - 00:27:31:03

Goldfield. Larson drove onto the. Thorny. Bypass the time you've gone that bit. You're down on thorny bypass before you can get to Elm Hall roundabout reverse the traffic from thorny bypass can be north of Wisbech time it takes to get to go ahead and roundabout the Wisbech Northern Relief road for the A47. Or solve all problems by 80% of traffic coming through this bridge.

00:27:31:09 - 00:27:35:09

It does away with a 50 mile detour.

00:27:37:02 - 00:28:07:08

When there's an accident between Gordon and Westbridge. And it takes 50% of traffic from the four black spots. Open up crud mash to give better access to the traffic to the dock and the dock is already on crab marsh And going back now towards my road. My road is Osborne Road. And this is the residents of Osborne Road to what we have.

00:28:08:03 - 00:28:35:10

All cars are parked on one side of the road all the time, and we have to go through all the problems, what we're going through now with lorries, tractors and so forth. And all this is done. And all this can be solved by one road being put in and it's got all the benefits whatsoever. I don't know whether the cameras on this one.

00:28:37:10 - 00:29:10:01

But there's a little child at the front here. She has now got a master's degree in engineering. She was born opposite to me in Osborn Road. Now, going back to the picture on here, right. The two little dogs took them out for a walk. I like do notes. And there was a car come down from up the road and took the one in front of the pavement and had to struggle with the car to get the dog back on the pavement.

00:29:10:13 - 00:29:35:02

So therefore, if this road gets put in right, it solves all the problems. And I slowed the traffic up and I got a window smashed in. Well, if that's got to take a window smashed in to get the northern bridge, Northern relief road built, that is well worth it. And that's about all I can say in this respect.

00:29:36:02 - 00:29:38:15

Thank you very much, Mr. Howard. Thank you.

00:29:41:19 - 00:29:42:14

If I couldn't.

00:29:42:16 - 00:29:44:13

Move on, please. To Ms.. Buckner.

00:29:53:16 - 00:29:54:08

Thank you very much.

00:30:08:23 - 00:30:40:14

And good afternoon, Inspector. My name is Ginny Buckner, the Wisbech campaign coordinator against the proposal. Thank you for agreeing to this final open floor hearing to enable those working during the day to raise their concerns with you directly. You're already aware that chose not to undertake a sequential test as they wish to build on a floodplain, even though the government guidelines clearly state it is a requirement.

00:30:40:22 - 00:31:03:06

One of their numerous amendments has been to double the number of chimneys and increase their height, as well as increase the height of the concrete platform in an endeavour to mitigate building on this floodplain. I mention it again as this sequential test is a basic government requirement. This company has chosen to continue to ignore

00:31:04:19 - 00:31:43:11

Sarah, a registered veterinary nurse with 25 years experience in veterinary practice, has asked me to speak on her behalf due to her work pressures and our poor road infrastructure. She is unable to get here for this afternoon's hearing and she dearly wanted to. So I'm quoting Sarah's words. Due to the nature of my profession, I regularly come into contact with wildlife and can easily identify trends in their presentation, often linked directly to environmental challenges in relation to the wildlife and the incinerator.

00:31:43:13 - 00:32:17:23

I have concerns regarding the impacts on our waterways and the protected and rare species that are currently living in it quite happily. Aquatic wildlife is particularly sensitive to pollution and environmental changes. Two species in particular are living very close to the site of the proposal. These are the spined loach copters *Taenia*. This particular fish is only found in five river catchments in the east of England and these vitally include the River Nene.

00:32:18:00 - 00:32:52:05

It is protected under Annex two of the Habitats and Spaces Directive, which gives special full protection. They are at risk of localised extinction and are known to be particularly sensitive to pollution. The Environment Agency are regularly sampling for these fish across the fens to monitor agricultural practice and pollution. These fish have been documented living very close to the but to the proposed site of the incinerator.

00:32:52:16 - 00:33:23:19

The other species living very close by. Our water voles, waterfalls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Waterfalls are also listed as rare and most threatened species under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. You must have regard for the conservation of Section 41 species as part of your planning decision.

00:33:24:15 - 00:33:35:01

These voles are numerous in very close proximity to the proposed site of the incinerator, with several pairs breeding pairs along half Penny Lane.

00:33:35:03 - 00:33:37:01

Three minutes, Miss Brookner. Thank you.

00:33:37:03 - 00:34:47:13

And she's provided me with photographs. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, and despite nature, struggling against all odds to survive, more than 1 in 7 native species face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline. The housing developers are planning to trap and move these voles along the ditch. If the voles had chosen to live elsewhere, wouldn't they have already done so? Or do the housing developers who are planning to build hundreds of homes also in the vicinity of the proposed incinerator know better than the species itself? Isn't it our responsibility to consider the harm that we can cause on known areas that harbor some of our rarest wildlife and take action to protect them in the pockets that they appear to be thriving in? Or do we ignore the shocking statistics and continue to put them at risk to ignore the statistics or simply consider that they are existing elsewhere or could be relocated, is a very naive, potentially dangerous, cavalier approach for their future.

00:34:47:17 - 00:35:22:12

I therefore cannot support this proposed mega incinerator for our town, its people or its wildlife, all of whom we should be protecting. Finally, on behalf of Wisbech residents myself, I would personally like to add what natural justice is applied when an enormous foreign company like Mvrdv decide to carry out a project which is detrimental to our community environmentally, ecologically, in health and jobs. Its cost not just our council's town district and county, but also the community.

00:35:22:14 - 00:35:35:21

Tens of thousands in time and money to campaign against something which has absolutely no benefit to the community in a deprived area where this money could have been used for its betterment. Thank you.

00:35:41:05 - 00:35:44:20

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Buckner.

00:35:46:19 - 00:35:48:19

And now ask Mr. Blunt.

00:35:49:09 - 00:35:50:14

Come forward, please.

00:35:58:05 - 00:36:29:05

But good evening, everybody. I'm not that well prepared as everybody else was. Basically, we own a company in the state close by to where their proposal is, and we're very concerned about the additional traffic burden that will be on the estate and the whole Wisbech area and also the the smell that will inevitably get from the plant, from the lorries coming in and out, bringing this waste to us.

00:36:30:00 - 00:37:05:17

Um, we already get lots of smells from the recycling plant that are supposed to be clean waste and that some days can be stifling in our factory from there. Um, and also the for every tonne of rubbish that they burn, there's a ton of that will pop out the chimney and land on the school, the town and everybody that works here forever. So basically the, the short concerns that we have, it's a good idea, but I don't believe it's the right place near where people live.

00:37:06:14 - 00:37:07:04

Okay.

00:37:07:14 - 00:37:08:09

Thank you very much.

00:37:14:08 - 00:37:16:15

Can now invite Ms.. Mortimer.

00:37:24:18 - 00:37:26:19

You can please just introduce yourself.

00:37:26:21 - 00:37:27:11

Yes.

00:37:29:04 - 00:38:00:13

Thank you. My name is Diana Mortimer, and I'd like to talk about the statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water. As of the 22nd of June 2023, this is Document 9.10 Revision two at deadline for Anglian Water stated unequivocally that they could not meet the applicant's request for a water supply to the incinerator until 2030.

00:38:00:23 - 00:38:14:19

However, on the 15th of June deadline five Anglian Water stated they would be able to meet the demands and with we would like to ask questions about this assumption. The applicant stated 4.

00:38:14:21 - 00:38:17:11

To 6 times a year they will need an additional.

00:38:17:19 - 00:38:29:17

120,000l of water per day on top of their normal use of 100,000l per day. Anglian Water states This request will be considered.

00:38:29:19 - 00:38:30:09

By their.

00:38:30:11 - 00:38:31:01

Network.

00:38:31:03 - 00:38:31:21

Modellers.

00:38:31:23 - 00:38:34:04

And they haven't said that they can provide.

00:38:34:06 - 00:38:37:00

This. Presumably these.

00:38:37:02 - 00:38:38:17

Are shut down maintenance.

00:38:38:19 - 00:38:39:17

Periods.

00:38:40:01 - 00:38:42:14

How long would these shutdowns last.

00:38:42:19 - 00:38:43:09

And.

00:38:43:11 - 00:38:58:09

What if these extra demands come in the middle of drought conditions? What compromises might have to be made if the supply is not available? Does the applicant have any contingency plans or mitigation strategies?

00:39:00:00 - 00:39:00:19

What proportion.

00:39:00:21 - 00:39:01:11

Of the water.

00:39:01:13 - 00:39:26:08

Demand is going into steam production. Anglian Water assumes that this would not result in a net increase in water requirement because potential local customers for the steam will have a correspondingly reduced demand. Look present. There are no customers signed up for the steam and there are no guarantees there will be customers in future. Besides, how.

00:39:26:09 - 00:39:27:00

Would customers.

00:39:27:02 - 00:39:59:23

Feel about not being able to get the steam when they need it while the plant is shut down 4 to 6 times a year? Anglian Water has produced a 25 year strategic plan until 2015. The incinerator has a 40 year lifespan. Climate modelling indicates that by 2050 across Britain during summer as well as high as temperatures and longer more intense heat waves, we will have 39% less rain and rivers will be 81% lower.

00:40:00:24 - 00:40:32:20

Agriculture here depends on healthy rivers and drainage channels for irrigation through extraction licences from the Environment Agency. During winter there will be 35% more rain and river flows will be 35% higher, leading to increasingly severe flooding events and serious sewage pollution. But these events have hotter, drier summers and wetter stormy winters are already happening now and will just increase in frequency and intensity.

00:40:34:02 - 00:40:58:22

So what happens if the new Strategic Connector pipeline from Lincolnshire today and Downham Market or the Chatteris Reservoir due to be finished by 2030 is delayed? We've been in drought conditions here for two years and Lincolnshire is also affected. The pipeline is going to be extended to bury St Edmunds and beyond. So water supplies will be stretched.

00:40:58:24 - 00:40:59:19

Even three minutes.

00:41:02:05 - 00:41:04:01

The incinerator will.

00:41:04:03 - 00:41:04:19

Rely.

00:41:04:21 - 00:41:19:14

On guaranteed consistent and adequate supplies of water when it needs it. But nothing in the climate modelling suggests with 100% confidence this supply can be delivered.

00:41:19:23 - 00:41:20:13

Thank you.

00:41:23:21 - 00:41:25:10

Thank you very much, Mrs. Newton.

00:41:25:12 - 00:41:29:04

I can now invite Mr. ELLE.com forward, please.

00:41:35:17 - 00:41:38:01

You can introduce yourself and just start whenever you're ready.

00:41:38:03 - 00:41:38:18

Thank you.

00:41:38:20 - 00:41:45:14

Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, sir. I'm Neal. Welcome. Speaking of personal capacity as a local resident.

00:41:50:22 - 00:42:10:10

Well, there are toxins coming out of the back of most people's cars. There are toxins everywhere, and we have to live with some of them. These were the words of Mr. Paul Carey, Managing Director of Environment, speaking on the Leykis programme on BBC1 on the 11th of May.

00:42:12:05 - 00:42:18:01

There are toxins everywhere and we have to live with some of them. Mr. Paul Carey of.

00:42:19:20 - 00:42:21:23

Sorry environment.

00:42:23:12 - 00:42:39:17

The arrogance and condescension of that statement really stands out. That's a replay a couple of times to make sure that he actually said what? Thought you said. But he did say it. There are loads of toxins, apparently, and the best thing for everyone is if we all just accept it.

00:42:42:19 - 00:43:08:18

He went on to say that they would they would capture the majority of the toxins using filters, and they wouldn't release any toxins without the permission of the Environment Agency, which I suppose was meant to be reassuring. But when you think about it, it means that they will be releasing some toxins on top of the ones we apparently already have. And he seems to hint that if only they had permission, they'd release a hell of a lot more.

00:43:11:16 - 00:43:31:22

The we in that sentence, I assume, means us who live here, not him specifically, or the board of or its shareholders. Sorry. Environment. Environment. Because it will be the people of this region who have to live with this. But we shouldn't make a fuss over it because that's the way things are now.

00:43:34:12 - 00:43:42:07

My mother's hoping to move to this area soon to be nearer. She has a lung condition. She's often breathless because of it.

00:43:45:22 - 00:43:52:17

But it shouldn't really concern me, I guess, because people drive cars and a little bit more is not going to hurt. Or is it?

00:43:54:13 - 00:44:25:24

If you've got children who go to the nearby school who play outside, you mustn't concern yourself because they're probably toxins all over them already. They're probably covered in head to toe with toxins. There's no need to worry about the little bits and pieces that might have found their way out of the chimneys. We shouldn't upset ourselves because toxins are part of our life. Which incidentally, is another phrase Mr. Kerry used in that same interview. Toxins are part of our life.

00:44:26:10 - 00:44:27:24

Mr. Paul Kerry of.

00:44:29:18 - 00:44:33:04

So MVP environment. So MVP environment.

00:44:35:03 - 00:44:56:11

Last time I spoke to this inquiry, I told you that this company has deliberately sought to mislead people during the consultation by the clever use of marketing materials, graphics and their imaginary carbon capture technology. This time I'm urging everyone to listen very carefully to what they say. Toxins are part of our life.

00:44:59:07 - 00:45:31:23

Two days ago. Thank you, sir. Two days ago, I travelled near the site of the new railway station to be built at Cambridge South to serve its burgeoning science industry and new housing. I don't begrudge the people of South Cambridge this, but I think it's sad that while there apparently a new era of opportunity in this town, we're being offered this. But toxins are part of our life now. It's hardly surprising that the last few years have taught us that many people in this region feel like they've been left behind, not listened to, not given a say.

00:45:32:13 - 00:45:42:05

The mark that this will leave on the town physically will mark this town out as a dump, literally. But the psychological mark it will leave will also have its fallout.

00:45:43:21 - 00:46:15:18

There are toxins everywhere and we have to live with some of them. I don't want to put my future and the safety of my partner, my mother, my nieces and nephews, friends in the hands of someone who thinks like this. It's a message which is not only alarmingly blasé about safety, but incredibly condescending. Is this the aspirational message we have for the young people in this town? Is this the message that's going to draw people in to live and work here? Just as much as the sight of the ugly chimneys will drive people away. This attitude, if we let it win, will become an enemy of hope.

00:46:15:20 - 00:46:19:24

We'd like some hope. We'd like some levelling up. And this is not it. Thank you.

00:46:23:09 - 00:46:25:01

Thank you very much, Mr.. Welcome.

00:46:32:14 - 00:46:46:22

I can just mention, I appreciate that you do want to show your support to people who are talking today, but I'm really conscious we have a lot of people to get through, so if you can keep it short. Um, can I ask Mr. Wheeldon, please, to come forward?

00:46:52:20 - 00:46:55:00

Please introduce yourself and start whenever you're ready.

00:46:56:06 - 00:47:29:12

Hello. My name is Alan Wheeldon. I'm a scientist and resident of Wisbech for over eight years. I'm also a member of the anti incinerator group with wind emissions from energy from which societies are increasing and threaten to compromise the UK's target to decarbonise the power sector by 2035. This has prompted the National Infrastructure Commission, a body that advises government on the UK's long term infrastructure needs. In their report published on the 27th of March this year, to state that all emissions from energy from waste plants need to be eliminated.

00:47:29:18 - 00:48:26:20

If this is not done, the current net zero carbon targets are unattainable energy from waste incinerators like the one proposed by will be built in Wisbech emit thousands of tons of emissions throughout their lifetime state in their planning applications that their proposed megawatt incinerator will emit 10,993 kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalents over the incinerators. 40 year lifespan, in spite of what they claim cannot offset their greenhouse gas emissions with the CO₂ and methane from landfill as these are reducing considerably following the implementation of the Environment Act 2021 to remove food and municipal waste and to boost recycling levels in addition, cannot offset the CO₂ released from their incinerator, with the CO₂ released from burning fossil fuels as these are also falling following the measures to decarbonise the energy providing industry.

00:48:27:10 - 00:48:57:10

Subsequently, with the proposed reduction in landfill and the rapid decarbonisation of the power generating industry, greenhouse gas emissions such as CO₂ from energy from waste incinerators, will make a proportionately higher contribution to increasing global greenhouse gas levels, which will have a significant detrimental effect on the climate and the negative impact on the UK government's objective to decarbonise the power generating industry by 2035 and to meet its net zero carbon budget targets by 2050.

00:48:57:23 - 00:49:42:19

This fact was noted in a report by the National Infrastructure Commission published on 27th March this year, which stated to meet the Government's aim of decarbonising the power sector by 2035. Emissions from energy from waste plants will now need to be eliminated. Now, in their recommendations, the National Infrastructure Committee have chosen to use a very strong directive stating that it will not be adequate to simply reduce emissions from energy, from waste facilities, but they must have to be eliminated with that in mind, provided no viable commitment to incorporate carbon capture technologies in its planning application to eliminate emissions from the burning of 625,000 tonnes of waste per year.

00:49:42:21 - 00:50:22:22

And with no current legislation in place to enforce such measures, energy from waste will release almost 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the 40 year lifespan of their proposed incinerator. This lack of green credentials for the energy from waste industry has prompted the Climate Change Committee in their report to Parliament on the progress to reduce emissions, published just yesterday to declare energy from waste emissions are already higher than the Government's carbon budget delivery plan anticipates, and energy from waste capacity is set to increase in the coming years.

00:50:22:24 - 00:50:53:19

We recommend a moratorium on additional energy from waste capacity until the review of capacity requirements has been completed and an updated assessment of residual waste treatment capacity published in conclusion to fulfil the commitments to eliminate all emissions from energy from waste facilities outlined in the National Infrastructure Committee Report, and to support the Climate Change Committee's call for a moratorium on all new incinerators.

00:50:53:21 - 00:51:13:12

It seems the logical path for the Planning Inspectorate not to recommend that the Meg worth from Energy from Waste Incinerator proposed for Wisbech be granted a development consent order as the National Infrastructure Commission report shows that it is not in the national interest to do so. Thank you.

00:51:17:16 - 00:51:20:04

Thank you very much, Mr. Weldon. Can I ask.

00:51:20:13 - 00:51:22:20

And now invite Ms.. Taylor, please.

00:51:31:08 - 00:51:32:08

Good evening, sir.

00:51:32:12 - 00:51:33:11

My name is Helen.

00:51:33:13 - 00:51:37:21

Pentland and I'm a business owner on our causeway and a member of Whistling.

00:51:38:12 - 00:51:42:03

Envy of continually failed to contact local businesses.

00:51:42:05 - 00:51:42:23

To update us.

00:51:43:00 - 00:51:46:00

On developments and how we will be affected.

00:51:46:02 - 00:51:46:17

Particularly.

00:51:46:19 - 00:51:47:09

Throughout the.

00:51:47:11 - 00:51:54:11

Proposed build. The only time they have contacted us is as a reaction to business owners contacting them.

00:51:55:01 - 00:51:57:02

They have used unreliable delivery.

00:51:57:04 - 00:52:53:23

Services, resulting in many businesses not receiving letters. In particular, businesses have not been contacted regarding a traffic management plan. We have not approved anything, nor have we been consulted with regard to a traffic management plan which will affect our businesses on a daily basis for the next 3 to 4 years. In the online documentation. It mentions a temporary stop up on our causeway, which basically means the highway rights are extinguished. This was brought to the attention of at a meeting held this morning, arranged by me with other business owners and they seem to be unaware of the stoppage and initially denied one was in place regarding alternative sites of continue stated that they have looked at alternative sites, but they were not suitable with no reasons given as to why, nor have they said which alternative sites were looked at.

00:52:54:10 - 00:53:32:15

However, at the issue specific hearing three Mr. David Kenyon stated, and I quote, The applicant did not consider any of the sites as this site met the criteria that the applicant looks for. The planning inspector queried. So no further work was done in terms of finding or searching for sites where those criteria are met and the applicant replied no. Does the applicant not have to give evidence to satisfy that an alternative site assessment has been carried out? Continually talk of the success of the incinerators in Dundee and Plymouth.

00:53:32:17 - 00:54:07:23

These are large cities with much smaller incinerators, so no comparison can be made. It's been mentioned that there would be a negligible increase in traffic on our causeway during the build. I can confirm that the current traffic to the proposed site is nothing compared to what there will be in the 3 to 4 year build. Having my business only 100m away from the proposed site. I'm not sure where they've got their information from regarding current traffic on Gore's way, but their figures are inaccurate regarding noise and vibration.

00:54:08:00 - 00:54:45:16

During the build it was mentioned at a previous hearing that there is significant noise from the huge coastal already, which is going to be near the the proposed site. This is a blatant lie as you can literally stand outside the coastal and hardly any noise is heard. Again, it was mentioned that build noise would be negligible with no consideration for our businesses. Why haven't noise studies been carried out around businesses on our causeway? Likewise, the Unity Academy and Thomas Clarkson School do not feature in the noise table discussed previously.

00:54:46:09 - 00:55:17:08

Wisbech has 266 listed buildings, second in Cambridgeshire, only behind Cambridge itself. We are a small Georgian town with a great deal of history, and incidences of this magnitude would ruin the landscape of a flat, flat fenland town for the next 40 years. The road infrastructure is not suitable, and frequent road closures, particularly between Wisbech and Guy Hurn, will mean lorries will need to be diverted through the town.

00:55:17:10 - 00:55:36:00

This is a fact. As much as have denied it on many occasions. I would urge you to consider all the points made tonight and at the previous hearings. The location of this incinerator is totally unsuitable, particularly when alternative sites have not been explored. Thank you.

00:55:37:24 - 00:55:39:19

Thank you very much, Mr. Kent. Along.

00:55:41:14 - 00:55:42:13

I'd like to move.

00:55:42:15 - 00:56:00:04

On, if I can, to registered non interested parties who have registered in advance for today. Don't have anybody registered virtually who would like to speak. So I'll move straight to people who are in the room. If can start, please with Ms.. Gower.

00:56:06:17 - 00:56:15:07

Hello, my name is Amanda Gower and I represent myself. My job entails traveling patients to and from various hospitals in the surrounding area.

00:56:15:09 - 00:56:46:08

At times, these patients are extremely ill, some even end of life. It can take at times two or more hours to get from Wisbech to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at King's Lynn, which is only about 13 miles away. We do try going via back roads at times if appropriate. However, we frequently get gridlocked in traffic as it stands right now, particularly during the summer months. So we as we have little dual carriageways and hardly any from Wisbech to Peterborough.

00:56:47:00 - 00:57:20:03

I cannot imagine how awful it will be for patients and staff if we have another 30 plus lorries coming in and out of our local area daily. Front line crews are also stretched in Wisbech as it is a very small station, again with a lot more traffic on a single carriageway. Roads will in my opinion, put lives at risk. Equally, ambulances have to travel from Peterborough or King's Lynn along the A47 carriageway to deal with call outs in Wisbech and the surrounding villages.

00:57:20:16 - 00:57:56:02

The a47 roads are awful and very dangerous already with the many potholes. I understand that funding for road improvements has mostly been pulled due to the sheer cost as it stands. And this again is my strong belief that accidents are bound to happen with traffic building up with the extra lorries on these roads and people taking part in chances, the lorries will only further damage to the existing bad roads on the A47, which is mainly a single carriageway and was never built for the existing traffic, let alone heavy lorries.

00:57:56:19 - 00:58:09:15

I asked the question at a meeting with employees about what will happen when the road closures are put into place and this happens often as a single carriageways get shut even with the smallest. TCS

00:58:11:03 - 00:58:15:08

told me that they will use their satnav and go whichever way it shows.

00:58:16:22 - 00:58:50:12

If someone looks into where these monsters will pass pass through the smallest villages whose roads can't cope as they don't now, and these small country lanes are not suitable for any HGVs. I was told by MV that they will use the main roads, if you can call them that, as companies will have to go on. We'll have to sign an agreement to this effect. But when asked how this will be placed, they said they couldn't. So again, these monster lorries will be redirected through a small villages, causing gridlock, if not worse.

00:58:50:16 - 00:59:27:05

Wisbech Being part of Fenland is is surrounded by reclaimed land and experienced sinkholes due to the underlying moving silt. When this occurs and highways should have advised how regularly this happens in such areas as reasonably in everyday traffic and around Wisbech comes to a standstill. Wisdom Lane where the most of the lorries will travel to and from its site say mainly in the building stages. But I would challenge this also has had a number of road closures due to roads not coping with the traffic that travels along it day in, day out.

00:59:27:13 - 01:00:14:16

This road has been closed for weeks in the past few years, again causing the town centre and surrounding areas to a standstill. The staff have struggled for years getting patients to hospital both quickly and safely. Traffic is getting worse year upon year. We try our best to make sure everyone gets the treatment needed as quickly as possible or to their hospital appointments on time. I have many other objections and can go on and on, but my main objection is the impact on our community through the traffic implications and putting people's lives at risk, either by frontline emergency crews not getting through in time or accidents due to the sheer amount of extra HGVs in a small, historic town and surrounding area.

01:00:14:24 - 01:00:20:09

Many thanks for letting me read my objections and considering my valid points.

01:00:24:05 - 01:00:25:19

Thank you very much, Mrs. Cowan.

01:00:27:07 - 01:00:29:06

If I can move on to Ms.. Jordan.

01:00:41:23 - 01:01:13:20

Hi, I'm Chris Jordan and I'm a resident of Wisbech and have been for the last 15 years. I want to echo really a lot of the points that people have already mentioned and ask the Secretary of State to really look at the impact on this small community. This incinerator over the next 40 years is looking at creating just 40 jobs. Now, if I was a business owner on Al Gore's way and we've got some of them in the room here, I would already be looking for an alternative location for my business.

01:01:14:02 - 01:01:48:10

So the likelihood is if this goes ahead, more than 40 jobs will be lost from Al Gore's way and the surrounding areas because people will move away from this incinerator. The traffic is really, really important. I've commuted both Kingsland and Peterborough for the last 15 years, and the number of times that I sit on the A47 in a week is probably 1 or 2 times when someone fortunate soul has been in an accident and the road is completely closed.

01:01:49:02 - 01:02:22:15

The the summer is totally ridiculous in terms of new sit in traffic with all those people who are off to the coast for their lovely holidays passing Wisbech as they go. But the traffic is already appalling and this development will not help that in and will make it much, much worse. Anyone who's visited the site that is proposed for the incinerator will note that there is a school, a large school nearby, residential areas nearby, and a lot of smaller businesses.

01:02:23:00 - 01:03:00:01

I used to be a governor at Thomas Clarkson School and I know how hard the staff have worked to bring that school up to standard. That remaining at the standard they've achieved relies on getting pupils to that school. If it was my child and they were going to be subjected to the toxins that we're already mentioned, I would be looking to put that child in alternative education provision elsewhere because I would not want to put my child in a school next to a 90 meter chimney spewing out all sorts of toxins.

01:03:01:06 - 01:03:42:23

On a very personal level, and I'm not sure how this can be proved or disproved, but health surrounding these incinerators should be considered. Asthma. Lung diseases. Cancer. Are all affected by toxins emitted into the environment. My mother recently died from cancer. I do not wish that on

any of my friends and neighbors. And I'm really concerned that this incinerator in a residential and commercial area will increase both lung disease, asthma and cancer.

01:03:43:00 - 01:04:09:10

And I believe that there are statistics to suggest this has happened elsewhere. So I'm asking the Secretary of state to please look at all of these factors and do not put such a carbuncle in an area where people live and work and an area that's already been exploited. We need not to have any more disadvantaged in Wisbech.

01:04:19:02 - 01:04:23:04

Thank you very much, Miss Jordan. If you just bear with us for one minute.

01:04:39:14 - 01:04:40:22

Thank you for waiting there.

01:04:43:23 - 01:05:00:10

I would like to now move to non-registered interested parties who were here today. I have one person in the room who I'd like to go to first. That is Miss Ridgewell, who's a non-registered interested party.

01:05:02:18 - 01:05:03:08

But.

01:05:12:13 - 01:05:37:01

Hello. Nadine Ridgewell, Olive, opposite Argos. Why? I'm waiting in line. I went to the consultation with Mr. Keery and he said, Oh, come and sit down and I'll show you what it will look like from your hair, from your window. I've got a photo. If, um, if they can see it, this is, can.

01:05:38:04 - 01:05:41:21

If you can submit that with your written submission, that would be really helpful.

01:05:42:05 - 01:06:13:09

Uh, this is what it will look like. He said it won't bring your house prices down. This is the other incinerator. What I've got. And, um, none of these hairstyles have gone down. Yeah, because they're all cancel hairs. That's why they ain't gone down. But he didn't tell me that bit. Um, a school, right? You know what I mean? I'm not the cleverest person in the world, but to put a school, to put that right near a school, all them kids, that's our biggest school in the area.

01:06:13:11 - 01:06:43:13

And to put that there, that chimney is going to be overlooking them when they're playing on the field. It's disgusting. And when I went to that consultation, he's got this list saying all these factories, oh, they all want to be in with us because we're going to have this energy coming through for these factories. Well, my brother spoke to Lamb Weston. That's on the corner of Wisdom Lane. How goes, you know, mean to go up to there? And he didn't know anything about it. He said, we don't want it.

01:06:43:15 - 01:06:50:16

In fact, they went and got some signs from West Wind and put them all along the front of their factory because they don't want it.

01:06:50:18 - 01:06:56:14

Can just ask everyone to be quiet or we can hear the Mr. Ridgewell speaking, please. Sorry. Carry on the.

01:06:56:16 - 01:07:30:20

Lamb, Weston. And they didn't know nothing about it. And he'd been writing these lists saying all these factories what are interested in gaining energy from him and they didn't even know nothing about and they went and got the wish. Wind stopped the incinerator signs and they've got them all the way along the front of their factory. And they couldn't believe that he'd even said that. And well, and not just at that large school. You've got all the other little primary schools around there. This is another school helps children on the corner as well.

01:07:30:23 - 01:07:36:08

And it's just disgusting. And that's all I got to say.

01:07:45:12 - 01:07:47:10

Thank you very much, Miss Ridgewell.

01:07:47:12 - 01:07:57:09

If we can move on to non-registered non interested parties who are in the room, please. First of all, if I can invite Miss Clark to come forward, please.

01:08:06:06 - 01:08:06:21

Hello.

01:08:08:08 - 01:08:11:09

If you'd like to just introduce yourself and just start whenever you're ready.

01:08:11:14 - 01:08:15:09

Okay. Yeah. My name is Isabel Clark. Um,

01:08:17:06 - 01:08:57:00

I'm in a small business about two miles from the proposed site. Um, my business is a recording studio, and it can also be residential, as it can also be residential. My clients are a mix of, like, local, national and sometimes even international artists that come here. One feature of my business is that we're obviously we're in a rural setting, although we're also close to all the amenities of Wisbech. The proposed incinerator will dominate the local landscape. It will tower over the main road route as the railway is long gone, both to Wisbech and onto all the popular holiday destinations of the North Norfolk coast and Norfolk Broads.

01:08:57:22 - 01:09:30:21

Has anyone who lives here knows, and I'm sure it has already been mentioned before. Come holiday season, the a47 is jammed with caravans and other holidaymakers heading that way. Where should they stop for lunch? Well. Well, not Wisbech, that's for sure. This incinerator is not going to be tucked away where it can't be seen. It's the welcome sign for anyone entering, leaving or passing. Passing it haste. No doubt it's a disaster for this beautiful Georgian town, the site for period dramas and anyone interested in the fascinating history of the Fens.

01:09:30:23 - 01:10:04:15

I suspect a quick Google will also put off some of my clients. Firstly, I'd just like finally, I'd just like to say also work with young people teaching music and trying to show them the potential careers in the music industry, in particular, trying to raise the aspirations of our young women who often believe careers like mine are only for people in big cities. All this says to young people in Wisbech is that literally this is going to be the crap dump of East Anglia, a depressingly enormous ever seeing monolithic although here its two towers actually I don't know what that is dual ethic or doesn't it.

01:10:05:23 - 01:10:41:13

It's tower burning the rubbish of our lazy society while we diligently wash our tins in the east. People from Middlesbrough called Snuggies. I'm sure you know this chair. I'm sure you know this in the in the north east people from Middlesbrough are called Smogs because of their industrial past. God knows what Wisbech youngsters will grow up to to be called if this horror is imposed on an unwanted community. In King's Lynn, 92% of people voted against the incinerator proposal. And if we were lucky enough to be granted some semblance of democracy, I'm sure the same would be here to.

01:10:49:24 - 01:10:54:04

Thank you very much, Miss Clark. Have Paul and Diana Hunt.

01:11:04:02 - 01:11:06:24

If you can, please just introduce yourself and start whenever you're ready.

01:11:07:01 - 01:11:08:00

My name is Diane.

01:11:08:02 - 01:11:09:00

Hunt and I'm speaking.

01:11:09:02 - 01:11:09:23

For myself.

01:11:10:00 - 01:11:12:09

And first of all, I would like to say that I.

01:11:12:11 - 01:11:13:10

Wholeheartedly.

01:11:13:12 - 01:11:27:12

Agree with the comments that have already been raised. But there's one particular issue that hasn't been raised yet which I would like to bring up. Why is there a need for 90 meter towers.

01:11:27:14 - 01:11:32:07

If there is no dangerous particulate going into the atmosphere?

01:11:34:11 - 01:11:35:14

The lady that.

01:11:35:16 - 01:11:41:05

Came up first mentioned that this is a strong agricultural area.

01:11:42:03 - 01:11:43:08

This area.

01:11:43:10 - 01:11:44:00

Has.

01:11:44:02 - 01:11:45:22

Grade one land.

01:11:46:02 - 01:11:48:24

That means it's the most fertile.

01:11:49:01 - 01:11:53:10

Land in the whole of the UK. The farmers.

01:11:53:12 - 01:11:54:04

Here are.

01:11:54:06 - 01:11:55:08

Champions.

01:11:55:10 - 01:12:00:18

At what they do. If particulate from those towers.

01:12:01:02 - 01:12:01:17

Comes.

01:12:01:19 - 01:12:02:15

Down on the.

01:12:02:17 - 01:12:03:24

Land in this.

01:12:04:01 - 01:12:16:11

Area, not only will that incinerator cause atmosphere damage to people's health through what they breathe, it will also cause them health issues through the.

01:12:16:13 - 01:12:19:06

Food that they consume, which is.

01:12:19:08 - 01:12:20:07

Grown in.

01:12:20:09 - 01:12:24:12

This area. And that particulate.

01:12:24:14 - 01:12:26:09

Matter, interestingly.

01:12:26:11 - 01:12:27:08

Enough.

01:12:27:10 - 01:12:28:14

Is measured.

01:12:29:03 - 01:13:06:09

Because farmers have to measure a minimum level of residue of pesticides on the crops that they produce, and that would include any other toxic materials such as heavy metals. Now, the good news is that it's not just us that consume this beautiful food that is grown in this very productive area. It goes across the whole of the UK so everybody else won't get out of this scot free because we will be producing the toxic food to go into the food chain.

01:13:06:11 - 01:13:12:04

And interestingly enough, it is exported too. So let's hope some of it goes to Germany.

01:13:14:22 - 01:13:53:16

Now the minimum residue levels that farmers have to adhere to if their crops get above a certain level of each of these types of chemicals, then they are not allowed to sell their produce into the food chain. So over 40 years, this incinerator may contaminate a large agricultural area around here and you may be putting farmers out of business. And if you put farmers out of business in this area, you'll put food factories out of business because they will not have a supply chain.

01:14:00:19 - 01:14:02:06

Thank you very much, Mrs. Son.

01:14:03:21 - 01:14:06:23

And I now invite Councillor Patrick, please.

01:14:11:11 - 01:14:43:21

Hi, I'm town of District Councillor Dave Patrick. I wasn't actually expecting to be here tonight, but I've spent a lot of rules to get here tonight. I was originally a patient transport provider and I have seen several incinerators, one at Hykeham in Lincoln, and I was speaking to the patient at the time. Remember asking him about the conditions there. The continual hum, the noise. The other thing that is Councillor had to deal with was planning applications as being on the planning committee years ago. One of the biggest things that was part of planning was visual impact.

01:14:43:24 - 01:14:48:24

This will have a massive impact on the town. It will be a devil's tower looking over us.

01:14:50:14 - 01:15:13:17

I just don't understand where are coming from. Well, actually do that. Very clever because they've gone in such a way mean water Beach rejected. Kingsland rejected. So they've gone a devious way of getting a planning application in by going through the government. We shouldn't have to suffer this. We entertain a very very deprived. They talk about levelling up. I believe that they've been levelling down with this application. Thank you.

01:15:19:23 - 01:15:24:24

Thank you very much for that. And finally, invite Mr. Wiltshire.

01:15:35:18 - 01:16:07:05

It's Good evening. And my name is Kevin Moshe. I'm a director of Fountain Frozen Limited. We sit probably the closest to this application. We've got a ditch, which is probably 3 to 4m wide. One of the things that we've raised right from the beginning with Mr. Kari and the applicant is how we're going to protect ourselves as a food factory with the vermin crossing from the bin waste.

01:16:07:07 - 01:16:40:00

So the back of the factory is where the trucks are going to tip the waste into these huge holes that hold the waste. As we know, wherever there's waste, there's rats and mice. And then after that, when you lay the waste out, you get golds and all of the other birds. We're a food factory just over the other side of the ditch, which has been on that site producing frozen foods for supermarkets up to BRC accreditation for over 40 years.

01:16:40:16 - 01:17:14:12

How do we protect ourselves against vermin walking across that ditch? I've brought it up and discussed it with Mr. Kerry. He says they've got a very good environmental plan which they follow stringently on other sites. And if I have any concerns, once it's built, if it's built, then I could go

around and knock on the door and have a word with the manager in charge and they will do their best to be good neighbors. But I'm afraid in this environment it isn't good enough.

01:17:14:14 - 01:17:51:13

I've got 140 staff on three shifts working five and a half days a week. How do I protect their jobs, their mortgages, their cars, their hire purchase agreements? How do I keep them in work when Tesco or Burger King or Sainsbury's or Morrisons who visit once and twice a year, part of an audit for a food factory? If anybody doesn't understand what it entails, they don't only look at your documentation, they don't only look at that you're paying a proper wage to the people you employ.

01:17:51:15 - 01:18:22:09

You're providing proper facilities. They also walk round the perimeter of the site. How do we protect against that smell, that odour, those rats, those mice, those goals that are going to come and make a mess all over our yard because there's just no way of doing it. The other thing I have a concern about is I think this survey for the infrastructure and these trucks coming into the town is flawed.

01:18:22:11 - 01:18:57:03

I don't know when it was done. I heard it was done on the back of Covid. If that is the case, whatever date it was done, I would like before you consider anything, I would look for that proposal to be done after September when the children go back to school and when these three huge housing estates there's the Carters one at the top of Newbridge Lane, there's the one at the back of being two, and there's just been awarded one down Elm Road for 300 to come out of Heron Road.

01:18:57:08 - 01:19:53:03

Now, let's just say for argument's sake and don't don't know if this is true, but let's say between them is 500 houses and they're all two car families. There's a thousand cars coming up there. This town, I've lived here all my life, born and bred here. If you get permission for this, you will strangle this town. It will die because there's nothing we can do. And I don't know, as a director of the business and we fight hard to produce good quality frozen food under BRC accreditation, as I said to supermarkets, but don't know what I'm going to say to a person who's carrying out the audit when they ask me, What are you going to do about the rats coming across that? How are you going to stop it? Can't build a wall or can't put a fence? Can't make the ditch any bigger.

01:19:53:05 - 01:20:21:19

I don't know how we're going to stop it. And with all respect to Mr. Kerry and what he's trying to do, for him to tell me, well, come and talk to us, we want to be a good neighbour that isn't going to help us at all when Tesco's or any of the other supermarkets and say, Sorry, we're not renewing our contract with you, what do I do? There's nowhere to run. It's finished then. Thank you very much for your time.

01:20:31:01 - 01:20:32:15

Thank you very much, Mr. Wiltshire.

01:20:36:21 - 01:20:37:11

Back.

01:21:09:16 - 01:21:22:07

Thank him very much, everyone. I would like now, if I can, to invite the applicant to respond. If you would like to come forward and use the table at the front. Think that would be the best way to do this?

01:21:34:09 - 01:21:34:24

Okay.

01:21:40:02 - 01:21:41:06

Ready? Yes.

01:21:48:01 - 01:21:51:11

If you would like to take a seat at the table, that would be really useful.

01:21:52:05 - 01:21:52:24

Use this one.

01:21:53:01 - 01:22:15:22

You can use that. But I would like you to address this panel directly, please. So if you can face face towards us all the time, can just say before you introduce yourself and start, you will have ten minutes to respond to points raised today and we will provide you with a time warning at eight minutes so you'll have two minutes remaining after that. So if you just like to introduce yourself and start whenever you're ready.

01:22:16:23 - 01:22:23:22

Thank you. I'm Paul Carey, managing director of Environment Limited. And the applicant

01:22:25:09 - 01:22:57:03

won't take the full ten minutes. Um, I don't think it's appropriate for me to try and reply to all of the points that that have been made here tonight. We'd be happy to respond to them in written submissions. Um, there's lots of different things that have been said here. Um, and I do understand that the people here and others that we have met have concerns, fears. However you want to describe them. Um, that's understood.

01:22:57:22 - 01:23:07:03

We had the same situation when we went through the planning process with our facility in Plymouth some 15 years ago. And please, just.

01:23:07:07 - 01:23:13:09

Sorry to interrupt, Mr. Kerry. Can I please just ask that you remain quiet and let Mr. Kerry make his points, please?

01:23:15:09 - 01:23:55:19

So we thank you. We had the same concerns. Very similar concerns. Some different concerns even expressed to us when we were going through the planning process with our facility in Plymouth. We managed to get planning permission there. We built our facility. We've been operating since 2015 and I can honestly say that in that town, which is a much larger conurbation than it is with Wisbech, with so many more residents closer to the facility, that we have become a good neighbor and that the fears that were expressed back in 2011 and 12 have proven to be unfounded.

01:23:56:03 - 01:24:05:04

Excuse me, can I please ask for silence in the room? That type of language will not be tolerated to anyone that is participating in today's meeting. Is that clear?

01:24:07:18 - 01:24:10:01

Thank you. Please continue.

01:24:10:22 - 01:24:11:12

Thank you.

01:24:13:17 - 01:24:45:10

So it's. Proven the case. And I would invite anyone in this room that cares to come to Plymouth to do so and come and see what we do and come and see how we do it and come and realize that the fears that they have. It would be unfounded. It is going to be a big building. That much we cannot deny, and I'm not going to pretend anything else. So there will be a visual impact on this area that is perfectly understood. But in respect of many of the other things that people have raised.

01:24:45:18 - 01:25:16:08

I really do believe that the fears are unfounded. We have listened to their concerns and where appropriate, we have made changes, adjustments. We've done that through this entire examination period. Even today, we had a two hour meeting with businesses from the Al Gore way and Salters way areas, and we listen to what they had to say. We provided answers where we could, and we have taken into account further concerns that they had.

01:25:16:10 - 01:25:37:02

And we have decided to make some minor adjustments to our proposals, our plans that you will see when we make the next submission. But we will continue to develop this project. We genuinely believe it is needed in this area, it is needed in this region and that the energy that we have in the waste can right.

01:25:37:04 - 01:25:57:15

This is the final warning that I'm going to give. So please, as I have asked before, can everyone be quiet while we are hearing a participation and one submission to this hearing? This is the final warning. So if I have got to interrupt Mr. Kerry again, I will actually close the hearing. Thank you.

01:26:00:23 - 01:26:01:24

If you'd like to continue.

01:26:02:11 - 01:26:33:02

Sorry, I've lost my thread. Um, we. We believe this facility is required in this region. We believe that the energy that is in the waste that everyone throws away after they've done the recycling, the residual waste can be put to good purposes in the area or sent into the national grid. These facilities are consistent with government policy. They're consistent with what the country needs as a whole.

01:26:33:04 - 01:26:43:04

We need to stop sending our waste to landfill and this is a good solution for the region and for Wisbech and I'll stop at that point. Thank you.

01:26:44:24 - 01:26:45:14

Thank you.

01:26:46:22 - 01:26:48:02

Thank you, Mr. Carey.

01:26:55:13 - 01:26:57:21

I can see your hand raised. Yes.

01:27:02:16 - 01:27:08:05

Can I just. I'll just stop you there. Just one second. Just give me one moment. Can I ask.

01:27:11:19 - 01:27:12:16

And. Yeah,

01:27:14:19 - 01:27:45:19

I'm sorry to interrupt you there. Obviously, we've got to the point now in the hearing where if I'm starting to invite people who hadn't registered or hadn't expressed an interest in speaking, I'm just not sure how many people we would have. So in the interests of natural justice and allowing what I would like you to do, if that's if that's possible, is obviously it is a predominantly written process in terms of dealing with this application. So if you'd like to put any concerns that you have in writing, we can consider them and there would be given equal weight.

01:27:48:00 - 01:28:20:10

Excuse me. Excuse me. If I if my this is a question of natural justice. We have asked everyone well in advance through the process to register. We have made it very clear and several different occasions that to participate in today's open floor hearing, If you wish to speak, you are always invited and you are always welcome to come in, attend and watch it. But we made it very clear that if you made it very clear that if you wish to speak, you would need to register, we

01:28:24:06 - 01:28:57:06

Excuse me, but but. But that is made but that that is making a representation. That is making. Excuse me. Okay, I, I excuse me. But that is making a representation. And as I have explained, as I have explained, we do invite representations from the open floor in part of the process. So thank you very much. We will not be able to guarantee that everyone that now wants to speak and has not registered because of this frictions on the opening hours.

01:28:57:08 - 01:29:06:08

We cannot guarantee that everyone will be able to speak and if we allow one person to speak, will have to allow everyone. That is a question of justice.

01:29:06:18 - 01:29:10:08

So therefore and just ask your question, please.

01:29:11:00 - 01:29:11:16

Certainly.

01:29:11:18 - 01:29:18:13

Do you not have a right to see how many people want to speak? If it is just a couple of let them speak? I'm sorry to have to go up.

01:29:18:15 - 01:29:34:08

Well, well, the issue the issue with that is that obviously, I don't know, there might be some people online that would like to speak now. And considering the time, I cannot guarantee that we'll actually have time to go through the whole process.

01:29:35:08 - 01:29:37:18

So my name.

01:29:37:20 - 01:29:38:14

Was down and.

01:29:38:16 - 01:29:39:19

I haven't spoken yet.

01:29:43:06 - 01:29:47:21

If if that if if I apologize if you have can can.

01:29:48:08 - 01:29:50:12

Just say Mr..

01:29:50:14 - 01:30:05:19

We had Paul and Diana Hunt registered. You checked in together. So it was the slot when I called both of you by name, you could have both come up and had the because you representing the same group and that was how you registered to come in.

01:30:07:09 - 01:30:08:05

I think just.

01:30:13:16 - 01:30:14:09

This

01:30:18:15 - 01:30:20:03

is only to two people.

01:30:21:17 - 01:30:56:18

I would just like to thank everybody for contributing to this meeting today. We have found your contributions extremely helpful and we will consider all submissions made carefully any submissions made in writing. We can also consider and afford the same weight. So can I just remind you all to submit your post hearing submissions, including written submissions of oral cases by Deadline six, which is the 12th of July 2023. The time is now 7.30. An open floor hearing three for the energy from waste combined heat and power facility is now closed.