

Written statement summarising oral submissions given at the planning meeting (Open Floor Hearing: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

Neil Elcome, [REDACTED] (speaking in a personal capacity as a local resident/interested party) Unique Reference: 20032819

### Submissions

***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 MVV Environment, speaking on the Look East program on BBC One on 11th May 2023.\*\*

***There are toxins everywhere, and we have to live with some of them.*** Mr Paul Carey, of MVV (Environment).

The arrogance and condescension of that statement really stands out. I had to replay it a couple of times to make sure that he actually said what I thought he 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. He went on to say that they would capture the majority of the toxins using filters, and that 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 means that they will be releasing some toxins on top of the ones we already have, and seems to hint that if only they had permission they'd release a hell of a lot more.

'We' in that sentence I assume means 'us' who live here, not him specifically, or the board of MVV (Environment) or its shareholders. 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 it's just the way things are now.

My mother is hoping to move to this area soon to be nearer. She has a lung condition and is often breathless because of it. But it should be of no concern, after all there are already toxins coming out of cars, a little bit more isn't going to hurt her is it?

And if you have children at the nearby school who play outside, you mustn't concern yourself because there are probably toxins all over them already. They're probably covered in toxins from head to toe, so no need to worry about any 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 Carey used in the interview).

***Toxins are part of our life.*** Mr Paul Carey, of MVV (Environment).

The last time I spoke to this enquiry I told you that this company had 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 carefully to what they say.

***Toxins are part of our life.***

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 they are apparently at a new era of opportunity, in this town we are 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. 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.

***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 is going to draw in people 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.

Thank you for your consideration, and I wish you well for the completion of the planning process.

\*Please feel free to contact me in relation to this statement by writing to the above address or by email to neilelcome@yahoo.co.uk. This written submission is based on my notes for the oral submission I gave on the day. I may have abridged some sections or made changes on the day, mainly to fit in with the 5 minute time limit, but this document represents the substance of my statement.

\*\* I will enclose video evidence of this if possible/if required but it was broadcast by the BBC on the noted date. The full quote verbatim from Mr P Carey from that broadcast was:

***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. And there's toxins in the waste if you send it to landfill. So toxins are part of our life, the question is can we deal with them properly. We will capture the vast vast majority of them on our filters, and we will not let them go up the chimney without the permission of the Environment Agency.***