

Kerys Jordan



03/07/2023

To the Secretary of State,

I object to the proposed Medworth CHP incinerator application for Wisbech. I would like the Secretary of State to consider the points below when deciding whether to approve the application. Below is a summary of the points I made in a recent open hearing on 29th June 2023 at The Boathouse in Wisbech.

The weight of the community does not want this development as it will not enhance the area in any way and will significantly harm the reputation and appeal of the town, which is already disadvantaged compared to neighbouring towns e.g., King's Lynn.

My objections are:

- 1) This is a small town, and this development will have a disproportionate adverse impact on aesthetics, infrastructure and the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2) The incinerator over the next forty years is looking to create only 40 jobs and these will only be "live" once built in 3 years' time. The incinerator will impact existing businesses on Algores way (and the surrounding area) during the construction phase and then when running day to day. If I were an existing business owner, I would already be looking to move away from the incinerator due to noise, smell, vermin, additional traffic and the health of my staff. The likelihood is that more than 40 jobs will be lost from the area, as other businesses relocate to more desirable locations.
- 3) Traffic – This is a really important consideration. I have commuted to both King's Lynn and Peterborough for the last 15 years and I sit on the A47 once or twice a week when some unfortunate soul has been in an accident and the road has been closed or slowed down to a crawl. The summer is totally ridiculous, you sit in traffic with all of those people off to the coast for their lovely holidays, passing Wisbech as they go, when the traffic, outside holiday times, is already appalling. This development will not help that and will make it much, much worse. The traffic to the incinerator will take the A47, which is the main route through to the Norfolk coast in the area and the congestion on that road is already unmanageable, to increase this by the amount planned for the incinerator is unsustainable. I believe the road survey was done during Covid lockdowns. This is totally inappropriate, and the company should be made to re-do these surveys under normal operating conditions across a sensible sample of days and times.
- 4) Proximity to residences and Thomas Clarkson School – Anyone who has visited the proposed site for the incinerator will note that the school is nearby. There are also a lot of residential homes and planning has already been approved for further residential developments nearby. 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. Remaining at the standard that they have achieved, relies on getting pupils to that school. If it were my child and they were going to be subjected to the toxins and detritus from the chimneys of the incinerator, I would be looking to put that child in alternative education provision elsewhere. I would not want to put my child in a school next to 2 90m chimneys spewing out all kinds of toxins and

particulates. If numbers at the school drop then funding drops, making it almost impossible for the school to maintain standards and improve for the future. This is a deprived area where good quality education is essential for social mobility, this would be a backward step.

- 5) Health and Wellbeing – Asthma, lung diseases and cancer are all increased by poor air quality and toxins in the environment. Both of which the company has told us will be emitted from the chimneys of the incinerator. If this is the case, why are we putting them so close to schools, residential homes and agricultural land used to produce food. There must be so many more suitable sites, which do not have such a detrimental impact to health and wellbeing. On a very personal level, my Mother recently died from cancer, and I would not wish that on any of my friends and neighbours. I am really concerned that this incinerator in a residential and commercial area will increase lung disease, asthma and cancer and I believe there are statistics to suggest this has happened elsewhere where similar incinerators have been installed.

So, in conclusion, I am asking the Secretary of State to look at all of these factors and do not allow a dangerous carbuncle to be built in an area where people live and work and an area that has already been exploited. We need not to have any more disadvantage in Wisbech.

Sincerely,

Kerys Jordan