

I am not an expert and I don't understand all the implications that this proposed facility will impose upon this town. It is, however, quite plain to see that it will 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.

1. The low-lying land has fertile loam soil and the warm climate make it ideal to grow cereal crops such as wheat, barley and oats. Also the root vegetables of potatoes, carrots and sugar beet which gives the area of East Anglia the title of 'Bread basket of the UK'.

Also grown are the brassicas such as sprouts, cabbages and cauliflowers.

There are many fruit orchards and strawberries and raspberries grown. All these crops will be affected over future years by the fallout of toxins which will inevitably be emitted by the plumes from the 2 chimneys of the incinerator. No one is able to guarantee that clean air will be discharged from these chimneys and there will be no emissions monitoring. Household rubbish could contain all manner of plastics, furnishings, polystyrene, heavy metals and other materials. Who knows what poisons and toxins will be emitted into the atmosphere. The toxic fallout will eventually soak into the soil and be absorbed into crops or absorbed through the leaves of the fruit trees. The crops in the area will be damaged and this in turn will get into the food chain. We cannot let this happen especially as we are being told we have to be more self sufficient in the future to help keep food prices down.

2. Another characteristic of the Fens 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 seen for miles around.

The applicant stated that the views from various viewpoints in the outlying villages 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 these areas would disagree. The proposed facility is not suitable for this area and would change our landscape irreparably. In fact, it would become a blot on the landscape and would dominate the skyline.

3. Then there is the road infrastructure which already suffers at peak times daily with huge traffic queues between roundabouts on the A47 around Wisbech as the road is only single carriageway. This will be exacerbated by an extra 300+ heavy goods vehicles bringing waste from over 2 hours drive away and at the same time pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. HGVs account for 18% of the greenhouse gas emissions and 13% of the nitrogen oxide emissions. The Government have stated that these incinerators should be based near the source of the waste, so how does over 2 hours drive time away constitute local?

4. Where this facility is to be located will be very close to housing estates, schools (7 in the area), supermarkets, eye hospital, and retail shops. Residents will be concerned about using these facilities affecting their safety, health and well-being. The dangers of children walking to and from school with all the HGVs in the town is also a concern.

It has been declared yesterday by the Climate Change committee that the UK is at the bottom of the long list of countries signed up for climate change at COP26 and the Government had 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.

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 of East Anglia.