

From: [Vmbucknor](#)
To: [Medworth](#)
Subject: Written Transcript of Verbal Interested Party Submission from Virginia Bucknor - Interested Party reference number: 20032900
Date: 11 July 2023 19:24:12

THURSDAY 29 JUNE - 6.00 pm

Good afternoon Inspectors. Thank you for agreeing to this final open floor hearing to enable those working during the day to raise their concerns with you directly.

NO SEQUENTIAL TEST

You are already aware that MVV chose **NOT** to undertake a Sequential Test as they wish to build on a flood plain even though the Government guidelines **clearly state it is** a requirement.

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 flood plain. I mention it again as the Sequential Test is a **basic** Government requirement this company has chosen to continue to ignore.

Sara Rolfe, 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.

Here's Sara'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, 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** (*cobitis taenia*) - this particular fish is only found in 5 river catchments in the East of England and these vitally include the River Nene. It is protected under Annex II of the EC Habitats and Species Directive which gives species **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 practise and pollution. These fish have been documented living very close by to the proposed site of the incinerator.

The other species living very close by are **water voles**. Water voles are

protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Water voles 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.

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

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and despite nature struggling against all odds to survive, more than one in seven 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 harbour 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.

I therefore cannot support this proposed mega incinerator for our town, it's people or it's wildlife all of whom we **should** be protecting."

And finally, on behalf of Wisbech residents I would personally like to add: what natural justice is applied when an enormous foreign company like MVV decide to carry out a project, which is detrimental to our community environmentally, ecologically, in health and jobs. It's cost not just our councils, town, district and county, but also the community £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.

ADDENDUM

Since speaking to the Planning Inspectors, I have been advised there was an even more important protected species, **nesting Turtle Doves** which are on the **international Red List** of birds near extinction.

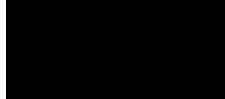
Turtle doves have declined by 93 per cent since the 1970s and have been on the Red list in the UK since 1996, and it remains there today. Red is the highest conservation priority.

I have also advised the Environment Agency.

No mention has been made by MVV of this.

With regard to the nesting Water Voles, both Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Council have advised the survey and mitigation has been reviewed and commented on to the Examining Authority by the County Ecologist acting for CCC and FDC. At this moment in time, the water vole matter is not fully resolved from CC and FDCs perspective.

Campaign Co-ordinator
WisWIN - Wisbech Without Incineration



Facebook: [Redacted]

Website: [Redacted]