

From: [Richard Thompson](#)
To: [Medworth](#)
Subject: Wisbech incinerator
Date: 12 July 2023 18:05:01

Dear Madam and Sir

Please see below my objections the the MVV Wisbech (Medworth) incinerator, I have tried to keep it as short as I possibly could, some points are national, but all apply to us.

We all want quiet. We all want beauty...we all need space.

A quote by Octavia Hill

Co-founder of the National Trust

Re-use - Repurpose - Recycle (not incinerate)

Everyone deserves clean air.

Wisbech is the birthplace of Octavia Hill, one of the three founding members of the National Trust, a pioneer thinker and social reformer who campaigned tirelessly to preserve open spaces and clean air for the working classes. One wonders, if she were still alive today, what she would make of MVV and Paul Carey (who I doubt will be moving, with his family, to live within the fallout of his monstrous idea). Wisbech is historically important, being also the birthplace of Thomas Clarkson who was a leading campaigner against the slave trade in the British Empire.

1. LISTED BUILDINGS - Wisbech is a fine Georgian town, it currently has 266 listed buildings, with only the city Cambridge having more listed buildings in Cambridgeshire, the next place on the list after Wisbech is the cathedral City of Ely with 197. Listed buildings in Wisbech include those on both North and South Brink, The Crescent, The High Street, The Market Place, The Old Market, Museum Square and museum, The Angles Theatre, Clarkson Memorial, Castle Square and Castle, Peckover House and many, many more. The pollution fallout from setting fire to rubbish is likely to cause a great deal of damage to all buildings in Wisbech and for miles beyond, i.e., Walpole St Peter Church, the historic town of Kings Lynn, Sandringham House and estate etc. Will the Inspectorate be informing the King and Royal Family of the health implications of the pollution fallout at Sandringham?

2. INCREASE OF TRAFFIC - Wisbech and the surrounding area will see a huge increase in traffic which the roads will struggle to cope with (approx. 300 extra lorries daily delivering waste, plus the lorries that will be transporting the toxic bottom ash from the site). The A roads that lead to Wisbech (A47 and A1101) are both single carriageways, as is the A17, which the A1101 leads to, meeting near Long Sutton, Lincolnshire. The A1101 actually goes straight through the centre of the town (called the Churchill Road in town). All three of these roads contain accident blackspots, indeed the A1101 was closed for around five hours last week due to an accident and all traffic was diverted through the small roads of the surrounding villages, causing chaos. During the same week the A47 was also closed for a few hours, due to another accident. The A17 and A47 both meet at Kings Lynn and are both major routes for holiday makers in the summer months travelling to the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, usually causing gridlocks around the Wisbech bypass, made far worse during the

school holidays, as people also have days out both during the week and weekends. Outside of the holidays the rush hours coincide not only with the normal 8am and 5pm rush, but also with the factories shift changes, followed by the school leaving times.

3. SIZE – The size of this enormous incinerator will dominate the landscape, the two huge chimneys (if placed beside Ely Cathedral) will dwarf it, so high it will need to have lights on top to warn aircraft of its existence. For anyone visiting Wisbech this will be one of their first views of the town, I know if I was visiting, I would think twice and would most likely drive past. It will also be noisy (Paul Carey tried to imply the freezer company next door was noisy – but this is not true). I did not buy my home here in the town to have the view from the back of my home and garden of two ugly chimneys, puffing out pollution, stinking of rubbish.

4. TRANSPORT POLLUTION - Vehicle tyres are made from toxic chemicals, the particles from tyre erosion causes pollution. A report by Imperial College, London *'estimates 52% of all the small particle pollution from road transport came from tyre and brake wear in 2021. Small particles separate from tyres as cars travel, become airborne and can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Air pollution causes 26,000 to 38,000 early deaths a year in England and particle pollution has been linked to a wide range of diseases. Larger particles of tyre wear are washed or blown into rivers and seas and are a significant component of the plastic pollution that has contaminated both people's bodies and the planet, from the summit of Mount Everest to the deepest oceans'*. *The Imperial College London report also says '6m tonnes of tyre wear particles are released globally each year. In London alone, it says, 2.6m vehicles emit about 9,000 tonnes of particles annually.'* Wisbech will have approx. 109,500 lorry journeys entering the site annually, not including those that will transport the bottom ash. The report states *'The particles may contain toxic chemicals including polyaromatic hydrocarbons and benzothiazoles, and heavy metals such as zinc and lead, the scientists said.'* *"Tyre wear particles pollute the environment, the air we breathe, and the water runoff from roads," said Dr Zhengchu Tan, at Imperial's department of mechanical engineering. "Even if all our vehicles eventually become powered by electricity instead of fossil fuels, we will still have harmful pollution from vehicles because of tyre wear."* *Prof Terry Tetley, at Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute, said: "We are growing increasingly concerned by the impact of tyre wear on human health. Simply walking on the pavement could expose us to this type of pollution. It is essential that we better understand the effect of these particles on our health."*

Apart from the pollution from the tyres we will also have to contend with a vast increase of pollution from the numerous extra lorry journeys.

5. RECYCLING - Incineration harms recycling, many councils are locked into long term contracts to supply a certain tonnage of waste to be burned, when they are unable to fulfill their contract, they are penalized, they then have the choice to use council taxpayers' money to pay for large fines or to send recyclable and compostable waste to incineration.



For councils with above-average rates of incineration there is a clear correlation between higher rates of incineration and lower recycling rates. Data source: [Defra](#).

A Defra report published in August 2020 stated that: “Of total residual waste from household sources in England in 2017, an estimated 53% could be categorised as readily recyclable, 27% as potentially recyclable, 12% as potentially substitutable and 8% as difficult to either recycle or substitute”.

MVV told me they will not bother to check the items they are burning; they will just burn everything, therefore, they will not be aware when they burn recyclable plastics, household medical waste, reusable shoes and clothing, poisonous substances, poisonous heavy metals etc., indeed all plastic bin bags are made of soft plastic (plus oil) and soft plastics are both recyclable and not needed, as compostable plant based bin bags are available.

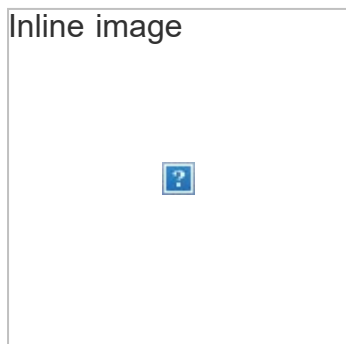
6. CLIMATE / CO₂ / HEALTH - The CO₂ that is released into the air by the burning of waste increases climate change. Each tonne of waste burned releases approx. one tonne of CO₂ into the atmosphere, so incineration has a higher carbon intensity than conventional fossil fuels.



Incineration releases significantly more CO₂ for every kWh exported to the electricity grid than the conventional use of fossil fuels, with the incineration of plastics being worse than coal

On Monday 3rd July 2023, the world experienced the hottest day on record, with June being the hottest month in the UK since 1884, every item of

waste we burn is adding to this and is completely irresponsible.



Apart from the greenhouse gas emissions, incinerators emit toxins including dioxins, NOx and ultrafine particulate matter. These will impact human health, as well as the health of all other species, including the oceans. Unfortunately, there is little monitoring, and not enough enforcement. Have the local NHS (Cambs, Lincs and Norfolk) been contacted to ensure they will be able to cope with the extra health problems that will occur, and will the government provide the extra funding for said health problems? In answer, I doubt it.

7. SCHOOLS & TOWN - MVV's incinerator will be positioned close to the town and two schools, the Thomas Clarkson Academy and Elm Road Primary School, the pollution from this incinerator will also affect the children who attend the other 12 state schools, and Wisbech Grammar School. Both the Thomas Clarkson and Elm Road are situated quite close to Wisbech town centre. MVV assured me that they will place a sensor at the Thomas Clarkson school which will warn when they exceed the pollution levels, by the time the warning is activated it will be too late for those children already outside at break times or P.E. lessons, and as the sensor is only at the one school, the other schools may be unaware of any danger to their pupils health until it is too late.

8. HOUSE PRICES - If this incinerator is allowed, I cannot see house prices staying at their current level in Wisbech or in the surrounding villages. This means that those who live within the pollution fallout will struggle to sell their homes and feel we are being forced out of our homes to protect both our own and our family's health, we will be prisoners in the town. Even if we can sell and move out of the vicinity (at least 25 miles away from the incinerator) we will not be able to afford to move elsewhere as who would pay the current rate to move here? Currently there are 139 homes being built on the site of the old Horticultural College, on Churchill Road (A1101), and planning permission to build more homes, a hotel, and a possible school to be positioned close to where the incinerator will be. Personally, I would be seeking compensation to enable myself and my family to move away.

9. AGRICULTURE & ORGANIC AGRICULTURE – Everyone in the UK eats food grown in this area, some of the land in Fenland is Grade 1 Silt i.e., the best in the country. The Fenland area is used to grow potatoes, vegetables, cereals (for breadmaking, flour, beer etc.), soft fruits, sugar beet and possibly the salad crops grown in the Cambridgeshire Fens will be affected. We will all be eating the fallout from this incinerator when the heavy metal particulate falls to earth. Sandringham Estate have suggested that they be changing to organic farming, and as MVV have absolutely no idea of what they will be burning, the fallout from the chimneys may contain animal matter.

10. WILDLIFE - We are the most wildlife depleted country on Earth, every species is important and should be protected, but in the area MVV want to build their incinerator we have three protected species, turtle doves, water voles, and spined loach.

[*National Trust website*](#)

[*UKWIN website*](#)

[*British Listed Buildings – Listed Buildings in Cambridgeshire - Listed Buildings in Wisbech, Fenland, Cambridgeshire.*](#)

Defra

The Guardian newspaper online

BBC

This incinerator, if built, will be on the edge of Wisbech town, close to schools and the many food factories. Will impact on the health of the residents, the wider area, and the tourist industry. We will no longer be able to use our gardens, go for walks, open windows and doors, due to noise, dust and pollution, we will be unable to move from the area as no one will want to move here. Electricity from incineration is negligible, we already have the technology to make green electric.

*Kind Regards
Richard Thompson*

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Best wishes,
Richard