

Dr Clive Ballard



29th January 2024

Re: Wisbech Mega-Incinerator Application – Secretary of State Consultation
Interested Party Reference No: 20033376

I am responding to your letter of 29th January 2024 inviting final comments on consultee responses to outstanding matters with respect to the Wisbech Mega-Incinerator Application.

I have briefly highlighted some of the key points from the responses which I believe to be of particular importance with respect to the proposal. I have divided these into key headings for readability.

No Local Need

- All of the local councils and businesses indicated that they did not need any potential power generated from the proposed plan and that they would have no intention of contracting with the applicant for power provision.
- It has been highlighted in multiple places throughout the consultation that there is no local need for additional waste disposal. In addition the close proximity of an existing incinerator in Peterborough and a recently approved incinerator in Boston, which more than meet any local needs, were highlighted in the recent round of consultation.

Safety and Health

- The consultation responses highlighted the size of the proposed incinerator which would be one of the largest in Europe in addition to the extremely close proximity to local schools. It should be noted that incinerators have normally been built further away from main areas of population, and certainly not adjacent to schools.
- There is clear evidence that particulate matter and heavy metals, both produced by incinerators of this type, have a significant detrimental impact on health. In addition to clear research evidence, the consultation has also highlighted that this is a recognised concern of the World Health Organisation. The size of the incinerator and proximity to local schools further amplifies any health concerns.
- The recent responses also highlighted that the site of the proposed incinerator is on a flood plain, which raises important concerns regarding operational safety.

Traffic

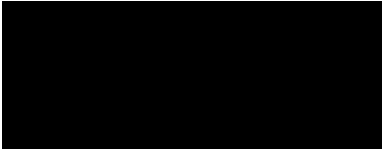
- In the absence of any local need for additional waste disposal the responses highlighted that there would be an estimated 300 lorries per day coming from a distance of more than 2 hrs away, with significant environmental impact as well as substantially adding to the traffic pressure on already overcrowded local roads.
- It was further noted in the responses that as a consequence of frequent traffic jams and road closures, many lorries already inappropriately use fragile drove roads which are not designed for heavy traffic and can not safely be used by heavy vehicles. The situation will be made substantially worse if the proposed incinerator proceeds.
- It should be noted that the local council will not voluntarily give the applicant temporary possession rights for local roads required for construction of the incinerator because of their strong objection to the proposal.

Local Prosperity

- Both local and national businesses located in Wisbech have indicated their objection to the proposal, and there is hence a substantial concern that businesses will relocate and move away from the area.
- The proposal would jeopardise a new rail link between Wisbech and Cambridge which would be a major opportunity to improve local prosperity.
- Many local residents have indicated that they would move away from the area if the proposal goes ahead.

Finally, I would just like to highlight the strength of opposition to the proposal from all residents, all of the local councils, the constituency MP and both local and national businesses located in Wisbech.

Yours sincerely



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