

**From:** Stephen D Penny [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 3:19 PM  
**To:** Medworth <Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed MVV incinerator at Wisbech.

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## Interested Party Reference number: 20032534

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to strongly OPPOSE the construction of this incinerator in Wisbech, where I live. It is a Georgian Market town with a population of approximately 35,000.

My OBJECTIONS are as follows:

**BUSINESS** – I cannot think that food production companies for example are going to be happy with this project in the vicinity.

**BIODIVERSITY** - MVV have said that there will be effects on loss of habitat and disturbance of species. There will be ongoing effects from nitrogen deposition on both nationally and internationally recognised ornithological and non- ornithological sites. This would cover an area up to 20 KM according to their documents.

**BENEFITS TO THE TOWN?** - NONE. MVV have said there will be 40 full-time jobs. How many will go to local people, I wonder? Certainly none of the construction jobs are likely to give any even short-term employment. Damaging our atmosphere and clogging the few roads with constant traffic for the sake of a paltry few jobs? Really?

**HEALTH** - Particulate matter cannot be completely removed, and there will be particles in the air that we shall have to breathe. Incinerators create dioxin chemicals, a known carcinogenic.

Fenland, as MVV states in it's report, is a priority for improving health detriments and health inequalities. Wisbech is known as a deprived area, there are higher levels of ill- health here than elsewhere. How will more pollution help?

The World Health Organisation are concerned about the health of students and the number of schools situated where pollution is high. We have 9 schools here, the majority of whom fall within the 2 km for pollution, mentioned in MVV's report. so they can be added to the list - some 3,500 children, I believe. There is a school for disabled children, Thomas Clarkson Academy with 1300 pupils, factories and not far away the Fenland college campus.

INFRASTRUCTURE - there isn't any. We have no dual carriageways, no motorways, no rail link. ALL of our roads are single carriageway. The A47 is the main road to the East Coast - Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The road gets congested now, and that is made worse in summer with cars and caravans heading to the seaside and the traffic backs up right to the very access road they intend to use for their incinerator. The road is the most dangerous in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and while there are improvements going on at 'pinch points' there are many miles of single track road in between. The A1101 to Ely and beyond is one of the most dangerous in the country. A Fen road, liable to subsidence. Lorries like these are not going to help.

LORRY ACCESS - the proposed site is right on the edge of Wisbech, they plan to build an *access* road to the site, but exiting vehicles will have to use Weasenham lane. This road alone will never cope with the weight of traffic, it is as it says a 'lane' and the surface will not stand it. The sewage system in Weasenham Lane has collapsed once or twice in recent years, and has only just been repaired (leaving a serious dip in the road) and re-opened after the latest - right near the Algores Way exit which they intend to use.

We already have one of the county's largest frozen food storage facilities using some of Weasenham Lane as access to articulated vehicles. There are businesses using the industrial estate, so there are already lorries and other traffic turning. Also, near the junction with Churchill Road is a housing estate and another being built on the other side of the junction. The lorries will be using roads with supermarkets, petrol stations, schools, right in the town centre. The roads log jam now, so it is only going to get worse.

NOISE AND VIBRATION - for the people living along the lorry route.

POLLUTION - Particulates don't just affect air quality. They will land on the soil. Fenland has long been regarded as 'the breadbasket' of the country, much of the county's best arable land is going to be downwind of this enormous chimney. Particulates and nitrogen deposition will get into the food chain and effect everyone in the UK buying food grown here.

Much emphasis has been placed on particulates recently, including smoke and nitrous oxides from diesel engines, 300 *extra* heavy goods vehicles a day will have a serious effect on the local air quality.

SIZE - it will be one of the largest in Europe, and so vast as to be a blot on the landscape. And it's chimney which at 90metres, is comparable to St. Stephen's Tower at Westminster.

TOXIC WASTE – the remaining ash residue will be toxic and will need to be removed, it will go into landfill.

VOLUME OF TRAFFIC - 300 lorries a day, 24/7, 365 days a year into a small town. That is one EVERY 3 minutes, and they have to come out again...

WATERWAYS - more pollution. Port traffic is starting to improve with timber and bricks coming from abroad. Are we to stand having international waste being brought in by sea as well?

FINAL POINT- Given that a large incinerator has already been given the go-ahead for Boston just a few miles away. Where is the point of building the same here? The waste that was to feed our monstrosity was expected to come from all around in order to provide sufficient fuel to achieve the electrical output that MVV claim. Just how far away does waste need to be dragged in by lorry on single carriageway roads in order to make both economical. Disregarding the extra vehicle pollution that would ensue, of course. And if MVV are unable to get the fuel they need to feed the fires, they will be charging our council, and the local citizens, to make up the shortfall in income. That in itself is outrageous.

There is nothing in this for the Exchequer, since they won't be paying tax. One or two large companies will get free power, and MVV will make a profit. They say excess power will be fed into the National Grid, but how much is that going to be?

Probably not as much as they would like you to believe.

As I said earlier, Wisbech may be recognized as a deprived area, everything goes to Peterborough or Cambridge, but this incinerator is NOT the sort of business that will bring any kind of benefit either to the town or anyone within the 20Km or more radius of their fallout. House prices will collapse, nobody in their right mind will want to move in, and those of us who do, won't be able to afford to move somewhere better. Please, ask yourself, would *you* like to live with this monstrosity?

Like many, I am a lifelong Conservative Party voter, I voted for this Government. MVV are playing the 'big' game because they feel that over-sizing the plant to make the proposal of 'National Importance' like this means they can ride roughshod over local opinion. I can only hope that you can see through

this scheme and protect us from impending disaster, not just for the here and now but for our children's health as well.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Penny

