

**From:** Linda Seagroatt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 4:46 PM  
**To:** Medworth <Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Wisbech incinerator

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To whom it may concern.

[REDACTED] I have been unable to participate in the discussions regarding the proposal for the Medworth Incinerator in Wisbech, so I am taking to opportunity to put my thoughts into writing, and respond to some of the statements at meetings from Paul Carey too.

Mr Carey constantly refers to the Plymouth incinerator as a comparison site, but please, please bear in mind that the Medworth incinerator will have a burn capacity of almost 3 times the weight of the Plymouth site. It is far bigger, has a much greater footprint and height, with 2 chimneys. It will be a complete and utter polluting eyesore, on the beautiful flat landscape of Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk.

Mr Carey states that no lorries will use alternative routes to the ones they have stipulated in the plans, once the site is operational, and during the build stage too I believe. As someone who used to work in transport and logistics, I can with almost 100% certainty confirm that all lorry drivers will follow the shortest route given in their sat navs, and ignore the preferred route if there is flooding, traffic issues, or indeed any route that gives them a 5 minute plus shorter journey time. He has admitted that there will be no way to police this. We do not have the road infrastructure to cope with the increased vehicle movements, at over 300 per day I believe if operational. We can't even get to Morrisons most days without very slow queueing traffic and that's less than a mile away. The roads are constantly busy, the summer months are incredibly busy on the surrounding A roads due to holiday traffic. One accident within a 10 mile radius can change your journey time of minutes to hours, as the entire surrounding area becomes clogged with traffic avoiding the accident site. How much pollution will these lorries emit into our atmosphere and negate any (IF there is any!) benefit of incineration?

I understand that the average feed radius to the plant would be 2 hours drive. So in rush hour, you're likely talking no more than 20 miles away, if that! Wisbech is a reasonably large town, in the middle of very little, the justification for having the plant here is non-existent. We also have incinerators locally and a new one in Boston approved, 28 miles from here.

Many local businesses, including some of the larger plants the MVV hope to sell power to are against the proposal, particularly the food plants. It is highly likely that they will need to close and/or move from Wisbech, negating the approx. job creation from the plant of 35 or so by many times that figure. The job losses here could be horrendous. I know that one gentleman spoke of the rats and smell at his food processing company right next door, and it is likely he will be closed down and Environmental Health would not want to see a rat population close by, or odours that will permeate food, packaging etc. The proposed gains of 700 people to build the plant is laughable. Most construction companies who build factories, roads, major buildings etc., bring their own gangs who

stay in and around site in caravans. There is no gain that I can see from this proposal, only loss for the residents.

Mr Carey's team admitted that they had considered no other sites as part of this proposal, something that is **wholly against the correct process as required by planning**, and this project should be refused on this basis alone. To pick on a town that is considered poor and deprived is only going to pull a beautiful Georgian down further down. This town has historical impact and should not have a blot on the landscape or in the air above.

I live at [REDACTED] so by road it's 0.8 miles from my home, and far less as the crow, or incinerator fumes and particulate flies. Worryingly, it is incredibly close to our local senior school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Luckily I can work from home, but I had to stop working in London and towns just due to air quality. Now to hear that the road will be full of diesel lorries, both for build and later delivery is very concerning, and then, if approved and operational, fine particulates that can't be suppressed by the filters filling the air, is actually scary. The town has an elderly population that needs support, not extra issues with breathing and carcinogens.

We have hospitals, eye surgery clinics, rare wildlife, important rivers, crops, farmland and large food factories within a stone's throw of the proposed site. This is not a good place to put the incinerator, in fact, there is no good place to put an incinerator. Over time, the rich soil of the fens and it's output will become contaminated and likely unusable. Many countries and indeed Governments worldwide are opening their eyes to the fact that incineration is not the way forward. Improved recycling, working to reduce packaging with manufacturers, many projects, and indeed, by the time this plant, if approved, is completed, there may be a reduced need for such a large facility in the area. Not that there is a convincing argument for this to be built anyway.

The Government guidelines call for action on pollutants, CO2 emissions etc., and yet, all of those are spewed from the incinerator chimneys in great quantities. With the very recently approved incinerator in Boston Lincs, some 28 miles from Wisbech, the UK is facing overcapacity and in future, the lack of materials to burn, unless of course, we don't choose the "green" option of recycling, and instead burn everything just so the plants can operate. This is folly. Why do we need an incinerator so close to Boston?

Please also check out this over capacity report that is very useful: <https://ukwin.org.uk/overcapacity/>

When we're looking to have net zero carbon as soon as possible, the Government says 100% reduction by 2050, so how can having a plant that is operational for 30+ years, almost 10 years past 2050 be any incentive to get to that point? Of course we would have signed agreements on waste disposal with MVV that tie us in to feeding the monster. I just don't understand how net zero vs a CO2 emitting machine tally.

I am not technical, but I have read many documents both for and against the build. Even landing at a happy medium taking everything from both sides with a small pinch of salt and not to an extreme, the balance weighs heavily against having more incinerators anywhere in the UK. I do however work with contracts, and from what I have seen in previous examples of guaranteed feed to the sites, penalties for not providing enough product to burn etc., we are not working towards better waste treatment outside of incineration, we will be working to feed the beast so we are not penalised. How is that the right way forward?

Please do not approve this facility. It will ruin this town and many surrounding areas for miles. It will cause job losses, ill health, anxiety and further property depreciation, in an area that is struggling and needs rejuvenation and not condemning. We need the railway back, not this monstrosity. Please have consideration for the residents and businesses that will suffer in ways that I haven't, and could never cover fully. Although I know that you have received responses far more lucid and technical than mine, and they all speak to a rejection of this plan.

Kind regards  
Linda Seagroatt