

From: M Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:25 PM
To: Medworth <Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility

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Interested Party Reference number: 20032737

I would urge the Secretary of State not to support this application.

(1) It is detrimental to our food producers and farmers as raised at the Open hearings last summer, especially by our soft fruit farmers and contained in this report entitled 'A Fenland Farming Vision for the Future'. There can be no guarantee where the fallout from the two chimney stack emissions will land, particularly as there is no carbon capture.

<https://www.fenlandsoil.org/.../A-Fenland-Farming-Vision...>

(2) the fact that our own MP, currently the Secretary of State for the Environment, Stephen Barclay has consistently objected.

(3) that our food factories, including Lamb Weston, Nestle Purina and Fountain Foods located close by, have formally objected.

(4) many thousands of residents in Wisbech and the surrounding villages of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk object.

(5) the fact that our adjacent MPs, Liz Truss for South West Norfolk, whose constituency is few hundred meters from the proposed site objects as well as the King's Lynn MP, James Wild.

(6) the fact that King's Lynn Borough Council, Norfolk Borough Council, Wisbech Town Council, Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Councils all object.

(7) In the report by the Environment Agency they omitted to identify the fact there are several schools in the immediate locality including the 1,300 pupils at the Thomas Clarkson Academy who will be seriously impacted by the four-year build and subsequent increase in pollution.

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In the Environment Agency's report it identified that the site was in Flood Zone 3a. However, it stated the chance of flooding was "one in 200 years". It omitted to mention the serious flooding in 1978 (<https://wisbech.ccan.co.uk/.../wisbech-floods-1978...>). This resulted in flood barriers being installed along the River Nene. The barriers have been topped several times, particularly in December 2013 when damage was done to many of the surrounding properties. The Environment Agency's website for flood areas has not been updated since 2017.

(9) No consideration appears to have been undertaken about the location so close to our Georgian town which has 266 listed buildings - far more than any other town of its size - and the damage this will have on our tourist industry.

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/.../wisbech-fenland...>

(10) Wisbech is the only town of its size in the UK without a railway station. Residents in and around Wisbech are therefore wholly reliant on our road infrastructure. With no nearby dual carriageway, any accident already causes major disruptions. This is

particularly noticeable during the summer months when holidaymakers travel via Wisbech to the North Norfolk coast. With the proposal of over 250+ large lorry movements daily from a 200-mile radius to feed the incinerator, plus an additional 25% of lorries required to remove the bottom ash, our rural town would be regularly gridlocked.

(11) NO carbon capture is proposed. Each industrial process creates CO₂ and other emissions. Secretary of State Claire Coutinho raised the importance of carbon capture in her speech at the 2023 Conservative Party Conference. ("Carbon Capture will see 50,000 high-skilled British jobs in places like Teeside and the Humber"). The company only proposes the use of non-catalytic conduction.

(12) There are international Protected Species in the immediate area. The Spined Loach (*Cobitis Taenia*) is only found in five river catchments in the East of England. It is protected under Annex II of the EC Habitats and Species Directive which gives this species Full Protection.

<https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/species/S1149/>

(13) Also living close by are water voles which are numerous and in very close proximity to the proposed incinerator site with several breeding pairs, another protected species. There is clear Government guidance: " It is a material planning consideration for local planning authorities (LPAs). You should take this advice into account when making planning decisions. It forms part of a collection of standing advice for protected species."

<https://www.gov.uk/.../water-voles-advice-for-making...>

(14) Fenland is known as the Breadbasket of England. A

local farmer spoke at the Open Hearing about the importance of our locally grown soft fruits and how fragile they are to pollution. Fenland celery, only grown for three months of the year, is part of an exclusive club of quality British foods that have earned Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This will be impacted if this incinerator is granted.
<https://www.gov.uk/protected-food-drink-names/fenland-celery>

Regards

Maureen Roberetson