

Motion submitted by Councillor Tierney

PROPOSED MEDWORTH INCINERATOR

Notification was received last week that Claire Coutinho MP, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, has granted development consent for the proposal by MVV Environment to build a massive waste-to-energy incinerator on the Algores Industrial Estate in Wisbech, despite the overwhelming opposition of local residents, councillors and Councils.

This decision is a slap in the face for the local democratic process and has resulted in real fear and understandable anger in the local community. Fenland District Council has always been against these plans and provided strong arguments against the proposal.

Fenland District Council stands with local residents in seeking to oppose development of this incinerator and re-affirms the Councils opposition to this.

The decision by the Secretary of State is not able to be appealed. However, the decision can potentially be challenged by means of a Judicial Review if the decision can be shown to have been made irrationally and/or without proper process having been followed.

Fenland District Council therefore authorises Officers to instruct legal Counsel with appropriate expertise to provide their Opinion in respect of this decision and the way in which it has been made by the Secretary of State, specifically to advise whether there are any grounds for a Judicial Review to be sought to overturn this decision, and the likelihood that any such Judicial Review would be successful.

Council instructs Officers to begin conversations with Wisbech Town Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, Norfolk County Council and the CPCA to establish what their contribution would be to the costs of a Judicial Review if there are grounds to pursue such action.

Furthermore, Council issues an invitation to Claire Coutinho to visit Fenland, as soon as possible on whatever date her diary commitments allow, so that a formal meeting may be held at which she would be invited to explain in greater detail her rationale for approving the proposed incinerator, and at which she will be invited to respond to questions and statements from Fenland District Councillors about her decision.