

MOTION

MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR TIERNEY REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OF AN INCINERATOR FACILITY IN WISBECH

This Council understands that there is a proposal to build an Incinerator Facility in Wisbech.

Incinerators are actually wasteful. They burn much of what is otherwise recyclable and their demand for fuel can sometimes result in a reduction in recycling due to their need to bid for more and more waste. This means that it becomes typical for incineration to lead to a reduction in recycling and discourages efforts to preserve resources and creates incentives to generate more waste.

Waste Incineration is not a renewable source of energy. Incinerator companies are marketing “waste-to-energy” as a source of renewable energy. But unlike other renewables the fuel does not come from infinite natural processes. On the contrary, it is source from finite resources.

Burning waste produces toxic emissions. Burning waste is hazardous for citizens’ health and the environment. Even the most advanced technologies cannot avoid the release of vast amounts of pollutants that contaminate air, soil and water, and end up entering the food chain. Incinerators are major emitters of carcinogenic pollutants as well tiny particles of dust that can lead to decreased lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attacks, and premature death.

Burning waste creates less employment opportunities than recycling. Incinerators offer relatively few jobs when compared to recycling. The large footprint of a huge Incinerator could clearly produce more jobs as regular manufacturing space. The idea that the Incinerator is a valuable job creator for local people is bluster.

The World is embracing Zero Waste, and Incineration is a backwards step. “Waste-to-energy” is often described as a good way to extract energy from resources, but in fact it works against the circular economy, producing toxic waste, air pollution and for those that are concerned about Climate Change - contributing to it.

Wisbech Roads will be heavily affected. An Incinerator of the size proposed would create hundreds of additional large lorry journeys daily creating significant additional congestion and wear and tear on already busy roads.

Wisbech Rail is under threat. Wisbech’ long held hope to re-open its rail line has been championed by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the local MP and all local Councils. Millions of pounds have been invested to get to the current point. The proposed location of the Incinerator limits the potential options for a new rail station and cuts off part of the potential route it could take.

In 2019, Wisbech Town Council’s motion to oppose the Incinerator project met with nearly unanimous support. An original local campaign opposing the Incinerator has

since been joined by a second Campaign doing the same thing. Rallies, public meetings and large campaigns are in place.

Many Environmental Groups are opposed to Incineration due to the issues already discussed. The public are overwhelmingly opposed to the building of an Incinerator in Wisbech.

The Incinerator proposal is of such a large size that it bypasses the usual Planning route through local Councils and instead will be decided directly at Government level. This means local people and local Councils have very limited opportunities to make their views known.

It is important that local people see that Fenland District Council as an organisation understands the strength of public opinion against the Incinerator and that it is willing to stand up and be counted in the campaign to try and prevent it ever happening.

THIS COUNCIL STATES THAT:

- 1/ We do not support the construction of an incinerator in Wisbech.**
- 2/ We will write to the Secretary of State to make clear our opposition to these plans.**
- 3/ We will take any and all legal avenues and processes available to us to continue to fight on behalf of the residents of Wisbech, the surrounding villages, and Fenland as a whole and to challenge this unwelcome scheme every step of the way.**