

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

February 27, 2020

Council agrees motion against plans for Wisbech incinerator

Members of Fenland District Council will be writing to the Energy Secretary making clear its opposition to plans to build an incinerator in Wisbech.

The move comes after councillors almost unanimously backed a motion against the waste facility at a full Council meeting last week.

The motion was put forward by Cllr Steve Tierney, a Wisbech town councillor and Fenland District Council's Cabinet member responsible for Waste and Recycling (strategic) and Communications.

The motion states that the Council does not support the construction of an incinerator in Wisbech, and will write to Alok Sharma MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to stress its opposition to the plans.

It also states that the Council "will take any and all legal avenues and processes available 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".

Cllr Tierney said: "The district council is not in favour of waste being tackled through incineration and we will do everything within our legal power to fight these toxic plans. We need to raise awareness of these plans so people understand the full implications, and make our voices heard.

"The 50 megawatt plant would be positioned in Algores Way, close to the Thomas Clarkson Academy, and there are fears it could impact air pollution, health and congestion. With a 95-metre high chimney it would also dominate the skyline and be visible for miles."

The scale of the proposed development is such that the planning application will be decided by the Secretary of State, rather than by Cambridgeshire County Council.

"It is essential for local people and local councils to make their views known," added Cllr Tierney. "It is also important that local people see that Fenland District Council 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."

- A public meeting about the incinerator, organised by Wisbech Town Council, is being held at the Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech on Friday, March 13, at 6pm. The meeting will provide more information about the proposals and seeks to unite those opposing its development. There will also be speakers, including Steve Barclay MP.
- A copy of the motion agreed by Fenland District Council can be viewed at: <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/localgov/documents/s5684/Motion.pdf>

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226