

The Wisbech Anti-incinerator Campaign Working Party

Meeting on 5th November, 2020 at 7.30pm online via Zoom

UPDATE – WTC

Further to my detailed presentation to the Working Party on 30th September there is little to report apart from the fact that the company, MVV Environment Ltd, has continued to promote the planned incinerator to the local community and is disregarding identified public objections.

I am grateful to Martin for the KLWIN ‘Tasks and Timeline’ suggestions report although, given recent events, I do believe that fund raising to appoint professional expertise at this time of year, with ongoing Covid restrictions, will be difficult and probably very unlikely to be achieved.

I sent an email to the company’s representative, Paul Carey, on 17th October regarding the company’s listed ‘*non-statutory public consultation.*’ The community had been flooded with a detailed leaflet, listing the opportunities for access to an exhibition regarding the planned incinerator, to be held at various venues within Fenland. The very detailed email was copied to members of the Working Party and to Terry Jordan, Clerk to the WTC.

It was my contention that, given the COVID pandemic and the health implications of it, it was unreasonable to go through the motions of offering public consultations when it was very unlikely that many people would accept the offer due to the pandemic. I strongly suggested that the planned incinerator should be postponed until such times there wasn’t a national health emergency, and more of the community would make themselves available to consult and offer feedback. Needless to say, my comments were disregarded by Paul Carey despite the fact that I reminded him that Public Health England had recommended that large incinerators should not be built in populated areas.

Further to this contact, I then sought information as to which planning authority would advise the Inspectorate if the company had conducted its constitutional duties. Nick Harding replied, in a very lengthy email, advising that FDC would offer such information and also advising that

Emma Fitch would be advising on behalf of CCC. It is concerning to be advised that the very few people who attended the company's exhibition is considered by Nick Harding to be "in some respects exceeded what PINS would expect an NSIP applicant to do in the current coronavirus situation." This suggests that the company will gain approval from the planning departments as having met their statutory duty, regardless of how very few people attended the exhibitions.

Mo Stewart