

Mr B Owen
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Liberal Democrats
Broxbourne Branch

29th March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to the proposed development of the Energy Recovery Facility at 2 Rattys Lane, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 ORF

The vehicular access, assumptions made in terms of flood prevention, ash recovery, and river discharge, the impact of the size of the development amongst other issues mean that we object to the scheme:

- DEFRA made it known to Hertfordshire County Council in 2012 that national targets for incineration of waste were already being met.
- In the initial review of possible sites in Hertfordshire the County Council rejected Rattys Lane in Hoddesdon as being completely unsuitable. There was no comparison in terms of New Barnfield, the first choice.
- Vehicular access and exit will increase as this will not only be waste lorries but other vehicles including; buses, coaches, staff and visitor cars, which will all have an adverse impact on traffic movements and therefore on residents.
- The regular movement of heavy vehicles will likely lead to a deterioration of highway infrastructure and congestion. If, as is proposed, vehicle loads are maximised, the existing bridges and roads will not survive.
- To constantly feed the incinerator and maintain a continuous supply of electricity to the grid it is possible the transport of waste from further afield will arrive and the site become a 'hub' leading to even more lorry movements within this district and the consequent further increase in traffic on the roads.
- We have concerns over how the "rail sidings improvements" will affect train travel locally - the area is a popular commuter route and lengthy disruption would have an adverse effect on its popularity.
- The development being sited alongside a gas-fired power station is disturbing in terms of H&S regarding the neighbouring facilities.
- There is no clarity as to what is meant by 'healthcare waste', and if it could be added to the fuel for the incinerator with unknown emissions.
- When, how much and how frequently will bottom ash be collected, and if it is disposed of locally, what will be the effect on the local environment and its residents.
- The incinerator would be situated in a valley where the air is not immediately dispersed. Particulates are likely to affect the site where the Travelling Show-people live between the railway line and the sewage treatment works. The residents have been there for a considerable time and the site is a permanent one.

- Local trade such as pubs, and pupils and staff of schools in the area are likely to suffer due to settlement of dust and particulates.
- The effects on Stanstead Abbots will not be insignificant as stated, the change in volume of traffic, with its associated increase in noise, will actually be significant.
- Where the proposed incinerator would be constructed will have an enormous visual impact on the more rural parts of this area where residents and visitors enjoy the River Lea and the Lea Valley Park.
- The report shows no evidence that the suggested reinforced earth banks around the ponding will appropriately deal with a flood.
- The report shows no evidence regarding appropriate cleansing to waste water into the River Lee and the effects it will have on wild life.
- Pollutants listed are considerable and we have concerns regarding the applicant's 'desire' to separate local authority planning policy framework from the pollution control authorities.
- Countryside Management Service (within Hertfordshire County Council) do not appear to have been consulted regarding any potential effect the development could have on the S.S.S.I. within Hoddesdon Park Wood or the Ramsar wetland site.
- The size of the development; it will be the tallest building in Hoddesdon meaning the dissipation of particulates will settle on a wide scale. Luminaires at higher levels will also be intrusive as they will illuminate a larger area.

The applicant has not satisfactorily demonstrated that traffic measures, traffic management, conditions of the road network, highway safety, natural environment, and vehicle movement, are all adequately, effectively and satisfactorily detailed.

Any increases in noise, traffic and vibration will be worse than currently experienced. All having an effect on the quality of life experienced. Environmental benefits will deteriorate, and greenhouse gas emissions will be enhanced.

We therefore ask that this plan is rejected.

Elaine Thatcher

Branch Chair - Broxbourne LibDems