

Dear Sir

Westbury Incinerator planning application -request for call in by local Councils.

We are writing to you to ask that the Northacre Renewables planning application (Wiltshire Council reference number 20/06775/WCM) to construct and operate a 243,000te commercial waste incinerator is called in for review by your Planning Casework team. It has recently received approval by Wiltshire Council despite it breaching a number of Council Policies.

While the plant may not be considered by you to be a nationally significant one, it has a number of features that make it so. Additionally, there was a suggestion from the Prime Minister's office that they would prefer that the decision be made at a local level. The application received virtually no support from the local community (6 people in favour) with over 2,000 individuals and 18 parish and town councils representing a population of some 100,000 people, against the proposal. Approval at local level simply does not exist. It is significant for 2 reasons.

Firstly, Arla Foods has a building immediately adjacent to the site that employs some 250 local people, producing among other things, Anchor butter and dried milk for use in commercial bakeries. Arla Foods' products are made from local Wiltshire milk and secondary employment from milk production in the County amounts to another 1,500 people and is the livelihood of at least 50 local farms. It is also an international company with business in many parts of the world. There is a risk that the incinerator could contaminate the products through fine particulate penetration of the building.

Arla Foods will certainly be speaking for themselves on this matter, but our concern is that, if there is a risk to their product, they abandon the site, as the incinerator will present for at least 25 years. This will bring about a local employment crisis not only at the plant but also throughout the County on farms and local transport. This will not be offset by the 40 people employed on the incinerator. As local Councils we believe that this is not a risk the County should be taking simply for the benefit of one company.

The second issue is one of climate impact. Government has committed to a reduction of 68% in emissions by 2030 and 78% by 2035. This plant will only have been operating for 5 years by 2030. If built it will be emitting between 150,000 and 300,000 tonnes of CO2 per year, the equivalent of 100,000 to 200,000 cars on Wiltshire roads.

If such a plant is allowed to be built it will be seen as a failure by the British Government at COP26, where it is vital that strong leadership is demonstrated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L A Roberts', with a small flourish at the end.

Mrs L A Roberts BA(Hons), PGCAP, FHEA, FSLCC
Town Clerk and RFO