

CHAIN

Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network



BY EMAIL AND LETTER

9 November 2012

Mr Steve Robinson
Chief Executive
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Chester
CH1 2NP

Dear Mr Robinson

Proposed TATA/E-ON Waste Incinerator at Lostock, Northwich, Cheshire.
Decision by council not to oppose on traffic/highways grounds

As you are aware, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Davey, has decided in favour of the above planning application. CHAIN, however, does not accept that the matter is finally closed and is considering a legal challenge.

One possible aspect for consideration in our opinion, backed by strong technical evidence, is that the location of the incineration plant is unsuitable because the proposed number of HGVs used to haul waste and other materials to and from it is above the capacity of the relevant part of the A530 taking account of all of the features of the road and the surrounding area. If the incinerator proposal proceeds in its current form, the excess HGV traffic on King Street/Griffith Road will present significant risks to road users and local residents for which CWAC Council will have to take responsibility. That, in effect, is the reason I am writing to you at this time.

To get to the point; I enclose a copy of a letter dated 10 July 2012 which CHAIN sent to Mr Davey pointing out flaws in the traffic assessment undertaken by the CWAC Council. In our opinion, this called into question the decision by the Council not to oppose the incinerator planning application on highways grounds. Had it done so, it is likely that the Secretary of State would have refused planning permission and Northwich would not be faced with a large incinerator within yards of the centre of the town. Incidentally, this matter was not put forward at the planning inquiry because the evidence had not been made available to CHAIN by the Council at the time.

To take the highways matter a little further, it is reasonable to ask why the Council did not insist as a planning condition that King Street/Griffith Road between Morrison's Roundabout on the A556 and the TATA site being upgraded to dual carriageway standard as its predecessor, Vale Royal Borough Council, had done in the case of the part of King Street between the same roundabout and the entrance to Morrison's depot?

For your information, copies of the above mentioned letter were provided by email to CWAC councillors representing wards in the Northwich area and others over the past few months and were available on the Northwich incinerator public inquiry website. Significantly, no councilor has challenged the assertions made in the letter.

On behalf of CHAIN, I am respectfully asking you to do the following:-

- 1 Provide a response setting out the Council's views on the matters covered in the above mentioned letter, particularly the errors and omissions mentioned in paragraph 4.
- 2 Contact the Secretary of State, Mr Davey, and inform him that information previously submitted by CWAC Council concerning the highways aspect of the planning application was, in fact, incorrect to a substantial extent.
- 3 The Council to review its previous decision not to oppose the planning application on highways grounds .
- 4 Provide an answer to my question above regarding upgrading King Street/Griffith Road to dual carriageway standard.

I would be most obliged if you would treat this matter as urgent because, as you will know, we are working within very tight time constraints.

On behalf of our thousands of supporters who are united in their opposition to the Northwich waste incinerator, I would like to thank you in anticipation for your help on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cartwright

Chairman - CHAIN